



From: Joseph C. Schott  
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Waldorf, MD 20603

October 22, 2023

To: Katie Pereny, Secretary of the Historic District Study Committee, City of Mackinac Island  
7358 Market Street,  
City of Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Dear Ms. Pereny,

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the proposed East End Mission Historic District Study Committee Report.

I have reviewed the proposed East End Mission Historic Map and the preliminary Historic District Study Report which I located on the City of Mackinac Island web site. I also reviewed about ten Historic Commission meeting minutes. These I selected at random from the minutes of meetings from the last three years. I also reviewed the Public Act 169 of 1970, Michigan Local Historic Districts Act.

I now understand that if established, the new historic district would allow for alterations to existing structures, and to allow for new structures, provided the alterations and new constructions would be in keeping with the island's historic character. In other words, private property owners could make reasonable use of their property, but in a historical fashion.

It is also clear to me that establishing an additional City of Mackinac Island historic district will generate additional work for the Historic Commission – perhaps significant work.

Our family has visited Mackinac Island many times. As we were not able to visit this year, our last visit was for a week in October 2022. We have accommodation reservations for a week in October of 2024, and we plan on making reservations for 2025 when the reservation window opens. We visit the Island for several reasons, but most of all to enjoy the irreplaceable historic character of the island.

I am familiar with the proposed district. I agree with the Report's conclusions, particularly the Report's assertion: "Those buildings constructed after the period of significance generally fit the scale of the historic structures around them and do not substantially detract from the historic character of the area."

It is clear to me that the proposed historic district has exquisite visual unity and a very high historic value. I feel strongly that historic preservation is the key to maintaining the character of Mackinac Island. It is apparent to me that the advantage of establishing the proposed historic district far outweighs the disadvantages. As such, I urge the Government of the City of Mackinac Island to move forward to establish the proposed East End Mission Historic District.

Thank you.

  
Joseph C. Schott