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## STAFF MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: January 12, 2023  
DATE: January 5, 2023  
TO: Newton Upper Falls 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 Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission (Newton Upper Falls 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 Newton Upper Falls HDC. Additional information may be presented at the meeting that the Newton Upper Falls HDC can take into consideration when discussing a Local Historic District Review application.

Dear Newton Upper Falls HDC Members,

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

### Applications

#### ***207-209 Elliot Street – Certificate of Appropriateness***

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:** The circa 1835 two-family Greek Revival house was built as mill worker housing by Otis Pettee (1795-1853) shortly after he started his first mill in 1831. Pettee started working in Upper Falls in 1819 and rose to the position of supervisor of the Elliot Manufacturing Company before establishing his own mills. He built many of the mill worker houses along Elliot Street. The house and other properties were later inherited by Henry Billings who was married to Otis Pettee’s daughter Louisa (1821-1903.)

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** This review is continued from a previous working session. The owner wants to remove and rebuild the existing retaining wall and patio in the back of the house.

**MATERIALS PROVIDED:**

**APPLICATION LINK:** <https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/780063>

**PDF File:** Compiled Materials\_207-209 Elliot

Assessors database map  
Photos  
Survey  
Site plan  
Wall section  
MHC Form B

### ***15 Oak Street – Certificate of Appropriateness***

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:** The 1878 Italianate house was built for grocer Hiram A. Sherman next to his parents' home at 23 Oak Street. The Sherman family had farmed the land on this side of Oak Street from the early 1800s.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** The owners want to relocate the existing shed which was built without commission approval. They are proposing two options for the new location, both locations are along the left property line. The owners also want to build a new stair with railings for the left side porch; the railing system will be custom milled cedar to match the existing side entrance railings. They propose additional hardscaping on the left side: two brick patios, one with a wood trellis, and two small pathways. The asphalt connector from the circular drive to the house would be removed and replaced with a five-foot-wide brick walkway. The brick walkways would be laid out with a similar pattern to the existing.

**MATERIALS PROVIDED:**

**APPLICATION LINK:** <https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/766450>

**PDF File: Compiled Materials\_15 Oak**

Assessors database map  
Photos  
Project description  
Survey  
Proposed landscape plan  
Elevations for new stair  
Product and material information for shed  
MHC Form B

### **Administrative discussion:**

Meeting minutes: The May and December 2022 draft minutes are ready for review.

Meeting materials process: discuss how process of accessing meeting materials through NewGov is working.