

NORTHEAST
OFFICE



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

November 24, 2004

Mr. William S. Moncrief
Real Estate Specialist
USPS Northeast Facilities Service Office
6 Griffin Road North
Windsor, CT 06006-0030

Dear Mr. Moncrief:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation regarding a project underway in Aurora, New York. As you may know, the National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 whose mission is to provide leadership, education, and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. With the support of our 250,000 members, including almost 19,000 members in the State of New York, the National Trust works to protect significant historic sites and to advocate historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government. The National Trust has also been designated by Congress as a member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The National Trust has learned that the U.S. Postal Service plans to demolish its existing post office building in Aurora, occupy an adjacent building and use the site of the former post office for parking. We also understand that the proposed new facility will be located in a 1901 historic school building that is a contributing property in the Aurora National Register Historic District.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, any federal agency engaged in an "undertaking" that may affect a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places must undergo a consulting process to avoid, minimize or mitigate the project's adverse effects on the historic property. We believe that the proposed project would have such consequences. We are also troubled by information, from conversations with the New York State Historic Preservation Office, that there may be issues of "foreclosure" in this project due to prior withdrawn applications that would have triggered Section 106 Review at an earlier date.

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We would like to participate actively in the review process as it moves forward, as a "consulting party" under Section 106 of the NHPA, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.2(c)(6). Please include the National Trust in any distribution of public notices of meetings, and for the circulation of any documents for comment. We would appreciate receiving two separate copies of notices at the following addresses:

Marilyn Fenollosa, Esq.
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We look forward to working with you as the Section 106 review process moves forward for the Aurora Post Office, and we appreciate your consideration of the important historic preservation issues in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Marilyn M. Fenollosa
Senior Program Officer and Regional Attorney

Cc:

Elizabeth S. Merritt
Deputy General Counsel
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Dallan C. Wordekemper
Federal Preservation Officer
U.S. Postal Service

Richard M. Lord
Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator
NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Daniel Mackay
Director of Public Policy
Preservation League of New York State

The Aurora Coalition