

August 5, 2002

Ms. Lisa Marsh Ryerson, President  
Wells College, Main Street  
Aurora, New York 13026

Dear Ms. Ryerson:

**Re: SEQRA**  
Raze/Renovate Aurora Inn, Main Street  
V/Aurora, Cayuga County  
01PR1013

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has received our copy of your July 29, 2002 letter to Ms. Marilyn Fenollosa of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Given our statewide perspective and experience in a variety of communities, OPRHP feels that our office, the National Trust and the Preservation League of New York State have much to contribute as the College plans several projects within the Aurora Village-Wells College Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We are therefore disappointed that you have decided not to meet with us.

Nonetheless, I am writing to respond to statements regarding our involvement in this project that are incomplete and thus misleading. It is true that project consultant HOLT Architects contacted Richard Lord of our Field Services Bureau and provided preliminary information for review. However, nine days later on May 25, 2001 HOLT also advised OPRHP that the plans had been revised and during that conversation up-to-date materials were requested and our review was placed on hold. OPRHP heard nothing more about the project until Ms. Karen Hindenlang called to inform us that our lack of comment was being represented to Village officials as an endorsement of the scheme. (This chronology was explained in the June 20, 2001 OPRHP letter you referenced.)

It is our understanding that Ms. Patricia VanderVorm, President of the Wells College Board of Trustees, first raised the possibility of our meeting in her discussions with National Trust President Richard Moe. If you change your mind about the value of our convening to work together in Aurora, OPRHP would be glad to assist the College, the Village, and other concerned citizens as they seek to balance development needs and preservation goals in this very special village.

Very truly yours,

J. Winthrop Aldrich  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Historic Preservation

cc: Hon. Thomas Gunderson, Mayor, Village of Aurora  
Mr. Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Ms. Wendy Nicholas, Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Ms. Marilyn Fenollosa, Counsel, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Mr. Scott Heyl, President, Preservation League of New York State  
Ms. Patricia VanderVorm, President, Wells College Board of Trustees  
*(w/6/28/02 Trust letter and 7/29/02 Wells letter)*  
*c/o Academic Search Consultation Service, 1818 R St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009*