



Seymour C. Hyman  
President

May 9, 1979

Congressman Robert A. Roe  
194 Ward Street  
Paterson, New Jersey 07510

Dear Bob:

When you visited us at William Paterson College about ten days ago, I suggested to you that we were in search of funds for the restoration of the Hobart Manor building which you have seen on our campus. I greatly appreciated your response to the effect that you would be willing to have someone on your staff investigate the possibilities of support for such an historic project.

The following paragraphs give a very brief description of the recent history of our activities in connection with the Hobart Manor restoration and its designation as an historic site.

The idea of the Hobart Manor restoration effort was first conceived during the bicentennial year when the theme of landmarks preservation was foremost in the public's interest. Although many people thought the building to be an interesting conversation piece, no one had ever done an in-depth investigation of its background and inhabitants. Because William Paterson College was designated a bicentennial college, it seemed most appropriate that a survey be initiated and application be made for landmark status if appropriate. In early 1975 an historic site committee was formed with Mr. Ronald McArthur as chairman.

The appropriate paperwork for historic designation was prepared, and on November 21, 1975 Ailsa Farms was placed on the State Registry of Historic Sites. Subsequently, on May 17, 1976 a letter was received indicating acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Congressman Robert A. Roe

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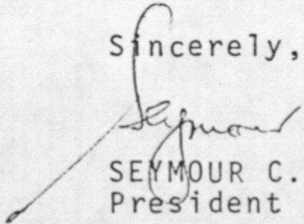
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Because many inappropriate changes had been made during the State's ownership, the committee's final emphasis was directed towards restoration of the newly named Hobart Manor. Mr. Charles Detwiler, an historic architect, was commissioned to do a feasibility study for submission to the State. It was his opinion that enough of the original tudor style features remain in the manor house that the building was "...well worthy of preservation and restoration."

Application for a restoration grant was made through the State grant-in-aid program; however, on March 21, 1979 the committee received a letter stating that funds were not available for government buildings still in use for government purposes. Therefore, present restoration efforts remain in the planning stage without the financial resources necessary to proceed.

Your assistance in this project is something that will be greatly appreciated by our Alumni Association, our Board of Trustees, and the student body, as well as myself.

Sincerely,



SEYMOUR C. HYMAN  
President

SCH:gg

cc: Dr. M. Winkler  
Mrs. J. Fernald  
Ms. H. Wienke  
Mr. R. McArthur ✓  
Mr. D. Santillo  
Ms. N. Thompson

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