



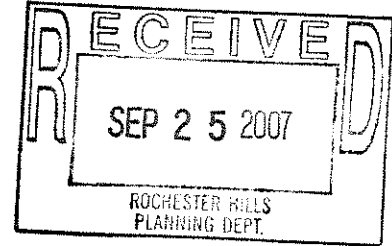
JENNIFER GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES  
LANSING

DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR

September 20, 2007

Mr. Derek Delacourt  
City of Rochester Hills  
1000 Rochester Hills  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309



Dear Mr. Delacourt:

Staff members of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) have reviewed the preliminary historic district study committee reports for delisting the local historic districts at 56187 Dequindre, 1470 W. Tienken Road, and 1207 N. Livernois. A copy of our comments is enclosed. We offer these comments in order to assist communities to prepare final study committee reports that meet the requirements of Michigan's *Local Historic Districts Act* and that provide a strong legal basis for protecting historically significant resources.

The report was presented to the State Historic Preservation Review Board at their September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and they had the following comments:

- The study committee reports should provide more substantive documentation, through building permits, Sanborn maps, etc., as to when changes occurred to the resources. They were not comfortable with unsupported statements as to when changes were made to the homes especially since the reports indicated that many of the changes to the properties had occurred after the properties were designated as local historic districts. Documentation regarding any permits received from the historic district commission should also be included in the reports.
- The Review Board agreed that the house at 56187 Dequindre Road had appeared to have lost its physical integrity and could be determined non-historic.
- For the properties at 1207 N. Livernois and 1470 W. Tienken, the Review Board did not agree that the changes that had occurred to these properties justified a determination of non-historic and therefore merited their delisting as local historic districts. The Review Board stated that the significance of these earlier homes goes beyond siding, that there were other reasons the properties were significant. For example, the house at 1207 N. Livernois was noted in the report to be the first frame house in Oakland County, which would make it significant the method of construction, even though it has been moved from its original location. The Review Board did not find that the documentation provided was sufficient to show that these houses had been so altered that they had lost the physical characteristics of their original style and period of significance that they could be determined to be non-historic. Therefore, the Review Board would not agree that these properties should be de-listed as local historic districts.

The SHPO is concerned that the study committee reports cited changes that occurred to these properties after they were designated as local historic districts as a basis for their delisting. Since the work should have been reviewed and approved by the historic district commission using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, this should not have been the case for delisting. In the upcoming months, Amy Arnold, the local historic district coordinator for the SHPO, will be contacting you to set up a meeting with historic district commission staff to discuss this issue.

We look forward to working with the city of Rochester Hills in the protection of its historic resources. If we can assist you further, please contact Amy Arnold at 517-355-2729 or [ArnoldA@michigan.gov](mailto:ArnoldA@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Conway". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer

BDC:ALA

Enclosure