

## **Request to the Community Preservation Committee for CPA funding**

**Project name:** Warren House  
**Submitted by:** Newton Community Development Foundation  
**Date:** December 2008

The Levi F. Warren Junior High School was originally designed in 1926 by Addison LeBoutillier, a versatile architect of the turn of the century. The details of the Warren School reflect the classic traditions of the architect's Beaux Arts influence.

Warren Junior High School closed in the early 1980's and after sitting vacant for over 10 years the Newton Community Development Foundation contracted with the award winning firm of Notter Finegold & Alexander, which received accolades for the restoration of New York's Ellis Island and Boston's Wang Center for the Performing Arts, to create the design for the renovation of Warren House. In 1992 the historic school was transformed into 59 units of mixed income housing as well as a head start day care center. In recognition of the former school's architectural and educational significance, Warren House was honored with a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The original pressed-metal cupola, slate roof and brick façade were all integrated into this handsome affordable housing community. The landmark cupola, formed of sheet metal, copper and lead adorns seven stately windows facing Washington Street that once served as the light source for the study hall and are now spectacular features in apartments with high ceilings. The renovation work strictly adhered to the preservation standards of the city, state and federal historic commission and in 1994 Warren House received the Massachusetts Historic Commission's Preservation Award.

In 2006 the Newton History Museum sponsored a presentation about the history of Warren Junior High School. The talk, attended by several former teachers, students and neighbors, was held in the four story entry atrium where you can still see the façade of the former auditorium and stage which created a perfect back drop for the presentation.

NCDF continues in its mission of developing and managing affordable housing here in the City of Newton, recently celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. NCDF is pleased to have had the support of then Warren House neighbor and Alderman Richard McGrath, whose family remain neighbors and attended the History Museum's presentation in 2006. Many of the neighbors who formed a task force to work with NCDF during the development of Warren House continue to offer their support and praise their neighbors and the maintenance of Warren House. The fields and tennis courts surrounding Warren House are used extensively for personal and city sponsored activities which has successfully integrated Warren House and our residents into the community. When the property was initially being developed the League of Women Voters in Newton offered their support as well as several local, state and federal agencies including the Newton Housing Coalition, now known as the Newton Housing Partnership.