



April 21, 2015

Michelle Mears, Staff Planner
City of Rochester Planning & Development
31 Wakefield Street
Rochester, NH 03867
michelle.mears@rochesternh.net

Dear Michelle,

The NH Preservation Alliance is delighted to encourage and assist in increasing preservation awareness in Rochester. We are especially interested in your efforts to find a new viable use for City Hall annex so that it can continue to serve—and be enjoyed by-- the public, and contribute to the historic character of downtown.

You might recall that we gave the City of Rochester and Rochester Main Street an award in 2012 for the outstanding restoration and stewardship of the Parson Main statue.

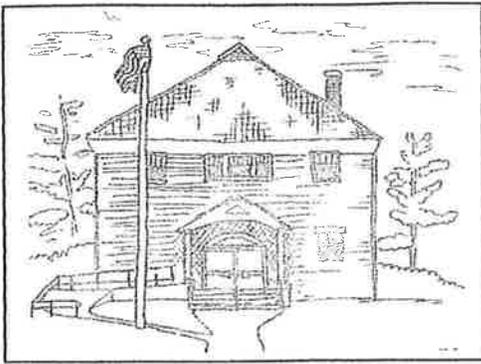
We see another opportunity to help revitalize the historic core of your city in the rehabilitation of this 1904-05 former fire station, a contributing structure within your National Register-listed historic district. It occupies a prime location and still retains its overall form and massing, window patterns, and construction materials. While the building has been modified, these character-defining features make it very worthy of efforts to preserve and find a new use for it. Preservation has many benefits including providing more local jobs than new construction, keeping construction debris out of landfills, and retaining an authentic sense of place that helps attract visitors and businesses.

We would be very happy to assist in your search for appropriate sources of grant funding for both planning and rehabilitation phases, and could refer you to preservation professionals who specialize in historic preservation and cost-effective rehabilitation strategies.

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is the statewide non-profit that strengthens communities and stimulates local economies by encouraging the protection and revival of historic buildings and places. You can learn more about our activities at nhpreservation.org.

Sincerely,

Maggie Stier
Field Service Representative



Rochester Historical Society
PO Box 65
58 Hanson St.
Rochester, NH 03866-0065
603- 330-3099
rochesterhistorical@metrocast.net



March 21, 2016

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
Conservation License Plate Grant Program
19 Pillsbury St. 2nd Floor
Concord, NH 03301-3570

I am writing in support of the City of Rochester's application for a Conservation License Plate Grant for the City Hall Annex façade restoration project. The Rochester Historical Society has been a long-time supporter of historic preservation and restoration projects in the City of Rochester. RHS has also partnered with the City of Rochester on several projects, including renovation work on the RHS museum building.

The City Hall Annex is a unique building. It was a contributing structure to the city's historic district being listed on the National Register in 1983. Constructed as the Rochester Central Fire Station in 1904-05, it was built to last with high quality materials, including locally produced brick. The early 1900s were a time of civic pride and progress and the fire station was built with a beautiful Romanesque Revival façade.

When the Fire Station opened it was called, "commodious and modern, equipped with stabling for 8 horses." By the 1970s it was no longer large enough to accommodate modern fire apparatus. When a larger station was built, the old one was extensively remodeled in 1975 to serve as the police station. The original façade with its architectural details was removed/covered to create a more modern appearance, which doesn't match the architectural style of the rest of the building. The Rochester Historical Society would love to see the original façade restored to this historic building.

A Conservation License Plate Grant will help to accomplish this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martha Fowler
President



ROCHESTER MAIN STREET

18 South Main Street, Suite 2B
Rochester, NH 03867

Rochester Main Street Program is a non-profit volunteer organization devoted to the preservation, growth and vitality of downtown Rochester. Participate-Volunteer-Donate

March 23, 2016

RE: Support For Historic Façade Restoration of City Hall Annex (former old fire station)

This letter is written on behalf of the Board of Directors and volunteers at Rochester Main Street in support of the proposed historic renovation of the front facade of the City Hall Annex building on Wakefield Street. As a member of the main Street America network, Rochester Main Street has a preservation based ethic, advocating for adaptive re-use of historic buildings rather than demolition. Our mission is devoted to the preservation, growth, and vitality of the City of Rochester's downtown, and the proposed City Hall Annex restoration would preserve an important part of the historic downtown, along with maintaining the heritage of one of the city's original fire stations and helping to create sense of place.

As the City Hall Annex is located in a prominent downtown location, its restoration has the potential to help revitalize the downtown and attract quality businesses and tourism to the downtown region. This benefits Rochester Main Street, our local businesses and the city in general as we transform into a vibrant arts, dining, shopping and entertainment district.

Further, Rochester Main Street and the City of Rochester have long been partners on historic preservation projects. In fact, both the city and Rochester Main Street won an award in 2012 from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for the restoration and preservation of the city's historic Parson Main statue in downtown Central Square, and were the recipients of New Hampshire's Profile Legacy award in 2011.

I can be reached at director@rochestermainstreet.org or (603) 330-3208 if you should have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Provost

Michael A. Provost, CMSM
Executive Director
Rochester Main Street