

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
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Letter: Deadline approaches on fate of Notre Dame Church

The clock is ticking on Notre Dame Church that majestically fronts the downtown Common. In April, the demolition delay expires. The owner, Hanover Insurance, plans to raze this building. A recent Preservation Nation article articulated several reasons why we need to reuse historic buildings like Notre Dame. "Old buildings have intrinsic value." Think of all the care for details, craftsmanship and materials that have gone in old buildings that were meant to last. Old buildings draw people into them. It is no surprise that most of the hot spots in Worcester such as Crompton Place are in old buildings. People are drawn to the vibe and ambiance of these spaces. Old buildings contain the stories of the history and culture of our city, the tales that make Worcester unique. Please remember, once a building is gone, it is gone. There are no longer any options. Let's do whatever is in our power to save Notre Dame that could be the cornerstone for downtown revitalization. We don't need another empty lot, parking lot or disposable building in place of this gem.

Joyce Mandell

Worcester

Founder of Jane Jacobs in the Woo