

# LOCAL/STATE

## Face-lift set for historic building

By DEBBY BOUYEA

Knickerbocker News Reporter

**GUILDERLAND** — Once a farmhouse built by the family of McKownville's founding father, the oldest standing house in the hamlet is showing signs of age.

However, help is being promised by its owners, one being developer Armand Quadrini, who says he is planning major renovation work on the 1245 Western Ave. building this fall.

Assistant Town Historian Fred Abele recently expressed concern about the condition of the brick house, now used as a four-unit apartment building.

The house was built in 1840 by James F. McKown, grandson of William McKown who founded the hamlet on the Western edge of the city of Albany, according to Abele.

The historian said he noticed the house was showing signs of decay recently. In a July 12 *Altamont Enterprise* column, Abele said "nearly all upstairs windows" were broken.

He sent a letter to town Supervisor Kevin Moss three weeks ago asking the town to investigate the condition of the building "from a safety standpoint, if nothing else."

Moss said he forwarded a copy of the letter to Quadrini. The supervisor said it is not normally the practice of the town to inspect private residences.



Knickerbocker News/Tom LaPoint

**LANDMARK** — The oldest standing house in renovation, according to one of its owners, McKownville, above, is slated for a major developer Armand Quadrini.

"I wasn't impressed with the safety aspects of it," Moss said, explaining Abele's letter only cited broken windows and a number of people standing on the porch.

"We do not intrude on people's private lives," Moss said.

Quadrini told Moss he is planning major restoration work at the house.

"We're going to remodel and restore the house starting in September or October," the developer said, adding the work had been planned for some time.

"It was in the works to be done eventually," Quadrini said.

"Only a small portion of the house has historical value," the developer

said, as three additions have been put onto the building since it was originally constructed.

Quadrini said the front of the building would be "historically designed."

One resident of the apartment building said she had received a notice to vacate by Sept. 1 and another resident said he had not received any notice.

Both said they had not experienced any problems with the condition of the building.

Quadrini said not all the residents would be asked to leave because a portion of the building was renovated last spring.

"I'd like to see it restored or at least

preserved," Abele said, because no buildings built before 1840 remain in McKownville.

The house was a typical old farmhouse, said Abele, who believes it was once a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places.

However, Matthew Delaney, the town planner who was active in getting several buildings in the town placed on the register, said the house "would have to be in reasonable condition" to be placed on the register.

"If the building has major structural changes and has gone into ill repair and cannot be restored to its original condition" it would not be considered for the list, Delaney said.