

Green Sergeant's Bridge

New Jersey's Only Remaining Covered Bridge

Delaware Township

Hunterdon County, New Jersey

www.DelawareTwpNJ.org

OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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September 29, 2015

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Proposed PennEast Pipeline Docket No. CP15-558-000
Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591)
Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Dear Director Jarvis:

The Delaware Township Committee is seeking the assistance of the National Park Service in assessing the threat to the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591) from the proposed PennEast gas pipeline (FERC Docket No. CP15-558-000) that will bisect this historic district which is located in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The Delaware Township Committee has made numerous requests to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) through a series of "scoping comments" that were also forwarded to the NJ State Historical Preservation Office and to the National Park Service¹.

Throughout that scoping process, PennEast has assiduously ignored the existence of the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591) until very recently, referring to it as the Rosemont "Ridge" Agricultural "Development" District and not recognizing that it was listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.

When the "preferred alternate" pipeline route was announced last January, PennEast made a great display in their commentary by stating that one of the reasons for the changes in the route was to avoid the Mt. Airy Historic District (ID No. 1641, NR Reference # 89001943)² in neighboring West Amwell Township, New Jersey. As of then, however, PennEast had still failed to recognize the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591).

¹ Delaware Township's letters dated December 9, 2014, February 10, 2015 and April 14, 2015

² PennEast's February 9, 2015 and March 6, 2015 Monthly Progress Reports

The Delaware Township Committee is having trouble reconciling the fact that the pipeline route was shifted to accommodate one historic district, but not the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591), and the Committee requests that your agency investigate this oversight.

The Rosemont Rural Agricultural District qualified as a historic district under Criteria A, "property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," and Criteria C, "property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, and represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction." (See enclosed copy of the application.)

Under the Statement of Historical Significance portion of the Registration Form concludes, "Distance from population centers has allowed Rosemont to remain relatively undisturbed, and to continue as a working agricultural environment. The many surviving farm fields and pastures provide broad vistas that convey a compelling sense of the district's agricultural heritage." The Statement also continues to affirm that "the majority of the farms in the district have already been preserved under state farmland preservation program" and that "these ongoing preservation initiatives will help ensure the future survival of Rosemont's agricultural character."

The Delaware Township Committee holds the opinion that a 21st Century industrial project like the PennEast 36-inch high-pressure gas pipeline will be a definite threat to the future survival of "Rosemont's agricultural character." Specifically, the Committee takes the position that the siting of the pipeline through the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591) would have adverse effects as specified in 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1).

This Committee would like to know where the review of this pipeline project and threat to our community will happen. Will the National Park Service take the lead in assessing this threat to the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591), or will the assessment be made on your behalf at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office?

Members of the Delaware Township Pipeline Committee would be glad to meet with you, or members of your staff, and would invite you to see the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591) to see for yourselves what the threat is to this beautiful and historic part of New Jersey.

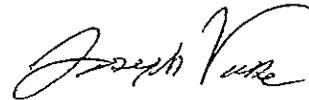
The Delaware Township Committee is further alarmed that neither PennEast nor the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission seems to have addressed our concerns over the permanent despoliation of the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591) and the additional loss of property values, the economic loss of agricultural

production, and loss of income from agro-tourism that this pipeline project will create.

Please let us know how the Delaware Township Committee and the residents of Delaware Township may assist your agency in properly evaluating the devastating effects of this proposed pipeline on the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591).

Thank you for your assistance with this request. Please contact me directly at jvocke@delawaretwpnj.org.

Sincerely,

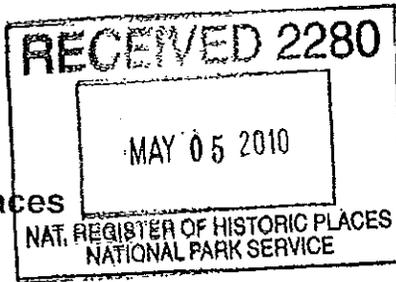


Joseph Vocke,
Deputy Mayor, Delaware Township

Enclosure: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Rosemont Rural Agricultural District (ID# 4591)

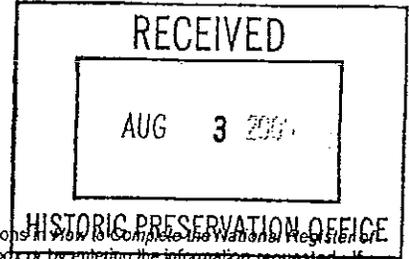
cc: Mayanne Gerbauckas, Associate Regional Director, National Park Service
Julie Bell, National Park Service
Jesse West-Rosenthal, NJ State Historic Preservation Office
Congressman Leonard Lance
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Robert Menendez
Assemblyman Jack M. Ciattarelli
Assemblywoman Donna Simon
Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rosemont Rural Agricultural District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number County Routes 519 & 604; Sanford Rd; Covered Bridge Rd; not for publication

city or town Delaware Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08557

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date 2/10/10

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action 6-18-10

Rosemont Rural Agricultural District
Name of Property

Hunterdon County, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	169	74
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	4	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	7	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	2	
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	180	75
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling	DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure	DOMESTIC/ secondary structure
COMMERCE/ restaurant	COMMERCE/ restaurant
COMMERCE/ department store	COMMERCE/ specialty store
COMMERCE/ specialty store	RELIGION/ cemetery
RELIGION/ cemetery	AGRICULTURE/ storage
AGRICULTURE/ storage	AGRICULTURE/ agricultural outbuildings
AGRICULTURE/ agricultural outbuildings	TRANSPORTATION/ bridge

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
COLONIAL/ Georgian	foundation STONE
EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal	walls STONE
MID-19 TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival	WOOD
LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate	roof ASPHALT
LATE VICTORIAN/ Queen Anne	other
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH C. MOVEMENT/ Bungalow	
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH C. REVIVAL/ Colonial Revival	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)