



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

January 9, 2014

Victoria Rutson, Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Diana Wood, OES Project Manager

RE: STB 35756: Hartwell Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption
Elbert County, Georgia
HP-131217-002

Dear Ms. Rutson,

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of the construction and operation of approximately 1,400 feet of connecting track between the Hartwell Railroad Line and the adjacent CSX Abbeville Line. Based on the information provided, HPD concurs that no archaeological resources that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by the proposed undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), due to previous disturbances. Concerning historic properties, HPD concurs that both the Hartwell Railroad Line and the CSX Railroad Line are eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for transportation and commerce. HPD concurs that the subject project, as proposed, will have **no adverse effect** to the rail lines within the project's area of potential effect, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

However, HPD is unable to concur with STB's determination the Century Granite Company is not eligible to the NRHP without additional information. Since Elbert County is considered the "Granite Capital of the World" and one-third of the nation's granite monuments come from Elbert, it is HPD's opinion that the Century Granite Company could potentially be eligible for listing in the NRHP. **HPD requests the following information in order to evaluate the proposed project:**

- Information regarding the history of the Century Granite Company, placed in the context of Elbert County, nearby Elberton, and other granite companies in the area
- Photographs, keyed to a map, and other documentation of the existing buildings to show the integrity of the site
- Site plan including location of the new track to be laid

We look forward to reviewing the requested information and working with you as this project progresses. Please refer to project number **HP-131217-002** in any further correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Dixon, Environmental Review Specialist, at (404) 651-6546 or Jennifer.dixon@dnr.state.ga.us.

Sincerely,

Karen Anderson-Cordova
Program Manager
Environmental Review and Preservation Planning

KAC:jad

Cc: Kevin Starner, Skelly and Loy, Inc.
Burke Walker, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission