

SAMPLE LETTER

Date:

To: Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Garden City

351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my opposition to the plan to demolish the historic St. Paul's School.

As you know, the structure has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both internally and externally, it is a magnificent structure that contains scores of priceless and irreplaceable artifacts.

Despite comments made in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it would not be possible to salvage and place these artifacts in any place where they could possibly replicate the original structure. Moreover, destroying them would destroy one more important link to the history of Garden City and the development of the Hempstead Plains – a key part of our regional legacy.

The DEIS states that the Village has explored every alternative to demolition. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Village has offered the residents only one option for St. Paul's – conversion of the main building into rental apartments and additional massive construction. Other plans, such as a proposed Library/Community Center were deemed unattractive by a handful of officials and never offered to the residents for any type of vote.

The recent plan offered by a group of residents – The Committee to Save St. Paul's and The Garden City Historical Society – demonstrates that it is entirely possible to come up with a plan to preserve and protect the entire structure, while making parts of the building available for use by the residents.

Most important, this plan shows that, contrary to the statements in the DEIS, it IS entirely possible to come up with an affordable alternative to demolition when people work together with imagination and commitment.

In my opinion, you will not be fulfilling your fiduciary duty if you vote in favor of demolition. I urge you to work instead to find an alternative to save this historic treasure.

Sincerely,

(Name and address)