

City of Newton, Massachusetts

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Barney S. Heath Director

STAFF MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: May 11, 2021

DATE: April 30, 2021

TO: Auburndale Historic District Commission

FROM: Barbara Kurze, Senior Preservation Planner

SUBJECT: Additional Review Information

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the members of the Auburndale Historic District Commission (Auburndale 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 Auburndale HDC. Additional information may be presented at the meeting that the Auburndale HDC can take into consideration when discussing a Local Historic District Review application.

Dear Auburndale HDC Members,

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

Applications

176 Grove Street - Certificate of Appropriateness

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: Master mariner and ship master Richard Robinson appears to have been the first owner to live in the circa 1863 Second Empire style house. He is listed in the 1870 U.S. Federal Census as living in the house with his wife Mary, son Charles, domestic servant Elizabeth Barnes, and Ella S. Wentworth a 16-year-old girl from Maine who may have been boarding with the family while attending school. Two sons, William H. and Richard O. were listed as part of the household but were away at sea when the census was taken. By 1874, the Robinsons had sold the property to Mary Jane White and moved to Santa Barbara, California.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The owners want to build a three-car garage that will connect to the house and porch with a covered breezeway. The garage would accommodate one car on the main level and two on the below-grade level. Two stone-clad retaining walls will be built along the driveway access to the below-grade level. Access to the garage will be off the existing driveway.

MATERIALS PROVIDED:

Site plan

Plans

Elevations

Renderings

Product and material information

Photographs

MHC Form B

29 Lasell Street – Certificate of Appropriateness

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: The 1947 Colonial Revival Capes was designed by William A. Medlicott and built by H.H. Hawkins Sons Company.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The review is continued from previous meetings. The owners want to raise the roof of the left side of the house to be the same height as the main house block, build a two-story rear addition and screened porch, and enlarge the existing rear deck. The front entry will be changed and have a dormer.

MATERIALS PROVIDED:

Assessors database map

Site plan

Plans

Elevations

Photographs

Product and material information

324 Central Street – Certificate of Appropriateness

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: The circa 1870 Italianate style house was built for Baptist clergyman John Jennings. In 1870, he was living in the house with his wife Susan and daughter Alice.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The owners want to replace the existing aluminum shutters with wood composite shutters. They also want to extend the driveway with permeable cement pavers and build a 19-foot by 19-foot garage. No major grading changes are planned.

MATERIALS PROVIDED:

Assessors database map

Project description

Site plan

Plans

Elevations

Photographs

Product information

MHC Form B

46 Vista Avenue – Working Session

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: The circa 1917 Colonial Revival was built Jeremia and Alice Hennessey. The 1920 U.S. Federal Census shows them living in the house with daughters Alice, Mary and Elizabeth, son Joseph, and servant Clementina B. Walker.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The owners want to replace the right-side sunroom. The application submitted by the deadline was not complete which is why the application was noticed as a working session. The owners have since submitted additional materials; if those are sufficient, the Commission may consider this application for a full review.

MATERIALS PROVIDED:
Site plan
Renderings
Partial elevations
Detail drawings
Email listing required information for complete application
MHC Form B

Administrative Discussion

Minutes: Review the April meeting draft minutes.