

## MEETING MINUTES

### MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 12, 2018

Chairman Rosenberry called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm. On behalf of Secretary Galvin, he welcomed the Commissioners. Chairman Rosenberry next addressed the audience, thanking them for attending. For those individuals who may not have attended commission meetings in the past, Chairman Rosenberry explained the structure of the meeting and when in the process the public could address the commission.

The Chairman then turned to the first item on the agenda, **approval of the June 13, 2018 meeting minutes**. He called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes. A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. Hearing no questions, the chair moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the next item on the agenda, the National Register nominations, and called for any recusals. Hearing none, he turned the meeting over to the Director of the National Register Program, Betsy Friedberg, who began the National Register presentations.

The first nomination presented was for the **Dodgeville Mill in Attleboro**. The applicant is Gary Demers, the property owner; staff of PAL were the consultants who wrote the nomination. Mr. Demers will present the nomination. The Dodgeville Mill is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Industry for its substantial and long-lasting importance in the cotton textile and related textile finishing industry of Attleboro and under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering as a well-preserved industrial complex.

Established as a cotton yarn spinning mill in 1809, the Dodgeville Mill is the oldest surviving textile factory in Attleboro and was the largest in the community in the early and mid-nineteenth century. Between 1854 and 1920, Dodgeville Mill was part of B. B. & R. Knight's southern New England textile empire and manufactured the renowned trademarked 'Fruit of the Loom' cloth. The mill remained in use as a textile finishing factory through 1984.

The mill complex retains all the buildings and structures that demonstrate its historical use for cotton textile manufacture, including waterpower infrastructure. Individual

buildings in the complex embody the changing approaches to mill engineering and design from ca. 1856 through 1965.

Dodgeville Mill is located in the village of Dodgeville approximately 2 miles from the center of Attleboro. The mill is adjacent to the Ten Mile River, a tributary of the Seekonk River. The property is bounded by South Main Street, the MBTA Boston–Providence railroad line, and Dodgeville Pond. The mill complex consists of seven connected buildings constructed between 1809 and ca. 1965 that include timber and brick mills, a boiler house, a warehouse, and an office. The property includes a portion of the mill pond created by the construction of a stone and earth dam in 1809 and the extant headrace, headrace gate, and tailrace.

The Attleborough Manufacturing Company, led by Ebenezer Tyler, built the Dodgeville Pond and Dam in 1809. The pond is about 20 acres. The dam is an earth berm structure about 360 feet long and 20 feet wide and is traversed by a paved road.

The 30-foot-wide spillway near the dam's south end is lined with mortared rubble stone walls and has a concrete bridge across the top. A repair project is currently underway to stabilize the berm and replace the spillway.

The Main Mill was initially constructed in 1809 and expanded multiple times in the nineteenth century to facilitate changing textile manufacturing processes. The four-story, timber and brick building have Federal and Italianate details and exemplify the nineteenth-century tradition of long, narrow, multi-story industrial lofts. Vertical circulation is concentrated in the exterior stair tower to maximize useable floor space. Clerestory monitors on the gable roof allow more light and air to enter the building. Large open work floors use typical fire-proof construction with cast-iron and wood framing.

Mill No. 2 was built ca. 1904 and is a three-story, Classical Revival-style, loft-type mill. The third story is undivided with the original wood tongue-and-groove floor, exposed brick walls, and exposed king post trusses.

Rhode Island-based B. B. & R. Knight Company purchased the Dodgeville Mill in 1854 and steadily expanded the complex as part of their cotton manufacturing empire.

By 1895, the complex accommodated 28,000 spindles and 500 looms and consisted of the Main Mill with East and West Ells, Picker/Lapper Building, Blacksmith Shop, Slasher Building, Machine Shop, Waste House, Cotton Store House, Boiler House, Company Store (not extant), Office Building (not extant), and three small storage outbuildings (not extant).

Additional buildings represent other typical types of manufacturing types and styles from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Blacksmith Shop was built from 1809 to 1834, and the Boiler House was built ca. 1875 and enlarged between 1895 and 1924.

The Consolidated Textile Company of New York acquired the Knight Company in 1920, and the Dodgeville Mill shifted from textile manufacturing to bleaching, dyeing, and finishing. The Dodgeville Finishing Company Office was added to the Main Mill between 1947 and 1961.

The Dodgeville Mill complex currently houses offices, warehousing, and light manufacturing.

