

**From:** [Ian van Lierop](#)  
**To:** [Johnson, Cynthia E](#)  
**Subject:** Odd Fellows Building  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:58:16 PM

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I'm writing in opposition to what I gather is the proposed demolition of the Odd Fellows Building adjacent to the Omni Hotel. I support the preservation of this building, because I believe that preserving and adapting old buildings from our city's past is an important part of maintaining our city's culture and creating a vibrant future. I'm sympathetic to the reality that sometimes old buildings must be removed to make room for real progress to happen. Providing housing for a growing population, expanding commercial space for a growing economy, and bringing modern amenities to our city simply isn't possible without sometimes removing and replacing old buildings. However, the older and more unique a building is, and the greater its aesthetic value and connection with our community's past, the more we must carefully assess whether anything that might replace it could possibly bring more financial, cultural, historical, and aesthetic value to the city than what the preservation of the building will allow for. I believe that it is incumbent on those who wish to demolish such an irreplaceable building to convince the community of two things:

- 1) the demolition of this building will allow for the creation of an asset to the community that significantly exceeds the value of the building being demolished in financial, cultural, and aesthetic terms
- 2) there are not viable alternatives to the site that could allow for the existing building to be incorporated into the site plan.

Based on what I've seen and heard, I remain unconvinced that either of those two points have been adequately explored and demonstrated to the community. Therefore, I do not support the demolition of the Odd Fellows Building.

Sincerely,

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