



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550

March 12, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Engineering & Technical Services
Regulatory Office
Permit No. LRE-1929-150020-S12/2013-00070-S13

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The Detroit District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is reviewing two permit applications for actions that would involve a railroad bridge commonly known as the Pere Marquette Bridge, located at the mouth of the Black River in Port Huron, St. Clair County, Michigan. It is a remnant of an abandoned railroad line and the main Bridge structure (the Bridge) has reportedly been stored in the upright position for 30+ years. It is considered a historic property (the property) eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed actions described below require Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act:

The Port Huron Yacht Club (PHYC), owner of the Bridge components located on the north side of the river, proposes to demolish the main Bridge structure, retain and re-use the foundation support piers for a deck, and retain the piling clusters.

Acheson Ventures, LLC, the owner of the Bridge components located on the south side of the river, proposes to retain the Bridge's approach for a public viewing deck and retain the piling clusters.

The proposed demolition action would adversely affect the historic property. Pursuant to our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are evaluating the feasibility of alternatives to avoid this adverse effect (AE), as well as to mitigate the AE if avoidance is determined to be infeasible. Some of the alternatives under consideration: Avoidance: preserve the Bridge in the upright position on-site; Mitigation: remove and relocate the Bridge to an alternate location and re-use, or remove the elements of the Bridge conveying its historical significance and relocate to a publically accessible archival artifact storage facility for preservation and/or historical interpretation and exhibition.

To assist in the feasibility assessment of these alternatives, we are seeking interested organizations, institutions, or individuals, including governments, and providing this opportunity for the interested party to step forward and submit a proposal to implement any of these alternatives. The submittal or subsequent consideration of a proposal does not mean that the alternative will be determined to be feasible. Photographs and information on the components and dimensions the Bridge are available at www.historicbridges.org and www.bridgehunters.com.

Funding for the implementation of any proposal, including property/real estate acquisition, preservation treatment, removal, transportation, storage, interpretation, exhibition, reconstruction, re-use and long-term maintenance would be the responsibility of the new owner. Serious consideration will only be given to proposals in which the proposal complies with *The Secretary of the Interior's*

Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/>), or as close to the Standards as practicable, and include the following information:

The name, legal status, tax ID number (if applicable) and permanent address of the interested party making the proposal, and identification of point of contact, including telephone and email contact information;

Evidence of legal and financial ability to implement the proposal, including:

- Purchase/ownership of the Bridge (and associated real estate if for preservation on-site or the alternate location if relocation/re-use) and assumption of liability;
- Implementation of the proposal
- Management and maintenance of the historic property in perpetuity;

Reconnaissance-level plan for the proposal, including:

- Proposed plan, including users and public or other accessibility after implementation;
- Assessment of the problems, constraints, risks associated with the plan;
- Implementation plan, including generic timeline (days/months/years) to complete the proposed plan, including legal acquisitions/transactions/agreements and funding;
- Anticipated start date and end dates
- Long-term management and maintenance plan;
- Basis and assumptions for cost estimates/scope of work and implementation, including property condition; compliance with the Standards; property use, access, etc. following implementation;
- Cost estimate and scope of work (by a qualified entity) to include property/real estate acquisition, the preservation action or removal, storage/transportation, reconstruction and re-use actions, management and maintenance in perpetuity, and security measures (property/public safety protection)/insurance;

Documentation of any coordination efforts with the local jurisdiction, owner, state or federal agencies in development of the plan

Three hard copies of the proposal along with an electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted no later than 30 days from the date of this letter to: USACE-Detroit, Permit Evaluation Eastern Branch, 477 Michigan Avenue, 6th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226

Should you have any questions, please contact Colette Luff at 313-226-7485 or Colette.M.Luff@usace.army.mil. In all communications, please refer to File Number LRE-1929-150020-S12/2013-00070-S13.

Sincerely,

John Konik
Chief, Regulatory Office
Engineering & Technical Services