

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for the Proposed Public Safety Building, Williamsburg, MA

Q10. What would Helen E. James think about the disuse and removal of the school building?

A. From all accounts of her life, Helen E. James was a forward-thinking, practical woman. She donated the funds to build the school because at that time it was the greatest need of the community, which the town benefited from for 100 years (1914 to 2014). In her trust, Mrs. James left funds to help with extraordinary and unusual repairs of the building; however, she also acknowledges and makes a provision for the use of the funds in the event that the building is demolished and not rebuilt or it is no longer used as a school. She understood that the building may not always be useful to the town. It seems unlikely in reading her story that she would want the town to invest the necessary amount of funds to convert the 100-year-old building just to keep the building, knowing it wouldn't best meet the Town's needs in the 21st century.