

NORTHEAST FACILITIES SERVICE OFFICE



December 17, 2004

Marilyn M. Fenollosa
Senior Program Officer and Regional Attorney
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Seven Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston MA 02109

RECEIVED
JAN 04 2005
NORTHEAST OFFICE

Re: Aurora NY 13026 Main Office
Relocation Proposed by the Village of Aurora New York

Dear Ms. Fenollosa:

I am writing in answer to your letter of November 4, 2004, addressed to William Moncrief.

I would like to correct some misinformation contained in your letter. At this time, the Postal Service does not have any plans to demolish the present post office building, relocate to an adjacent building, or utilize the present site for parking.

On December 8, 2003, Aurora Mayor Tom Gunderson wrote to us and advised that representatives of the Village Board, Planning Board, Community Preservation Panel, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Wells College and the Aurora Foundation all gave approval to "engage the USPS in a discussion of what might be possible" regarding a relocation of the post office to an adjacent building. Considering that the Village of Aurora, Inc. is also the owner of the present post office building, and the present lease expires in 2009, it was in the best interests of the Postal Service to accept this invitation to discuss the matter. A meeting was held in January 2004, and there have been subsequent meetings and communications with the Mayor and others. However, the relocation proposed by the Village has not progressed beyond the discussion stage.

As stated above, the property housing the present post office is owned by the Village of Aurora, Inc. If a project to relocate the post office were to be undertaken, the village would certainly be included in our consultations. However, the disposition of the property housing the present post office would ultimately be the responsibility of the property owner, not the Postal Service.

The relocation of a postal facility is subject to numerous policies, procedures, regulations and laws. The Section 106 process you cited in your letter is one of those. When I wrote to mayor Gunderson last June, I enclosed a pamphlet describing the Postal Service Community Relation Regulations, which is another. We are presently engaged in an internal review process, required by Postal Service policy, which will result in either the approval or disapproval of the concept of relocating the Aurora post office at this time. From the standpoint of the Postal Service, further discussion of the subject with the Village

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- 2 -

or members of the Aurora community is not required until the review is completed. If the relocation concept is approved, we would be in a position to initiate an undertaking and resume discussions with all the parties of interest.

My office would be pleased to include the Northeast Office of the Historic Trust as a consulting party under Section 106 of the NHPA, if and when an undertaking is initiated. Until then, I can be reached at the address and phone number below if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Senk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Paul J. Senk
Manager, Real Estate

Cc: Hon. Tom Gunderson, Mayor, Village of Aurora
Mr. Orin Lehman, State Historic Preservation Officer
Elizabeth s. Merritt, Esq., National Trust for Historic Preservation