

of the mortar must be done so as to carefully match existing mortar joints. For new chimneys, the location should not be on a main façade and the materials should be appropriate to the architectural style of the building.

Questions to Ask:

Will the historic chimney be rebuilt using existing bricks?

## Demolition

Only in rare cases is a demolition appropriate within a local historic district. After all, it is largely the protections from demolition that established the local historic district in the first place. If an application for demolition is made because the building is vacant, condemned, or in poor condition, it is important for the historic district commission to realize that there may be other options to the owner besides demolition. Temporarily, these include securing the building from entry, fencing off the building, or stabilizing the building from further deterioration.

If the application states that the building is structurally unsound, the historic district commission should seek the advice of the building inspector and an independent structural engineer. A building in poor condition is not necessarily structurally unsound.

In most cases, a commission should deny any applications for demolition of significant buildings or structures.



*After sitting vacant for 30 years, the Wilbur School in Sharon was proposed for demolition in due to its condition. It has since been rehabilitated into housing and has received an MHC Preservation Award.*