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

November 24, 2008

Dale H. Frens, AIA
Frens and Frens, LLC
120 S. Church Street
West Chester, PA 19382

RE: Fricks Lock Historic District, East Coventry Township, Chester County, Key# 116261

Dear Mr. Frens:

Following the September 15, 2008, site visit by April Frantz and Keith Heinrich, our staff discussed the viability of the Fricks Lock village as a National Register of Historic Places listing. In its current condition, following the loss of some resources and the removal of building features such as porches and additions, we feel it may no longer be appropriate to consider the village significant under Criterion C for Architecture. Also, it may not be possible for the village to successfully convey significance for other themes under Criterion A, especially if demolition continues.

At this point we are not planning to take action to officially re-evaluate the district and we strongly recommend that all remaining buildings and structures be retained. To help achieve that goal, our community outreach staff or the new field staff at Preservation PA may be helpful in investigating re-use options and partnerships for the village.

If demolition continues, it will unavoidably result in a formal re-evaluation and call into question the approriateness for continued listing under Criterion A and C. Re-evaluation may recommend the removal of one or both Criterion or suggest a reduced boundary. We may also suggest the amendment of the nomination to include significance for Criterion D, as the district appears to possess the ability to yield important information about canal transportation and the development of a canal lock community.

We suggest you contact Michel Lefevre, one of our community outreach coordinators, at mlefevre@state.pa.us or 717-787-0771 to discuss options for developing a reuse plan for the village that would retain the remaining resources. He may be able to provide suggestions for potential grant funding sources, tax incentive programs, or partnerships that would enhance the viability of the village as a public or private resource. It will also

be helpful to contact Dave Kimmerly at Preservation PA, one of their new field staff, at dkimmerly@preservationpa.org for their additional input and ideas. If you have questions about the National Register status of the village, please contact me at 717-783-9918 or calee@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Carol Lee

Carol Lee, Chief
National Register and Survey Program

CL/aef

cc: Michel Lefevre
Dave Kimmerly, Preservation PA
Alisa Harris-Daniels, Exelon