



Concord Historical Commission

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Dear Tom,

At the November 12, 2020 meeting of the Concord Historical Commission, the Commission generally agreed to support the application of the Trustees of the Parish Donations, stewards of Wright Tavern; but there was considerable discussion, and our support is tempered. While we were impressed with the obvious care and commitment to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the Tavern evidenced by the many committees to evaluate use, structure, fundraising, etc. and the 100+ years that it has been in their care, we did have a number of concerns. We are troubled that the Trustees have not determined the ultimate use of the structure which could act as a guide to the kind and nature of repairs. We are concerned that the proposed structural repairs may result in the destruction of historical elements. We would hope that the historic fabric and elements be preserved throughout the Tavern to the maximum extent possible and that modern elements will be added with restraint.

We understand that the Trustees have added a highly regarded historical architect to their team. He will review the work described in the proposal and provide additional recommendations including any for preserving the Tavern's remaining historic fabric and features. While this is commendable, his recommendations will be received after the Trustees' proposal was submitted for CPC deliberation. We hope that the Trustees will be willing to modify some of their proposed repairs to expand the protection of historic elements as they evaluate the ultimate use of the structure.

The Wright Tavern holds a very important place in the history of Concord and in the evolution of the American republic. It is a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places, lofty distinctions that, alas, afford it little protection. That responsibility is in the hands of the Trustees of Parish Donations, which the Historical Commission sincerely hopes recognizes its responsibility to protect to the maximum extent possible, the historic integrity of the structure.

Sincerely,

Melissa C. Saalfield, Chair
Concord Historical Commission