The next nomination presented was for the **Esmond Street Historic District in Boston**. The applicant is John B. Cruz and Cruz Development, owner of the Harry Brooker Apartments within the proposed district; and MacRostie Historic Advisors is the preservation consultant for Cruz. The BLC voted in favor of the nomination. Roysin Bennett Younkin of MHA will present the nomination.

The Esmond Street Historic District is located in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston in a residential neighborhood known as Franklin Field North. This area lies east of Franklin Park and north of Harambee Park (historically known as Franklin Field).

Esmond Street is a residential side street that runs roughly north-south from Harvard Street to Bradshaw Street before branching northwest to intersect with Blue Hill Avenue. The district extends just over 600 feet along the southern end of Esmond Street between its intersection with Bradshaw Street to the north and Harvard Street to the south.

The district is comprised of 21 contributing buildings including wood-frame single and multi-family houses, associated concrete block garages, brick apartment buildings, and a wood-frame church constructed between 1884 and 1928 in the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles.

The neighborhood in which the district is located was primarily developed with single-family and multi-family frame homes between 1884 and 1910, coinciding with the construction and opening of nearby Franklin Park and Harambee Park (Franklin Field) in 1885 and 1898, respectively. The district was predominantly home to multi-generational, middle class American families, gradually absorbing Irish immigrants and first generation Irish-Americans in the early twentieth-century prompting the construction of St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church in 1902.

A pronounced shift in the demographics of the neighborhood occurred during the second and third decades of the twentieth century when the Esmond Street Historic District and its environs became home to a growing number of Jewish immigrant families, a population whose numbers swelled in Dorchester as families increasingly migrated out of the North and West Ends of Boston after 1918. Masonry apartment buildings were introduced to the district in the 1920s to meet the demand for additional residential housing for Jewish immigrants in an already established neighborhood. The district was home to a thriving Jewish community through the 1950s.

The district is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the residential development of Dorchester and the integration of immigrant communities during the

twentieth century. It is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a collection of well-preserved residential and religious buildings that reflect popular design aesthetics of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival architectural styles.

The period of significance for the Esmond Street Historic District begins in 1884 when the first buildings in the district were constructed and because of its continuous use ends in 1968.

Esmond Street was laid out in two stages. The southern portion of present-day Esmond Street (from Harvard Street to just south of the fork with Bradshaw Street) was a private way called Sanborn Avenue established in the early 1880s. In 1899 Esmond Street was extended across Bradshaw Street and Sanborn Avenue making a continuous public way from Blue Hill Avenue to Harvard Street.

Thomas W. and Amelia D. Bicknell were responsible for much of the nineteenth century development of Sanborn Avenue and the Esmond Street Historic District, though only a fraction of their development remains today. The Bicknell's were natives of Rhode Island who moved to the neighborhood by 1876. Thomas Bicknell was a prominent Rhode Island historian and educator; he was a teacher, editor and publisher of educational books and journals. The Bicknell's were also instrumental in founding the Harvard Congregational Church several streets away on Gleason Street (no longer extant) in 1887.

The Bicknell estate encompassed approximately 6 acres with a house (no longer extant) located near the corner of Harvard Street and present-day Esmond Street. The Bicknell's subdivided and built several houses on their estate which extended across both sides of present-day Esmond Street beginning in the late 1880s.

The Amelia D. Bicknell Houses, 80 and 88 Esmond Street are all that remain from this development today. These houses were designed as single-family dwellings and share Queen Anne characteristics including gable-front facades with front porches and cross-gable rooflines.

The Caroline E. Mowry House, 99 Esmond Street also dates to this early period of development. The Mowry family received permission for a permit to build a stable on the street in 1884, so the house likely dates to this period. The house received Colonial Revival additions in the 1930s.

The Bicknell development and the laying out of additional streets in the neighborhood beginning in 1896 spawned additional residential construction in the Esmond Street Historic District in the mid-late 1890s. These houses represent a variety of styles including Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival. They were designed by local builders active in the late nineteenth century in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Quincy.

The 1900 census reveals that the residents of the Esmond Street Historic district and nearby streets at that time were typically from multi-generational New England families and of upper middle class economic status. They owned their homes, were employed as merchants, lawyers, salesmen, architects, and similar white-collar professions and

employed household servants. While most families in the district were of New England heritage, a small number of households were of Irish heritage, immigrants as well as first generation Irish-Americans.

A notable change to the district occurred shortly after the turn of the twentieth century when the Rev. Peter Ronan of St. Peter's Church on Bowdoin Street purchased the Bicknell property at the corner of Harvard and Esmond streets for the construction of a church that would serve a new parish recently divided from St. Peter's. The ground-breaking for the new church occurred in the spring of 1902. The building was designed by architect Charles Bateman. Bateman served as Boston city architect in 1883 and 1888 and following this position, he became a prolific designer of buildings for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, including churches and parochial school buildings.

