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## STAFF MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: September 26, 2024  
DATE: September 18, 2024  
TO: Newtonville Historic District Commission  
FROM: Barbara Kurze, Senior Preservation Planner  
SUBJECT: **Additional Review Information**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the members of the Newtonville Historic District Commission (Newtonville HDC) with information about the significance of the properties being reviewed and the application process, which may be useful in the review and decision-making process of the Newtonville HDC. Additional information may be presented at the meeting that the Newtonville HDC can take into consideration when discussing a Local Historic District Review application.

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Dear Newtonville HDC Members,

The following is additional information for the Local Historic District Review applications that you should have received in your meeting packet.

### Applications

#### ***167 Lowell Avenue – Certificate of Appropriateness***

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:** HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: The two-family 1914 Craftsman house was built by John T. Burns, Jr. shortly after his marriage. John Burns, Jr. worked for his father's firm, John T. Burns and Sons, Inc. The family real estate, insurance and auctioneering business was located nearby at 807 Washington Street. Burns and his wife lived in the house through the early 1920s.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** The owners want to install six-foot-tall closed board cedar fencing along the back, left, and right property lines; and to connect the left-side fence to the front edge of the two-story open porch. Another section of fencing would run between the back of the house and the side of the garage to close off the left side yard. A gate would be installed at the front of the house and one at the back. These would look like the fence sections and have minimal hardware. The existing four-foot chain link fence that runs at the back of the property and along the left property line would be removed.

**Notes:** The commission typically has not approved tall, closed board fences that connect with the front plane of the house; the preference is to have the fences connect further back. Shadow box fences have been approved where closed board fences were determined to be obtrusive-looking, especially where the streetscape setting is relatively open.

MATERIALS PROVIDED:

APPLICATION LINK: <https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/840292>

PDF File: Compiled 167 Lowell

Assessors database map

Photos

Plan marked to show location of fences and gates  
Photos of fence and hardware  
MHC Form B

**Administrative discussion:**

Minutes: The May 2024 draft meeting minutes are included for review.