

February 19, 2025

Dear Ann,

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting of the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees, and am requesting that you pass along these comments...

Regarding the inclusion of my property at 35 Cherry Avenue in the proposed Cherry Avenue-Court Street Historic Neighborhood, I am curious to know why the original name of Cherry Avenue is not being considered within the historic designation. According to deed descriptions and survey maps in the Abstract of Title of my property, it is shown that the street was previously known as Morgan Street. I believe the Morgan family had resided on the street originally. It has always bewildered me as to why a short, dead-end street was renamed as an Avenue.

I agree with the Planning Board findings that the majority of the properties on Cherry Avenue are old, and many had been moved from lakeside locations (as I believe mine was), though most are rather plain and lacking a distinct architectural style. The exceptions are 16 Cherry Avenue, a fine example of early 1800's architecture (which I believe already has National Historic Property designation) and 34 Cherry Avenue, formerly a carriage house in the Greek Revival Rural Vernacular style. Many of the older properties on the street have been majorly renovated over the years. It seems that the Planning Board rationale for designating the street is based on social and cultural details rather than architectural significance.

It would certainly make sense to include the "Morgan Street" identification in the designation and I, for one, would not be opposed to a renaming of Cherry Avenue back to Morgan Street to further identify the historical location and village of Aurora significance.

Thank you,
Martha K. Preston
Owner of 35 Cherry Avenue, Aurora, NY