

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Section 106 Review of Van Ostrande-Radliff House Reuse Project

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered the Historic Albany Foundation, Inc., in Albany, New York, a Challenge Infrastructure and Capacity Building (CHA-292051) to restore and rehabilitate the Van Ostrande-Radliff House to become the new headquarters for the organization.

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH’s responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 306108. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The Van Ostrande–Radliff House is located at 48 Hudson Ave., Albany, New York 12207. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP #07000291) and is the oldest building in Albany. The Van Ostrande-Radliff House is a two-and-one-half-story Dutch anchor beam framed dwelling located at 48 Hudson Avenue in Downtown Albany. It was constructed in 1728, and now stands alone on the south side of the street between Dallius and Green streets, in what was once the most densely settled area of Albany. The interior of 48 Hudson Avenue contains the significant construction elements that make a rare and highly significant property reflecting the earliest period of Albany’s European settlement. The project will restore and conserve the Van Ostrande-Radliff House while rehabilitating the additions at 48 Hudson Ave. Once complete, the building will be Historic Albany’s “new” home for its Administrative offices, lecture hall, conference/classroom, tool lending library, and Architectural Parts Warehouse.

On August 8, 2023, Jessica Vavrasek Historic Preservation Specialist, concurred with the recommendation in the Phase I archaeological survey report prepared for this project (June 2023; 23SR00433), that no archaeological sites were identified by the survey and no additional archaeological work was necessary. On August 14, 2023, Weston Davey, Historic Site Restoration Coordinator for New York State Historic Preservation Office, provided an opinion of No Adverse Effect, with the condition of the National Park Service’s approval of Part 2 of the Commercial Rehabilitation Tax Credit application. After reviewing Section 106 documentation and SHPO finding, NEH issues a determination of No Adverse Effect. If there are any substantial alterations to the project, Section 106 consultation with NEH and the New York State Historic Preservation will resume.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. **Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is September 22, 2023.**