

University To Raze 1863 House

Samuel Crist House
Credit: Matt Connor
Apr. 25, 2006

Dear Preservation 911,

I live in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, in the Northeast Central part of the state, and have recently heard that an important historic home, built in 1863, is slated for demolition.

It's located on Main Street in town and was built by Samuel Crist, one of the most extensive lumber opera lumber was the dominant industry in this Susquehanna River community.

Crist was also owner and president of the Lock Haven Gas Works, a member of School, which later became Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, the current owner of his old home.

It's a spectacular, if badly neglected house, with myriad period detail (plaster ceiling medallions, grand stairway, ornate marble fireplaces, glorious hard wood floors, etc.) still intact.

The university's facilities manager tells me that the house will be torn down by July 1, and I would just hate to see that happen.

I'm trying to launch a campaign to save the house, and was wondering how I might go about interesting your magazine in doing some editorial on the grand old structure.

If you are not the appropriate person to contact, I'd appreciate it if you could forward this email to someone in editorial who might have an interest in this issue.

Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated.
Regards,
Matt Connor

Preservation 911 is a message board open to all readers. While National Trust staff will respond to the extent feasible, this will not be possible in all cases. We encourage other readers involved in state or local preservation to respond with advice or assistance. Contact either a regional office of the National Trust, a statewide or local nonprofit organization, or your state's historic preservation office.

The National Trust's regional and field offices bring the programs and tools of the Trust to communities across the country. They offer technical assistance through consultations and field visits and financial help through small grants. They hold educational programs for professional preservationists and work to foster policies that help historic places. They also provide leadership on issues that concern entire regions, such as saving historic schools, fighting sprawl, and revitalizing cities.

