



Lower Providence Township

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LOWER PROVIDENCE – A demolition permit has been issued to the owners of the Audubon Inn bringing Lower Providence Township's struggle to preserve the historic structure to a disappointing end.

The request for the demolition permit came as a shock to township officials who have been committed to saving the building. "The Nase family has decided to exercise their lawful right to demolish the structure," said Township Manager Joseph Dunbar. "The township has done all it can to preserve the Inn. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we didn't succeed."

Dunbar added, "We do acknowledge, and are grateful for, the family's efforts to work with us."

The Nase family applied for the permit on January 13, 2006. Because they meet all the necessary requirements, the township is legally bound to issue the demolition permit. It is not the outcome the township had hoped for, working for years to overcome numerous hurdles in its attempt to preserve the Inn.

In 2003, the Nase family informed the township that the Audubon Inn was up for sale and that it would likely be demolished. At that time, the township initiated steps to preserve the Inn. Under the guidance of independent engineering and planning consultants, the township adopted a zoning amendment to aid in the preservation of the Audubon Inn and other historic structures within the township. The amendment proceeded as far as possible under state and federal law, while maintaining the rights of property owners.

The owners opted not to have the Audubon Inn placed on the National Register of Historic Places.