



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**Kurt S. Browning**  
Secretary of State  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

December 2, 2009

Mr. William Henderson  
District Planning & Environmental Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation, District Two  
1109 S. Marion Avenue  
Lake City, Florida 32025-5874

RE: Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation, St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida  
DHR Project File Number: 2003-09938  
FM: 21025515201

Dear Mr. Henderson:

We recently received photographs from Ms. Theresa Segal of the Save Our Bridge organization in St. Augustine describing completed clay tile roofing work on the towers at the Bridge of Lions. The work described in the referenced photographs is not consistent with the approved construction documents for the project. The objective of this work was to accurately replicate the historic appearance of the tile roofs on each of the four bridge towers. This has not yet been accomplished.

The hip roll tiles used in this work are either too small (common cover tiles) or are improperly bedded, resulting in exposure of an excessive amount of mortar on each side of the hip. This condition has been exacerbated in some areas where the mortar has been extended an inch or more above the bottom edge of the hip roll tile. Further, the form of the mortared hip closures at the eaves does not appear to match the treatment on the approved mock-up or the treatment evidenced in historic photographs of the towers. Finally, the spherical terminal tile at the apex of the roof has been eliminated. This was a significant character-defining feature of the historic tower roofs.

We encourage the Florida Department of Transportation to require corrective action including: removal and proper installation of hip roles on all four towers, as well as fabrication and proper installation of custom spherical terra cotta terminal tiles.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office  
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research  
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation  
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Mr. William Henderson  
December 2, 2009  
Page Two

Should you have any questions regarding the above review comments, please contact me at 850.245.6363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ferro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Ferro, R.A.  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
For Architectural Preservation Service

pc: Greg Hall, District Transportation Engineer, District Two, Federal Highway Administration,  
Florida Division Office  
Ms. Theresa Segal, Save Our Bridge