

OCTOBER 11, 2017

Sturgeon Bay City Council,

My name is George Evenson, currently County Historian and was President of the DCHS for about 20n years, I have lived in Door County all my life and farmed in the town of Sevastopol. I have also maintained a strong interest in community affairs and held Public office, and observed many changes that have tasked place, in agriculture and the local community over the past 80+years and there have been many.

The intent of this letter is to emphasize my support for the preservation of the Granary Building of the Westside Waterfront project under consideration. The unique size and shape building is an easily recognized symbol of past agricultural use and the vitality of Agriculture in this area. It symbolizes the strong connection between agriculture and early Sturgeon Bay.

Over the years local farming has changed significantly—several large cherry processing plants and milk processing factories have come and gone and not trace remains. Dairy farms are disappearing and few large orchards remain operating. Hundreds of acres of strawberries were grown, all changed. The history of the need for this particular type structure relates to the history of northeastern Wisconsin, the best pea growing area in the U.S the 1870s.

In its present conditions it is not attractive but nearly all observers recognizes its past function, as a shipping facility for bulk agricultural production, seeds in the spring, grain and supplies year around and shipping at harvest.

As for the future, it must be evaluated by professional engineers and reinforced, without changing the basic configuration. Innovative ways can be found for limited economic and educational activities that can be incorporated and some money can be made.

In conclusion this structure must be saved; it is the right building, located on the right spot. It truly represents past community history, water front activity and will become more valuable as time goes by. To deliberate destroy with fire somehow seems disrespectful, to its builders and those that used it and communities that were built with its service..

Sincerely,

George Evenson

