

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Post Office Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1026**

July 28, 1997

Wayne W. Kober, Director
Bureau of Environmental Quality
Department Of Transportation
1009 Transportation & Safety Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: ER 97-8009-003-G
Allegheny County, City of Pittsburgh/Millvale S.R. 0028, Section A09/A10,
Improvements Project Historic Structures Report

Dear Mr. Kober:

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) has reviewed the above named project in accordance with Section 206 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These requirements include consideration of the project's potential effect upon both historic and archaeological resources.

The additional information provided by Mr. Rotenstein brings further clarification and historical context to the submitted report for this project. This information is highly useful and will be added to our data base for the project area.

As to the specific criticisms posed for the original Survey Report, the National Register guidelines for evaluating historic resources (Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation), appear to have been appropriately applied. The Bureau staff fully agrees with Mr. Rotenstein that stronger contextual research would have associated the study area with the meat packing and related activities that occurred there.

This additional information does not, however, demonstrate that the industry is represented by extant resources within the study area except marginally so at the American Brewing Company and Rialto Street. (Herr's Island lies outside of the study area and its exclusion was appropriate) Since the Brewing Company was already

determined to be significant for Industry under Criterion A, no change in the status of this resource will occur. The additional deed and historic information provided by Mr. Rotenstein is useful and will be retained as part of the Commonwealth's permanent record of this resource. If a National Register nomination were to be processed for this or any other resource, additional historic research would be required.

From the information provided we agree with the Department of Transportation that Rialto Street appears not to be eligible for association with the meat packing industry since it lacks integrity from the time of this activity.

No information was supplied by either CHRS or Mr. Rotenstein regarding the potential significance of historic archaeology in the project area. If historic archaeological resources are present, additional information will need to be provided: 1) the research questions this information could answer, 2) why these questions and information, would contribute to the larger understanding of the historic significance of this industry or area. It would be necessary to demonstrate how these resources compare to other packing districts/facilities in the greater Pittsburgh area would be needed.

If you need further information in this matter please consult Susan Zacher or Doug Reynolds at (717) 783-8946.

Sincerely,

Kurt W. Carr, Chief
Division of Archaeology and Protection

cc: D. Schreiber, PDOT, BEQ
J. Clouse, PDOT, BEQ
KWC/smz