

Supplemental Attachments for HISTORIC RESOURCES PROPOSALS

18 August 2020

1. Analysis of Historical Significance (narrative; min. 1 paragraph - max. 1 page)

Jackson Homestead, built in 1809, is a National Register of Historic Places property. Its significance is well described in the National Register nomination form:

"The Jackson Homestead is significant as an example of a property acquired by an early Newton settler, and occupied and maintained by his descendants for nearly 300 years.

Edward Jackson (1602-1681) was the fourth settler in Cambridge Village, now called Newton. He built a salt box house on the Homestead property in 1670 for his son, Sebas, and owned about 1600 acres at his death. An Indian trail crossed his land. He was "constantly present with the Rev. John Eliot at his lectures to the Indians, taking notes and answering questions". He owned two menservants and was probably the first slave owner in Newton. Forty-four of his Newton descendants were in the Revolutionary army.

Major Timothy Jackson (1756-1814) built the present house in 1809, using boards, hand-hewn beams and bricks from the old house where possible. He joined the Militia when 15 years old and became a Corporal two years later. While serving in the Revolution, he spent three years on the high seas aboard privateers and other war vessels, was captured several times and escaped after suffering severe hardships, including seven months in a British Army prison in New York. He settled down to farming in Newton at the age of 24. Later, he became a successful candle and soap manufacturer * and was able to leave a fine estate to his children. His civic activities included such positions as school teacher, member of the School Board, Selectman for six years. Moderator at town meetings. Justice of the Peace, and Deputy Sheriff.

William Jackson (1783-1855) was Timothy's son. In 1806 he married Hannah Woodward of Newton, who died in 1814 leaving five children. William later married Mary Bennett, moving to the Homestead in 1820. There were 14 children when Mr. Whipple of Boston took a remarkable Daguerreotype of the entire family in 1846. William's impressive public career included the following: Head of Temperance Society, first member and Deacon of Eliot Church, member of the 22nd and 23rd Congress, General Agent for the Boston and Worcester Railroad, member of the Newton School Board, President of the j Newton National Bank, owner of the soap and candle factory already established on this property, member of a real estate board dedicated to the development of Auburndale in 1848, member of the Liberal Party, and an Abolitionist who made his house an Underground Station for runaway slaves."

During the history of the Jackson Homestead, at least twelve brides were married in the parlour, and the dining room held as many as forty-two at Thanksgiving dinner. Bunk beds lined the wall of the first-floor nursery where the young Jacksons slept.

Jackson relatives lived here until about 1930. In 1949, a ninth-generation descendant gave the Homestead to the City of Newton. The furnishings represent those of a house of the early 1800's, including many things that belonged to the Jackson family. The house is relatively unchanged and is a good example of hip roofed Federal style with its original outbuildings. The Homestead is now used as a museum, where lectures are given and tours conducted as part of an active educational program.

2. Description of Historically Significant Features (keyed to attachment 1; max. 1 page)

Also from the National Register nomination form:

"The Jackson Homestead, on the corner of Washington Street and Jackson Road, has wide lawns on the front (south) and west sides, with about one half acre of fields to the rear (north); one-story outbuildings extend to the east. Large trees surround the house. In front the property is bounded by an elaborate wooden fence which is terminated at both ends by paneled square posts topped with urns; posts of the same design mark the center entrance. On Jackson Road the land is enclosed by a simple picket fence.

The 1809 house was built on a foundation of granite blocks brought from Quincy by oxcart. Inside are six fireplaces with hand carved mantel and a kitchen fireplace and oven used for cooking; hand-hewn beams, bricks and boards from the 1670 house; a 300 year old well in the first floor laundry room; [and] the original front door...."

These features remain today.

3. Summary & Justification of Proposed Treatment (keyed to attachment 2; max. 1 page)

Historic Newton has looked into saving a portion of the fence, but we have been advised that it is best to conduct a complete replacement. In terms of the federal Standards for historic buildings, the project will be a *rehabilitation* in that the replacement is based on the existing fence.

4. Newton Historical Commission confirmation of local historic significance, if the resource is not already on the National register of Historic Places.

N/A. The resource is on the National Register of Historic Places.