

Preliminary Plan: Operations and Programs at Durant-Kenrick Homestead (for discussion purposes only, specifics to be dependent on funding and more planning)

The Durant-Kenrick Homestead will be a wonderful complement to the Jackson Homestead in terms of historic period and presentation of historical information and collections. Built in pre-Revolutionary Newton, Durant-Kenrick will offer an introduction to the events leading up to the American Revolution in the format of a furnished historical house in contrast to the Jackson Homestead which tells the story of the Underground Railroad and features a changing exhibition format. However, the operations of the two sites will be similar.

Individual Visitors

The Durant-Kernick House will be open to visitors Wednesday through Sunday all year round. Visitors, who are not in formally scheduled groups, can arrive at any time on these days to tour the house furnished with period furniture. In the entry way, visitors will see a timeline of the house's history. There they can pick up audio wands which will tell the house's history from first person perspective. They may hear the builders discussing how the paneling was shaped. They may hear Edward Durant discussing the hated Tea Act. The Kenrick family might consider which species of fruit to cultivate in their nursery next. There might also be a curatorial tour which describes specific pieces of period furniture or aspects of the house's construction. Visitors will have the choice of selecting only those parts of the audio program that fit their interest and time. Portions of the audio tour will be developed especially for children.

The grounds of the Durant-Kenrick Homestead will be a park with walking trails and benches for sitting and observing the historical landscape. Some plant material will be marked with ground markers that tie the plants into the history of the site. These markers will be imbedded with telephone numbers that individuals can call on their cell phones to learn more about the plant life and history. This historical park will be accessible to residents at all hours of the day.

School Programs

The educational staff of the Museum has met with the director of the social studies curriculum and some teachers in the Newton Public Schools. The history and programs of the Durant-Kenrick project will mesh with the curriculum in the third, eighth, and eleventh grades. The third grade will soon be embarking on a new social studies curriculum which emphasizes local history through role play activities based on eight historic families in Newton. One of those families is that of Edward Durant III who was involved in pre-Revolutionary activities. To complement this curriculum we are developing programs based on colonial daily life at home and at school (the house was actually used as a school house during the 18th century.) We also discussed practical issues such as the number of children on a bus, design of the workshop space for messy

activities etc. In FY 2009, there will be 949 third graders in 43 classrooms in 15 schools in Newton.

Eighth grades in Newton study important American documents. We can, for example, develop materials in which the concepts in the Newton Committee of Correspondence are compared to the ideas in the Declaration of Independence. High School students can develop research projects at the site.

Public Programs

Like the Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead, Durant-Kenrick will have an active program schedule. A list of examples of some of these potential programs for children and adults is attached. Topics include subject matter which works particularly well at this site such as horticultural tours or workshops on fixing up your old house. The addition of the classroom space will be a wonderful addition to be able to do messier hands-on activities than we are able to do at the Jackson Homestead.

Budget

The annual operating budget for the Durant-Kenrick Homestead for 2007 in the October 2006 proposal to the CPC was set at \$129,000. The cost of utilities was extrapolated from the current expenses for the house. The cost of administration includes publicity, bookkeeping and oversight of the house. This budget also includes salaries for one full time and one-half time person to manage and program the house. Both will work with school groups; the full time person will also develop public programs and workshops for children and adults.

Parallel to the Jackson Homestead, visitors will be asked to pay a modest admission fee with a deep discount for Newton residents (Jackson Homestead charges \$5 for adults/ \$3 for seniors and students and \$2 for adult Newton residents/ \$1 for seniors and students.) In addition, there will be monthly community weekends where the museum will be open free to the public.

School programs will be free for Newton Schools. Public programs may or may not have a fee depending upon the type of program and funding.

In summary, we believe the Durant-Kenrick Homestead with its active program schedule will be a wonderful community resource for the citizens of Newton.