



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Newton Historical Commission

Donald Lang, Chair
David Morton, Secretary

Telephone
(617)-796-1120

Telefax
(617) 796-1142

TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089

September 21, 2010

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager
Newton Planning & Development Department
City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Subject: Newton Early Industrial Period Architectural Survey circa 1830-1840

Dear Ms. Ingerson,

The Newton Historical Commission voted unanimously at its regularly scheduled hearing on August 26, 2010 to support this application for CPA funding. The second phase of the survey is part of a long range plan to update the city's historic building inventory forms. It will also correct inaccuracies encountered in the existing forms.

These forms are an invaluable tool for the NHC in its evaluation of the projects that come before it for review. The more complete and accurate these forms are, the better we can fulfill our mandate to protect the city's historic resources. The building inventory forms also afford a broader purpose in that they provide the property owners with useful information about their homes.

Sincerely,

David Morton, Secretary

14 October 2010

Douglas Greenfield
GIS Administrator
City of Newton, Massachusetts

To:
Nancy Grissom
Chair, Community Preservation Committee

Ms. Grissom,

I am the GIS Administrator for the City of Newton. I produce and update maps and geographic databases, including historic property data and cultural resources. I am writing in support of the grant proposal to update construction dates for buildings built before 1850. Our maps are only as good as the data behind them and where we know there are issues with accuracy and they need to be resolved. These inaccuracies can affect neighborhood district definitions and ordinances. Therefore it is imperative that we do not mislead the public with questionable information.

In addition to accuracy concerns, this project will enable us to produce historical maps and neighborhood surveys that will be of interest not only to historians, but to property owners throughout the city. Also, the project will aid the city in the goal of preserving historic properties and protecting the historic character of Newton. I hope you will approve funding for this valuable project.

Sincerely,

Douglas Greenfield

Susan D. Abele
Archivist
23 Russell Court
Newton, Massachusetts 02460

October 12, 2010

Ms. Nancy Grissom, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459


Dear Nancy,

I am writing in support of the proposal for the *Newton Early Industrial Period Architectural Survey, 1830-1840*. Having worked both as a contract consultant doing surveys for Newton, and as an administrator for the survey collection, which now covers more than 8,000 properties in the city, I have deep appreciation for the importance of the Newton Historic Properties Surveys. Making good decisions about planning and development is dependent on having accurate information. Comprehensive survey forms are the bedrock for the research process.

These records, used by both the public and professionals alike, are the most heavily used resource at the Jackson Homestead. Improved methodologies and the opportunity for broader dissemination through digital resources make this project even more important, especially as pressure for the demolition of older properties continues to increase.

The Newton Historical Commission began to establish the Newton Historical Property Survey collection in the late 1970s and has been consistent in pursuing that objective. In summary, I heartily support this project and commend the Planning Department for its proactive approach in forwarding the *Newton Early Industrial Period Architectural Survey, 1830-1840* for funding.

Sincerely,


Susan D. Abele
Archivist