

Aurora Ledyard Historical
Society Post Office Box 136
Aurora, New York 13026

August 6, 2025

Community Preservation Panel
Village of Aurora
324 Main Street
Aurora, New York 13026

Re: Application #25-20 from the Inns of Aurora to Demolish a Shed at 348 Main Street
(Tax Map #182.13-1-24.114)

Dear Chairman Burkett and Members of the Panel:

The building in question is not a “shed.” It was a small and influential public building (circa 1795) in the early development of Aurora. It served as Judge Walter Wood’s law office, and as the first Post Office west of Canajoharie, essential to Aurora’s being the county seat. Considering the decision before you, by the standards set forth in **sec. 7.08.H Demolition or Relocation** we urge that the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to Demolish the building be denied:

1. The landmark is of historic interest and its demolition would lose this early and seminal civic artifact of Aurora’s history
2. Retention of the landmark in its current form or location is problematic because of its state of neglect, but if it were reconstructed, it would remain an important feature of the Village’s history and character.
3. The post and beam construction of this building is rare today, although its design and materials were common at the time.
4. Retention of this landmark would help preserve and protect the integrity of Aurora’s historic district. There is no substitute for the physical presence of a landmark to preserve a historic area.
5. Retention of the landmark to maintain and increase real estate values is problematic given the present state of neglect. However, as a restored landmark, the building will promote the general welfare by encouraging interest in American and local history and maintaining and increasing real estate values in the Village.

Saving the building's remains by dismantling, storing, and reconstructing it with its salvageable historic material on site or another site is the best way to preserve the building and allow it to tell its compelling story. The Historical Society is open to working with the applicant and other community organizations to save the building and has begun these discussions. We have two expert opinions that reconstruction using sound original material is practical. However, it will take more time to work with the necessary parties. If satisfactory dismantling and storage were accomplished, then we believe we can thereafter find a site and a purpose for the reconstructed building that will allow it to serve educational and community uses while preserving history.

Of no less importance, tonight provides an opportunity to voice concern for the future of Aurora's historic buildings. Historic structures must not be allowed to be demolished through neglect. Village Zoning Law sec. 7.14 must be resolutely enforced by the Village of Aurora.

Respectfully,

Shirley K. Egan, President
On behalf of the Board of
Trustees of the Aurora
Ledyard Historical Society