

**From:** Forrest, Daniel [<mailto:Daniel.Forrest@ct.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2015 12:26 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Reeder  
**Cc:** Dunne, Mary; Levine, Todd; Scofield, Jenny; Newman-Scott, Kristina; Helen Higgins  
**Subject:** RE: Hoyt Barnum MOA

Representative Reeder,

Thank you for reaching out to me and my staff regarding the Hoyt-Barnum House in Stamford. SHPO recognizes the important public safety concerns which the City seeks to address with this project, and we greatly appreciate the coordination between the City and other stakeholders to preserve the historically significant Hoyt-Barnum House as part of this project. We do, however, share a number of the concerns raised by both HPAC and HNPP regarding the proposed dismantling and eventual reconstruction of the Hoyt-Barnum House.

We confine our comments here to the impact of the proposal on the National Register listing of the property. Consistent with federal regulations (36 CFR Part 60.14(b)4), the building will automatically be de-listed from the National Register of Historic Places absent compliance with a formal process which must be completed prior to the historic building being moved. That process requires that SHPO review sufficiently detailed information to understand the potential effects of the proposed move on the Hoyt-Barnum House. We would then have to publicly notice the consideration of the project by the State Historic Preservation Board at least 30 days in advance of a public board meeting. If approved by our board, SHPO would then need to submit documentation to the National Park Service addressing:

- I. The reasons for the move;
- II. The effect on the property's historical integrity;
- III. The setting and general environment of the proposed site, including evidence that the proposed site does not possess historical or archaeological significance that would be adversely affected by the intrusion of the property;
- IV. Photographs showing the proposed location.

Once received by the Keeper of the National Register at NPS, the Keeper would have to review the documentation, and once satisfied that it is sufficient, would publically notice the Keeper's consideration of the request. Under the regulations, the Keeper would then have 45 days to respond to SHPO with notice of approval or rejection.

We (SHPO) are also required to provide post-move documentation to the Keeper, if the move is approved.

The timeline established in the draft MOA between the City and the historical society does not appear to provide sufficient time to complete the mandated process if the building is to remain on the National Register.

SHPO recently received draft documentation prepared by the historical society to comply with the NPS regulations, but we have several concerns based on the draft submittal. The project would require several alterations to the property which would very likely diminish its historical

integrity. These include the change from its current (original) setting on a sloped parcel with a foundation set into the bank to a level lot; a proposed location and orientation which would remove or substantially alter the house's relationship to the street; and most notably, a proposed process that would require substantial demolition and reconstruction. When the NPS has approved moves in the past, it is typically when the building is moved as a whole or a minimal number of large component sections. This is often necessary to limit the loss of historic finishes and other fabric that are important aspects of the property's character.

SHPO would need more detailed information on the proposed dismantling and reconstruction to determine whether the property would retain sufficient integrity to warrant its retention in the National Register.

I hope these comments are helpful and look forward to further discussions with the parties involved to resolve any additional concerns.

My best wishes,  
Daniel T. Forrest

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**From:** Cynthia Reeder [<mailto:ckreeder@mindspring.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2015 12:45 PM  
**To:** Forrest, Daniel; Dunne, Mary  
**Subject:** FW: Hoyt Barnum MOA

I just realized that I probably should have copied you on the message below that I sent to Jenny Scofield because I left messages for both of you on the topic.

Best,  
Cynthia

**From:** Cynthia Reeder [<mailto:ckreeder@mindspring.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2015 12:28 PM  
**To:** 'Jenny.scofield@ct.gov'  
**Cc:** [creeder@stamfordct.gov](mailto:creeder@stamfordct.gov)  
**Subject:** Hoyt Barnum MOA

Jennifer,

I would like to call to your attention some recent activity regarding the Hoyt Barnum House in Stamford, which is listed on the National Register. It appears that the current owner and the City of Stamford, a CLG, are moving forward aggressively with plans to deconstruct the building.

This week the Stamford Historical Society filed for a demolition permit and the following notice appeared in the Stamford Advocate (I will send the actual demolition application separately);  
<http://ct.mypublicnotices.com/PublicNotice.asp?Page=PublicNotice&AdId=3824958>

Today, I noticed that all of the trees on the property also have been marked for removal, with a notice that anyone who objects should contact, in writing, the Landscape Specialist in the Office of Operations of the City of Stamford, 203-977-4140, within 30 days.

The City has not yet purchased the property (which requires the authorization of several City Boards); however it has drafted an MOA with the Society (attached and more below) and it issued an RFP for the deconstruction and movement of it. The notice is at the following link and there is a walk through on June 2:  
<http://ct.mypublicnotices.com/PublicNotice.asp?Page=PublicNotice&AdId=3818867>

The attached MOA was circulated to the Stamford Historic Advisory Commission (without sufficient time for it to convene to discuss it), but it did respond with aggregated comments from its members (also attached).

I hope that the SHPO can work with the City on the best strategy and tactics to optimize the possibility of the building maintaining its historic status and to ensure that it does not jeopardize any potential state or federal funding for the police station that it anticipates building on the site.

Regards,  
Cynthia

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