

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of Livingston County Historical Society-Designing Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Storage, Collection Management, and Exhibit Spaces

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered Livingston County Historical Society, in Geneseo, New York, a Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant (PF-280781-21) to complete design documents for the partial demolition of an existing addition, and construction of a new addition for the Livingston County Museum.

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 306108. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The project involves the Livingston County Museum located at 30 Center Street, Geneseo, NY 14454-1204. The Livingston County Museum is situated on a one-acre corner lot. It occupies Geneseo's former District #5 Cobblestone Schoolhouse. The building is a contributing resource to the Geneseo Historic District, which is listed National Register of Historic Places (NHRP # 77000948) and the National Register of Historic Places. The building features stone (quoins which articulate the corners of the structure, an attribute typical of the period and style. The former schoolhouse is additionally significant in that it is the only example of a cobblestone construction in the district.

Originally built in 1838 on land donated by the pioneer Wadsworth brothers, the cobblestone building was designed in the shape of a Greek Cross and has seen three major additions. The first was in 1871 to the southwest, the second was in 1916 to the southeast, and the third was in 1968 when a large board and batten wing to the rear of the building was constructed for carriages and large equipment with some additional space added in the 1970's. The building became the Livingston County Museum in 1932. The building's period of significance is 1838-1932.

The project will create design documents to rehabilitate and to rehabilitate building spaces post 1968 and expand the building by approximately 2,000 square feet.

On November 29, 2021, Robyn Sedgwick, Historic Site Restoration Coordinator for New York State Historic Preservation Office, provided a finding of conditional determination of No Adverse Effect, contingent upon the submission of final design documents. On July 28, 2023, Robyn Sedgwick indicated that her office received photographs and revised drawings on June 30, 2023, and provided a final opinion that the proposed project is compatible with the scale, size, massing and character of the Livingston County Museum and the Main Street Historic District Boundary Increase. It is the SHPO's opinion that the project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties.

After reviewing Section 106 documentation and SHPO finding, NEH issues a determination of No Adverse Effect. If there are any substantial alterations to the project, Section 106 consultation with NEH and the New York State Historic Preservation will resume.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to [FPO@neh.gov](mailto:FPO@neh.gov). The deadline for submitting comments is **September 12th, 2023**.