

27 Warren Street
McKownville, N. Y.
12203
July 2, 1984

Mr. Kevin Moss, Supervisor
Town of Guilderland
Town Hall
Guilderland, N. Y.
12084

Dear Kevin,

I wish to call your attention to the condition of the old brick farmhouse located at 1245 Western Avenue in McKownville which is currently in a sad state of neglect by its absentee landlord and the tenants alike.

For some time the building has been deteriorating. Last week I observed a broken window upstairs and other evidence of neglect. Yesterday, I was appalled to note that all the upstairs windows were broken presenting an exposure to the elements and obviously inviting destruction in case of fire. What seemed like more than a dozen children and adults were deployed on the porch and the front door stood wide open.

The house in question is the oldest house extant in McKownville, having ^{been} built about 1840 by James F. McKown who became the first postmaster of McKownville in 1862. James was the grandson of William McKown (1763-1843), founder of the McKownville Hamlet. It is my understanding that the house was included in the list of Guilderland landmarks placed on the National Register a short time ago.

It seems unfortunate that so many of these old landmarks fall into the hands of those whose only interest is the land it stands on or the income it will produce without any investment for repairs. The condition of this house should be investigated from a safety standpoint if nothing else. Obviously its owner could care less if the building would disappear and its tenants could care less.

If the building could be owned by some caring individual it could be restored to become a showplace. It must not be allowed to become totally derelict by the action of irresponsible owners or tenants. Perhaps you can exert some influence in this regard. It could be the subject for a project similar to some of the buildings in the "Pastures" in Albany. Is something similar possible?

Sincerely,

Fred Abele
c/c Roger Keenholts, Town Historian
c/c McKownville Improvement Assoc.