

Amanda Krickovich

From: nora jacobs <norajacobsapr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Nick Sugar; Amanda Krickovich; Amanda Krickovich; Schlademan, Kate
Cc: Diccon Ong; Kathleen Russell; Barb Vanblarcum
Subject: AHBR 23-973
Attachments: 2023-10-24 HHA Letter to AHBR.pdf; Ellsworth - Kilbourn House Timeline of Ownership.jpg; Ellsworth - Kilbourn House 1850.jpg

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Hello.

Hudson Heritage Association would like to formally submit comments regarding the requested demolition of the barn located at 1221 Barlow Road, which is scheduled to be discussed at the AHBR meeting tomorrow evening.

HHA asks that the request for demolition be rejected and we have outlined our reasons in the attached letter.

Since this barn is part of one of Hudson's oldest remaining homesteads -- the property that also includes the Ellsworth - Kilbourn House dated 1826, I also have included a number of items members of the AHBR may wish to review in order to better understand the significance of the site, including the barn.

The attachments include a timeline detailing the property's ownership over more than 170 years and a photo of the house and its owners dated 1850. Members may also wish to view [this](#) presentation that was made by Hudson resident and HHA volunteer Tim Graham when HHA completed its house research on the property in 2017. Members can also access [the full research report](#) on the house which was used to award the house an HHA marker.

If you would be kind enough to share this information with the volunteer members of AHBR in advance of tomorrow's meeting, we would appreciate it. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Nora Jacobs
Co-president, Hudson Heritage Association
216-978-8118



HUDSON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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October 24, 2023

RE: AHBR 23-973

To the Members of the Architectural & Historic Board of Review:

Hudson Heritage Association respectfully requests that AHBR deny the application for demolition of the barn located at 1221 Barlow Road.

This structure is a key remaining part of a farm dating back to 1825 and a companion structure to the Ellsworth-Kilbourne House, one of the oldest surviving homes in Hudson. It also is one of a dwindling number of barns and outbuildings located throughout Hudson that serve as tangible testaments to Hudson's agricultural past. It is a handsome and imposing structure that its current owners and city officials have allowed to decay for reasons that are beyond our speculation, but which we suspect fall into the growing and disturbing trend of "demolition by neglect" -- a phenomenon that allows property owners to ignore their obligations as stewards of Hudson's historical structures. It is a phenomenon, we are sorry to note, that is not only reflected in this property, but in numerous structures throughout the city that have either vanished in recent years or have deteriorated to the point where they are structurally unsound, risk the loss of historical fabric, or face condemnation.

If AHBR and the city allow this demolition to take place, it sends a strong signal to those who own historical buildings that it's okay to defer maintenance and upkeep on these important properties because eventually, the city will simply allow them to walk away from their responsibilities and take the convenient step of tearing them down. One by one, Hudson will become known less as a city that preserves and protects its cherished historical properties and more as a place where it's easy to ignore the rules when it's inconvenient and expensive to safeguard what makes Hudson unique.

Further, we hope AHBR will use this case as an opportunity to call on the city to reexamine its priorities when it comes to protecting Hudson's endangered historical building stock. The city's code includes clear guidelines for addressing the deterioration of any building located within its boundaries and also specifies the process city staff is empowered to employ if non-conforming properties require remediation. Sadly, those tools are not currently being deployed in a forceful manner and AHBR is witnessing the regrettable result: a steady drumbeat of requests to tear down irreplaceable buildings that, together, tell the story of Hudson's past. Yes, it's important to build sidewalks throughout our city, but it will be a sad legacy if those sidewalks lead the pedestrian past vacant lots where valuable parts of Hudson's history used to stand.

We know that restoring this barn will be challenging. But we believe this structure deserves saving and can find a new use that also speaks to the stewardship of its owners and the values our city leaders hold as a priority for Hudson's current residents and those who will come after us.

Thank you for giving this request your serious consideration.

Respectfully,



Nora Jacobs
Co-President



Diccon Ong
Co-President

Ellsworth - Kilbourn House Timeline

1807-1808	Benjamin Oviatt	
1808-1820	Herman Oviatt	
1820-1824	Marvin Oviatt	
1824-1828	John Ellsworth	<i>Framed House appears on taxes</i>
1828-1849	Asahel Kilbourn	<i>House described as brick on taxes</i>
1849-1856	Sophonria Kilbourn (Widow)	The bricks were made by Chauncey Case who built a brickyard in the late 1820s in order to build his own farmhouse (now Case-Barlow Farm).
1856-1864	Sylvester Thompson	Possible remodel changing roofline
1864-1909	Sherman P Thompson	
1909-1921	Fred S Thompson	
1921-1933	Cuyahoga Fall Sanatorium	<i>Fred S Thompson was ill and may have sold to them so he could stay in family home until his death in 1927.</i>
1933-1942	Charles E Ritchie	
1942-1945	C Thomas McCormish	
1945-1948	Joseph W Oledzki	
1948-1975	Earl D Flood	
1975-1979	Flood Company	

