



November 23, 2016

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR LEPI ENTERPRISES, INC.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide you with a description of my experiences with Lepi Enterprises, Inc. over the past eight years. They worked as a General Contractor on several of “my” projects, always with the same result: the work was completed professionally, within allotted time and no surprise change orders or cost over-runs. As an organization operating with public funds, maintaining and caring for properties that are either publicly (State of Ohio) or privately owned, important to public in general, we strive to work with contractors who share our passion for preserving history. Over the years I had a privilege to get to know not only the firm Lepi Enterprises LLC and its owner, but also a number of their employees who worked on the projects in the field. Their professionalism, knowledge and commitment are admirable and make even the most challenging projects and task enjoyable experiences.

As mentioned earlier, I had work with Lepi Enterprises, Inc. on several projects involving preservation and/or restoration work. The most recent one, *Buckeye Furnace: Charging House Foundation Reinforcement* on the surface may not sound very interesting, but in reality, was an extremely challenging project. It involved some very creative methods to prevent further deterioration around the building foundations situated atop an eroding sandstone cliff. Buckeye Furnace is a reconstructed charcoal-fired blast furnace, originally built in 1852. The buildings were reconstructed in the 1970s and require regular maintenance and repairs, which need to be executed in age appropriate manner. Lepi crew did an outstanding and very innovative work considering the site conditions and the available resources.


Another fairly recent project involving Lepi Enterprises, Inc. was at Schoenbrunn Village in New Philadelphia. The village, restored to appear as it did more than two centuries ago, includes among other components 16 reconstructed log structures, as well as the church and schoolhouse. The repairs to all wood structures included reconstruction of ten (10) stick and mud chimneys and repairs to four others, replacement and/or repairs to wood windows, masonry foundation repairs on several cabins, and replacement of about 60 foot long logs at the Schoolhouse. From the attention to details it became evident this project became a labor of love to the members of Lepi construction crew, not just another job. They took time to find appropriate materials and techniques to accomplish their goal. The work took a bit longer than originally anticipated, but the final results were worth the wait. The delay did not create any budget over-runs or other conflicts.

Lepi Enterprises LLC Letter of Recommendation
November 23, 2016

There were other projects where Lepi Enterprises acted as General Contractors, such as reconstruction of a wooden dam at Indian Mill on Little Sandusky River, or a new addition to the National Road and Zane Grey Museum in Norwich, to name just a few major ones. I will let other members of our Division describe their experiences working with Lepi on their respective projects.

In conclusion, I personally, as well as my colleagues at OHC, Architectural Services Division and the staff of respective sites, were very pleased with the end results of their work. We are always glad to receive their bids for projects at our numerous sites. We are especially happy when being able to award them with contract for another challenge filled project, knowing it will be done right, on time and within budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meta von Rabenau". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Meta von Rabenau, AIA
Architect
Ohio History Connection