



Preservation League of NYS

April 9, 2019

OFFICERS

Paul R. Provost, chair
Karen Arrison, vice chair
Duncan Barrett, vice chair
Dr. Carol Bentel, AIA, vice chair
Frank Emile Sanchis III,
vice chair
John Sare, vice chair
Ruth Pierpont, secretary
Mark W. Warren, treasurer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Angel Ayón
Ildiko Butler
David Christensen
Suzanne Clary
Dr. Georgette Grier-Key
Thomas Jayne
Gregory R. Long
Lee Miller
Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike
David Schnakenberg
Miriam Trementozzi
Anne H. Van Ingen
Charlotte Worthy, AIA
Lori Zabar
Caroline Rob Zaleski

Jay DiLorenzo
President

TRUSTEES COUNCIL

Jan C. K. Anderson
Kent Barwick
George H. Beane
William L. Bernhard
Constance L. Clapp
Randall T. Crawford
Joan K. Davidson
Scott Duenow
Steven C. Engelhart
Stephen A. Facey
R. Brandon Fradd
Dorothy Twining Globus
Lionel Goldfrank III
Roberta Brandes Gratz
Chiu Yin Hempel
Christopher Holbrook
Gerald A. Holbrook
Anne A. Hubbard
Robert J. Kafin
Marilynn G. Karp
Robert J. Kresse
Alexia Lalli
Richard J. Lippes
Robert B. MacKay
Richard A. Maitino
Jean M. McCarrroll
Henry A. McCartney
Norman M. Mintz
Dede B. Nash
Anne G. Older
Robert C. Quinlan
Daniel G. Romualdez
Janet C. Ross
Thomas J. Schwarz
Robert D. Snedeker
Robert A.M. Stern
Cynthia C. Wainwright
Diana S. Waite
Arete Swartz Warren
Steven J. Weiss

Manlius Town Board
c/o Alison Weber, Town Clerk
Town of Manlius
301 Brooklea Drive
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Re: Estabrook Mansion/Wellington House

Dear Manlius Town Board:

I write on behalf of the Preservation League of New York State to share the importance of preserving the Estabrook Mansion. The Preservation League is New York's statewide historic preservation nonprofit dedicated to the protection of New York's diverse and rich heritage of historic buildings, districts, and landscapes. We work with many organizations across the state such as the Arts and Crafts Society of Central New York (ACSCNY) and the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY) that strive to find solutions to preservation challenges. It has come to our attention that recent discussions about changing the zoning classification of the Estabrook Mansion have raised local concerns about the building's future.

As you may know, the Estabrook Mansion is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and is master architect Ward Wellington Ward's the largest surviving work in the greater Syracuse area. The building has significant contributions by acclaimed artisans such as Henry Keck Stained Glass and Moravian Pottery & Tile Works. Its existence speaks to the importance of the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Syracuse area. Changing the zoning will increase demand for the house's demolition, negatively affecting the surrounding community. The Syracuse region will lose an important piece of its Arts and Crafts history.

Because the Estabrook Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the property qualifies for the 20% Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. This tax credit provides an incentive for private development. Historic Tax Credit projects have revitalized many sites in Onondaga County while boosting the local economy and preserving important historic places. The Preservation League provides expert technical services in historic tax credits and rehabilitation projects. We would be pleased to assist the Town of Manlius in considering adaptive reuse possibilities and understanding the historic tax credit. We have supported multiple similar preservation initiatives in the area through our Preserve New York Grant Program, including funding architectural documentation of the Gustav Stickley House and a reconnaissance level survey of nearby Fayetteville. We support these initiatives in addition to the preservation of the Estabrook Mansion because we firmly believe in the importance of the historic built environment in our upstate communities and the role that preservation planning plays in creating good quality of life.

We ask that you consider future decisions regarding the Estabrook Mansion and its site relative to the importance of its preservation. The Preservation League stands ready to provide any technical assistance you might require. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EMT', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Erin M. Tobin
Vice President for Policy & Preservation