



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

January 7, 2016

Jami P. Lanier
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

jami.p.lanier@nps.gov

Re: Determination of Eligibility for the Frisco Pier, Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier Drive, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Dare County, ER 15-2853

Dear Ms. Lanier:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 2015, regarding the above-referenced determination of eligibility. We have reviewed the materials submitted and offer the following comments.

The National Park Service is proposing to demolish the Frisco Pier (Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier) and has determined the pier is ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to changes in materials, severe structural damage, and its advanced state of disrepair. Although changes to materials are necessary for this type of infrastructure and would not necessarily affect its eligibility, we concur the Frisco Pier is not eligible for listing in the National Register and that its removal will not affect a historic property.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

for Ramona M. Bartos



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



OUTER BANKS GROUP

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

Wright Brothers National Memorial

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive

Manteo, North Carolina 27954

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H4217 (CAHA-RM)

December 18, 2015

Ramona Bartos
Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

Attn: Renee Gledhill-Earley

Re: Frisco Pier Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register

Dear Ms Bartos:

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.3(c), we would like to take this opportunity to formally initiate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with your office on the planned demolition of the Frisco Pier (Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier). The pier is located in Dare County, in the small unincorporated community of Frisco, North Carolina, off NC Hwy 12 on Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier Drive. It is within the boundary of Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA). The pier was severely damaged during Hurricane Earl in 2010, and it remains in disrepair (see photos in appendix). Because the pier is over 50-years old and has not been assessed for its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service (NPS) seeks your concurrence with this Determination of Eligibility (DOE).

Structure Description and History

The pier was constructed in 1961 by T. D. Eure and George H. Hines of Winston Salem, N.C. The pier's decking, piles, and bents are of pine, with cedar used for the stringers, pile caps, and railing. It is 20 feet wide and approximately 500 feet long. As originally constructed, the pier used 12 to 14 inch diameter creosote treated piles used with bents spaced approximately 14 feet on centers with three piles per bent. The pilings were not laterally braced. The interior piles were vertical while the exterior piles were battered. Approximately 40 feet of a widened section at the seaward end was added in 1967 by J. A. Hooker and R. D. Spruill of Elizabeth City, N.C. The deck elevation is approximately 20 feet above mean sea level.

TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA 

Beginning in 1962, the pier operated through a concessions contract between the NPS and Mr. Eliot Tod Gaskill, owner of the company contracted to operate Frisco Pier, Pier House, and parking lot. The Frisco Pier has provided fishing, sightseeing and recreational opportunities to the public and visitors to CAHA since 1962. The Frisco Pier was one of three fishing piers constructed on Hatteras Island in the early 1960s and was one of a total of 19 operating pier structures open to the public in North Carolina.

In 2004, Mr. Gaskill bought and repaired the pier after it was damaged by Hurricane Isabel in 2003 and continued to operate the recreational fishing pier until it closed in 2009. The NPS acquired Frisco Pier in September 16, 2013 with the intention to demolish the structure due to continued destabilization. Since the pier was closed to the public in 2010, the falling debris from the structure has been a hazard to the environment, swimmers, boaters, surfers, fishermen and visitors to the area. Structural failures continue as debris falls off the structure in large quantities falling into the ocean, and settling on ocean floor and washing up on to the beaches of the Outer Banks. Many of the large timbers found along CAHA beaches include rusted lag bolts and nails.

Alterations and Additions

Numerous repairs and reconstruction projects were required over the life of the Frisco Pier because of hurricane and storm damage. The Frisco Pier was damaged by hurricanes Isabel in 2003, Bertha in 2008, and two more times after closing to the public from hurricanes Earl in 2010, and Sandy in 2012. In 2003, many of the original pilings were replaced as part of a storm damage project. When in operation, the pier had lights, running water and electricity. No repairs have been made to the structure since 2010.

National Register Eligibility and Integrity

As originally constructed, the Frisco Pier represented a good example of all-wood, pier construction in North Carolina and may have been eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C at the local or state level. However, the replacement of original materials over the years, severe structural damage -including the loss of entire sections of the structure- have adversely affected its integrity. For these reasons, we conclude that the pier is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

Please indicate your concurrence with this determination by sending a short reply with SHPO signature within 30 days of the receipt of this document to:

Jami Lanier
NPS Outer Banks Group
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project further, please contact Jami Lanier, Cultural Resource Manager, at 252-475-9021 (jami_p_lanier@nps.gov).

Sincerely,



David E. Hallac
Superintendent CAHA

Attachments

References:

Baird, Al. *North Carolina's ocean fishing piers: from Kitty Hawk to Sunset Beach*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2011. p. 94-98.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Field Inspection Report For Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier Frisco, North Carolina*. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina February 1976.

Win, Crawford. *Outer Banks Pier Angler's Paradise, Observer's Pulpit*. The Coastland Times. 6 October, 1985. P.1B.

Article – *Frisco Pier Contract Expires*, www.nps.gov/capehatterasnationalseashore/frisco-pier

Article - *The Pier Walks the Plank Article*, www.wral.com/frisco-pier-walks-the-plank/13033953

Article - The Future of Frisco Pier is still uncertain,
<http://www.islandfreepress.org/2012Archives/06.04.2012>

Article – *Frisco Pier Contract Expires*, www.nps.gov/capehatterasnationalseashore/frisco-pier

<https://www.outerbanks.com/frisco.html>

<https://www.darenc.com/library/>

<https://photowral.com>, News Raleigh NC. 9/5/2010.

Images:



Google earth Image of Frisco Pier



1975 Image of Frisco Pier (ACOE)



1975 Images of Frisco Pier Pilings Showing Repairs (ACOE)



Photo by Don Rogers

Post Hurricane Earl Images of Frisco Pier