



# HISTORY *Colorado*

April 11, 2012

Ms. Susan Connelly  
Executive Director  
Colorado Chautauqua Association  
900 Baseline Road  
Boulder, CO 80302

Dear Ms. Connelly,

Thank you again for the onsite discussion of CCA's developing plans for the Chautauqua campus with myself, Astrid Liverman and Erika Warzel on March 23, 2012. We appreciate the time you and Tom Thorpe took to give us the background and current developing processes for the issues CCA has identified as needing to be addressed.

I am writing to reiterate the opinions expressed by the three of us at that onsite meeting. We strongly feel that the needed functions of ADA restrooms and a visitor's center could easily fit into the existing historic campus as separate functions within small ancillary structures that do not detract from the surrounding landscape and spatial relationships. As mentioned, one possible idea is to excavate under the raised, non-historic patio at the north side of the auditorium; the National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination states that this patio was constructed in 1987 and is clearly not historic. However, the insertion of one large building within the historic district, which would hold all functions including the desired additional meeting space, would be highly disruptive and appears to not be possible without compromising the historic character of the entire landscape.

It is important to point out that a letter sent to you in April of last year from Christine Whitacre at the National Park Service clearly states 1) that Tom Keohan with NPS has verified that the picnic shelter is indeed within the period of significance of the NHL, as is explicitly stated in that nomination; and 2) NPS's stance that moving buildings or constructing new buildings within NHLs is not recommended or appropriate. This leaves little doubt in our mind as to the inappropriateness of either moving the picnic shelter or constructing a building with a footprint comparable in size to the Community House, and we therefore concur with NPS on both these issues.

We encourage you and your Board to explore the compatible options of installing ADA restrooms and a visitor's center in either existing buildings or in new ancillary structures that would not detract from Chautauqua's existing spatial relationships and its historic character, particularly that of the holistic cultural landscape.

Sincerely,

Steve W. Turner, AIA  
Vice President for Preservation  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer