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November 19, 2016

Subject: Ebenezer AME Church

Re: Ebenezer American Methodist Episcopal Church  
97 Bacton Hill Road, Frazer PA 19355

To Whom It May Concern,

On Friday October 14, 2016 I performed a visual, non-destructive inspection of the remaining stone structure of the Ebenezer AME Church.

The purpose of this inspection was to provide guidance on whether it was possible to rebuild the existing on-site historic structure or if it was too badly damaged to rebuild.

In short, based on a visual inspection, it is not currently possible to perform a completely accurate assessment of the structural condition of the church. While it appears that it would be possible to rebuild the structure work is first needed in order to determine the condition of the foundation.

The longer north and south facing walls of the church are currently noticeably bowed and the first priority is to have the church walls shored before any further work takes place on the structure. Once shored, a mason or stoneworker will need to clear the vegetation from the wall tops and remove and/or secure any loose stones. Until the shoring has been completed, we strongly recommend that no weight be placed against the church walls such as ladders, etc. Further, until the clearing and securing of the wall tops is complete we strongly recommend that people stay clear of the church walls for safety sake.

Once these steps have been taken, it will be necessary to hand clear the inside of the church (the foundation will likely not survive the use of any heavy equipment to remove the collapsed wall stone, roof structure and floor).

Once the above has been done, the current condition of the foundation can be seen from the inside.

A further challenge will be the removal of the tree that appears to have grown under the foundation of the south facing long wall.

Once the above work has all taken place, it will be possible to determine what will need to be accomplished to secure the foundation and walls. While we can comment on the structural condition of the church we are not able to determine from a cost standpoint whether this is all

financially feasible. We understand that this is a historic structure with ties to local families and therefore consideration must be given to the value that the church represents to those who wish to save it. In any event, restoring the church will be an expensive proposition.

In conclusion, we cannot emphasize enough the premises including in and around the stone ruins must be in a safe condition, not only to complete the evaluation of the structure, but for sake of the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GSB', written in a cursive style.

Gregory S. Bustamante, PE  
Bustamante Engineers, Inc.

GSB/gsb