

Section 106 Success Story

Elsie Dam Removal and Fish Passage Project

DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP | CLINTON COUNTY

This complex undertaking necessitated thoughtful consultation resulting in a positive outcome for historic resources. The Grist Mill Bridge, Dam and Mill Site comprise a National Register-listed historic district, significant at the state level for industry and engineering. Unfortunately, the dam failed in 2023, compromising its historic integrity. As a result, water was channeling closer to the bridge, threatening the structure. The dam, while not unsalvageable, was breaking off little by little with every heavy rain, posing a safety hazard. The FWS coordinated a site visit with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff to see the damage first-hand. Ultimately the SHPO determined that enough integrity had been lost to the dam that it no longer contributed to the district, and its removal was necessary to protect other district resources.

Knowing the significance of the dam, the FWS committed to preservation measures including retention of character-defining foundation features, archaeological monitoring, and on-site interpretive signage. This careful consultation has preserved the bridge for future use and will make the riverfront location safer for visitors.

LOCATION

Duplain Township, Clinton County

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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FEDERAL AGENCY

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

PROJECT DATE

2026

MICHIGAN SHPO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE