

Ruth L. Pierpont, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

New York State Division for Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

*Feb 7, 2016*  
*268-2171*

Dear Deputy Commissioner Ruth L. Pierpont:

The Holt-Harris site in McKownville NY--8.9 acres--was recently purchased by the **University at Albany Foundation** for \$600,000.

On that site are an older home and a barn.

The address is usually given as 100-200 Nicholas Lane.

The land was--in the 17th century--owned by the LaGrange family. The LaGrange family once owned much of the land from what is now Fuller Road, Washington Avenue and Patroon Creek south to the Helderberg escarpment.

The older home and barn were possibly built by the LaGrange family in the 18th or 19th century. Its stain glass windows and wide plank floors certainly imply that it was constructed some years ago. Judge Holt-Harris often said the home and barn were built around 1850.

Information is circulating in McKownville that the home and barn are about to be destroyed by the owner, the University at Albany Foundation prior to transfer of the property to the University Albany.

The McKownville Improvement Association wants to bring the demolition to the attention of the State Historic Preservation Office and file a protest that several potentially important structures are about to be destroyed.

Please contact the University Foundation quickly and arrange for an inspection of the buildings so that their historic importance can be established.

Their history need be established and their future publicly discussed.

The neighborhood is much concerned about the loss of residences--especially historic residences--in the hamlet.

Included are two pages, which describe some of the history of the hamlet.

Sincerely,

Don Reeb, president, McKownville Improvement Association  
5 Norwood Street, Albany NY 12203  
518-489-3909