



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
 Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

May 8, 2003

Robert P. Rasmussen
 Senior Consultant
 Epsilon Associates Inc.
 150 Main Street-P.O. Box 700
 Maynard, Massachusetts 01754-0700

Re: **FERC/DEC**
Besicorp Transmission Line
Rensselaer, Rensselaer Co.
02PR04067 (00PR05424)

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Thank you for continuing consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We are continuing our review of the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and relevant implementing regulations.

Based upon our review of the submitted Phase 1 Survey submitted for the project (received October 7, 2002), we have the following comments:

Enclosed, please find Archeology Comments requesting materials that will have to be submitted to our office for our continued review of the project. Also enclosed is a Resource Evaluation that identifies the Juris Sharpe Homestead and the Stephen Van Rensselaer Van Allen House as properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, Technical Comments are included that direct the preparation of visual simulations for the above grade historic resources that may be impacted by the project.

Please forward the requested information as soon as it becomes available so that we can continue our review of the project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Ext. 3273.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Markunas
 Historic Sites
 Restoration Coordinator

Cc: Dec Region 4 permits

Attachments: Resource Evaluations (2), Archeology & Technical Comments

STATE OF NEW YORK	
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICE	
DATE	10-30-03
CASE NO.	03-T-0544
EX	24

EX 24

24

Archeology Comments

02PR04067

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the Phase I submitted for the transmission line. We are providing the following comments:

The Phase I report should be resubmitted with original photographs or good quality reproductions.

Site forms will need to be submitted for the areas where prehistoric material was present in the shovel tests or on the surface. This includes P15-P18 and P79.

Phase II is warranted at the two sites noted above if they cannot be avoided.

If any other ground disturbing activities will occur (other than the pole locations), further Phase IB may be warranted.

If you have any questions, please call Cynthia Blakemore at (518) 237-8643, extension 3288.

RESOURCE EVALUATION **DATE:** 05/01/03 **STAFF:** Peter Shaver

PROPERTY: Stephen Van Rensselaer Van Alen House **MCD:** North Greenbush

ADDRESS: Washington Ave. Ext. **COUNTY:** Rensselaer

PROJECT REF: 02PR04067 **USN:** 08307.000254

- I. Property is individually listed on SR/NR:
 name of listing:
 Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:
 name of district:

- II. Property meets eligibility criteria.
 Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.
 Pre SRB: Post SRB: SRB date

Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

- III. Property does not meet eligibility criteria.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Based on the available documentation and a site visit (exterior only), it is the opinion of the New York State Historic Preservation Office that the Van Alen House meets Criterion C in the area of architecture as an intact representative example of late-19th residential architecture in Rensselaer County. Purportedly built in 1876 (with the present hip roof and front dormer likely added in the early-20th century), the house exhibits characteristics typical of rural frame residences built by prosperous farmers at the time, including its symmetrical two-story form, open front porch with stylized Gothic ornamentation, and two-over-two window sash. The house appears to retain a high level of integrity.

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Date:	02/20/03	Staff:	Peter Shaver
Property:	Juris Sharpe Homestead	MCD:	North Greenbush
Address:	44 Laura Lane	County:	Rensselaer
Project Ref. No.:	00PR05424	USN:	08307.000030

- I. Property is individually listed on SR/NR :
 Name of listing :
- Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:
 Name of District:
- II. Property meets eligibility criteria
 Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.
 Pre SRB: Post SRB: SRB Date

Criteria for inclusion in the National Register.

- A Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction;
- D Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Based on a recent site visit and available documentation, it is the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office that the Juris Sharpe Homestead is architecturally and historically significant as one of the oldest extant frame buildings in Rensselaer County. Built sometime during the first half of the 18th century, perhaps c. 1740, the house had major renovations in the 1940's but, remarkably, much of the original frame remains, including all of the roof framing and wide board roof sheathing, and much of the heavy floor and wall framing. In the early 1980's, an original Dutch-style casement window was found on the east elevation, complete with shutters. The property includes a family cemetery (possibly a second cemetery), and the ruins of several outbuildings.

If you have any questions concerning this Determination of Eligibility, please call PETER SHAVER at 518-237-8643. ext 3264

TECHNICAL COMMENTS

02PR04067

Based upon our review, we will need the following information in order to offer our formal opinion of the project:

- **Visual Simulation**-seven (7) views minimum: views should be selected from the Stephan Van Rensselaer Van Alen House, from the Juris Sharpe Homestead, the Philip DeFreest Homestead, the former Fonda Residence, the former Deforest Residence and the Spring Water House. The images must include the identified resource or other recognizable landmark in the foreground (e.g., farmhouse, barn, field, church, road, river, historic district building, etc.-we want to see the visual relationship between the transmission towers and the resource. We do **not** want to see the view where the resource, plant material, hill, etc. blocks the tower unless the tower can not be viewed from any part of the resource) and the tower in the background.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact Kenneth Markunas at your convenience. Ext. 3273.