



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

March 14, 2011

Cheryl Hayne, M.P.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.
EastBurg Community Alliance
One Washington Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

RE: East Stroudsburg Railroad Station

Dear Dr. Hayne:

Thank you very much for taking the time to meet with our staff earlier this month. To clarify the status of the East Stroudsburg Train Station, the building is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Our staff does not plan to ask the National Park Service to "de-list" the station from the Register as a result of moving the building. You consulted with us right from the start, and we are pleased that the Borough was willing to provide a new building site along the historic railroad corridor near the switching tower. We fully expect that the station will meet the National Register criteria for listing once the damaged end of the building is reconstructed. At that time, we ask that the community work with our staff to prepare an amendment to the National Register nomination that documents the station's new location and its current exterior and interior appearance. Once that has been approved, this new information will be forwarded to the National Register to be included with the original nomination form.

Based on the drawings and photographs that you have provided to us, it appears that the proposed repair and reconstruction work will meet the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*. As we explained, these standards encourage owners to preserve historic "character-defining" features and materials wherever possible. Although some of these features were damaged by the fire and removed, most of the station's historic windows, doors, interior partitions, and finishes have been preserved or salvaged for re-installation. Reconstructing the end of the building with a modern foundation and framing is acceptable because these structural elements will be covered with finishes and trim that will match the appearance of the historic materials. The *Standards* allow owners to make alterations for the building's new use (as they did when the station was converted to a restaurant in 1984), as long as these alterations are sympathetic to the building's historic appearance. In many instances, the materials and spaces that you plan to alter or replace date to the previous rehabilitation work and are not historic.

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Our staff wants to commend the Alliance for its efforts to save and move the station under the threat of its imminent demolition. Ideally the building would have been preserved in its original location, but without a preservation ordinance in place, this project was the only practical alternative, avoiding the property owner's plans to tear it down to make way for the new building. Now the historic railroad station will remain as a local landmark in downtown East Stroudsburg. In addition to the community meeting and exhibit space, ECA's new office and the proposed coffee stand in the ticket booth will ensure that the building is actively used on a daily basis. We are particularly impressed with the Alliance's success in raising the money to promptly move forward with the station's rehabilitation. If all goes according to plan, it appears that the building will be open to the public later this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything further our staff can do to help you preserve the historic East Stroudsburg Railroad Station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Andrea MacDonald, Manager
Preservation Services Division