

EI-10761



PAN AM RAILWAYS

IRON HORSE PARK
NO. BILLERICA, MA 01862

LEGAL DEPARTMENT (978) 663-1215

December 8, 2011

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Cathy Glidden, OEA
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

**Re: Notice of Exemption Abandonment and Discontinuance - Boston and
Maine Corp. and Springfield Terminal Railway Company - Lowell
Industrial Track - AB 32 (Sub No. 85X) and AB 355 (Sub No. 37X)**

Dear Ms. Glidden:

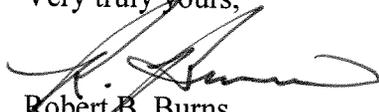
Pursuant to STB Decision dated December 10, 2008, in the above captioned matter, kindly consider this correspondence to serve as B&M's report considering its consultations with various historical boards regarding the above track.

On or about November 18, 2011, I visited the Massachusetts Historical Commission's ("MHC") office in Boston, Massachusetts and met with Mr. Edward L. Bell, Senior Archaeologist. After some brief investigation into the subject line, it was determined that due to the nature of the layout of the track and the way in which the historical sections/sites were delineated on the maps, it was impractical, if not impossible, to ascertain the effect, if any, that the track had within any historical zone. Therefore, Mr. Bell suggested I contact the Lowell Historical Board ("LHB"), and request any information they might have to assist in determining any effect the track might have within any historical zone.

Upon contacting the LHB, I was informed by Mr. Stephen Stowell, Administrator of the Lowell Historic Board that the subject track does not traverse through any of the 11 review districts in which the LHB has jurisdiction in. Mr. Stowell then referred me to consult with the MHC for sign-off purposes of Section 106. (See Attached Email from S. Stowell). I have also copied this letter to the MHC for further comment.

Should you have any questions in regard to this filing, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (978) 663-1215. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Burns", written over a horizontal line.

Robert B. Burns
Corporate Counsel
Boston and Maine Corporation

Encls.

Cc: Edward L. Bell, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Stephen Stowell, Lowell Historic Board

Burns, Robert

From: Stowell, Stephen <Sstowell@lowellma.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 9:51 AM
To: Burns, Robert
Subject: Local Historic Review - Lowell Industrial Track

Mr. Burns –

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the historic status of the Lowell Industrial Track. Please note that the track is not located within any of the 11 review districts that this agency has design review, approval, and permitting jurisdiction in. The Massachusetts Historical Commission would be able to provide guidance with regard to any National or State Register designations or eligibility. These comments do not represent a sign-off for purposes of Section 106 as the final determination regarding eligibility and effect must be made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Preserve America Community

National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Preservation Honor Award

National Trust for Historic Preservation Distinctive Destination Community

Stephen Stowell
Administrator
Lowell Historic Board
Lowell City Hall
375 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 674-1443
(978) 970-4262 fax
Sstowell@lowellma.gov
www.historiclowell.net

LOWELL *Alive. Unique. Inspiring.*



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 12, 2008

Michael Q. Geary, Esq.
Springfield Terminal Railroad Company
Boston & Maine Corporation
1700 Iron Horse Park
Springfield, MA 01862

RE: Lowell, MA: Abandonment & Discontinuance of Service Over Lowell Industrial Track AB 32 (Sub No. 85X) AB 355 (Sub No. 37X). MHC #RC.44156.

Dear Mr. Geary:

Thank you for your inquiry to the Massachusetts Historical Commission concerning the proposed undertaking referenced above.

You are welcome to visit the MHC during business hours to conduct your research concerning the presence of any inventoried historic and archaeological properties in the area of potential effect, using the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Directions and hours are on MHC's website (URL at the bottom of this page).

MHC also recommends that you provide the project information and the results of your research to the Lowell Historic Board for their review and comment, and provide the Surface Transportation Board and MHC with copies of any comment.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (36 CFR 800), MGL c. 9, ss. 26-27C (950 CMR 71), and MEPA (301 CMR 11).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward L. Bell".

Edward L. Bell
Senior Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc:

Surface Transportation Board
Lowell Historic Board