St. Leo's was dedicated on November 27, 1902. It stood adjacent to the Bicknell House which served as a parish hall until the 1950s when it was demolished.

The church complex has grown over the years to encompass the full block of Harvard Street between Esmond and Bicknell streets. This was initiated by 1910 by which time the Roman Catholic Archdiocese had purchased the two-family house at 177 Harvard Street (St. Leo's Rectory) for use as a rectory. By 1920, the house at 12 Bicknell Street (Catholic Charities Haitian Multi-Service Center) served as the parish Rectory and the former rectory building served as a rental property.

The introduction of St. Leo's church attracted many Irish and Irish-American families to the Esmond Street Historic District and the vicinity. Most of the residents in the district who were of Irish heritage were second generation families employed in middle class professions, such as milliners, decorators, salesmen, and clerks, or who were supported on their own income.

The second and third decades of the twentieth centuries brought substantial change in the demographics of the Franklin Field North neighborhood, as it did to much of Dorchester. The Franklin Field North neighborhood gradually transitioned from one that was a combination of multi-generational American families and first and second generation Irish families, to one that was home to a thriving Jewish immigrant community.

The vast majority of Jewish immigrants to Boston came from Russia, fleeing state-sanctioned repression of their faith and culture under the Russian Tsar in the late 1880s and early 1900s, though many also came from Poland, Germany, and Austria. These immigrants initially settled in the North End, then moved into the West End between 1895 and 1905 which remained the largest Jewish district in Boston until about 1910. Many found employment in Boston's textile and shoe industries. Beginning in the 1890s and continuing through 1917, many of the Jewish immigrants who had become successful in their trades began moving to less dense areas of the city like Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, which were just beginning to blossom into attractive streetcar suburb.

Due to the proximity to St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church, demographic changes in the Esmond Street Historic district were slower to emerge than in other parts of the

immediate neighborhood. However, between 1920 and 1930 several of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century houses in the district were demolished and replaced with large, Colonial Revival brick apartment buildings developed by Jewish real estate investors and builders and occupied by Jewish residents.

The first apartment building constructed in the district was the Annie Weinfield Apartments, 91 Esmond Street built in 1925. The building replaced a house developed by the Bicknells in the late nineteenth century which was home to first generation Irish-Americans in 1920. With seventeen units, the building was significantly larger than any other residential building on Esmond Street. The Annie Weinfield Apartments were constructed for Joseph and Annie Weinfield both of Russian Jewish heritage, by Silverman, Brown, and Heenan, the later iteration of the Silverman Engineering Company. The Winfield's resided in the building with people of shared backgrounds. The 1930 census reveals the building was home to Jewish immigrants from Russia, Latvia, and Lithuania who immigrated to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through about 1914, as well as to first-generation Russian-Americans. Several of these families owned their own small businesses in the dry goods, jewelry, and grocery sectors. Others were trained professionals, salesmen, tailors, and teachers.

The Benjamin Elfman Apartments, 85 Esmond Street were constructed adjacent to the Annie Weinfield Apartments in 1928. This twenty-unit building was owned and built by Benjamin Elfman from the designs of the architectural firm of Winebaum and Wexler. Elfman was a Jewish builder who emigrated from Lithuania in 1889. In addition to developing the building, he also resided in it. The architects responsible for the design of the building were the architectural firm of Winebaum and Wexler. Arthur Winebaum emigrated from Russia in 1908. His partner David Wexler was also part of the Jewish community; his parents emigrated from Russia to Fall River in 1890.

The Abraham Marks Apartments, 183-185 Harvard Street on the corner of Esmond Street was also constructed in 1928. The twenty-eight-unit apartment building is the largest in the district. Marks was a realtor who emigrated from Russia in 1902 and developed properties in other parts of Dorchester as well. Architect Saul Moffie, also a member of Boston's Jewish community, designed the building. Moffie worked as a self-employed architect designing more than seventy buildings, predominately apartment houses, between 1924 and the early 1950s.

No original building permits survive for the Harry Brooker Apartments, 92-94 Esmond Street, the fourth and final apartment house constructed in the district in the late 1920s, but an occupancy permit from 1930 gives a close approximation of its construction date. The building can be attributed to Harry Brooker as Esther Brooker, Harry Brooker's wife, purchased the frame, nineteenth-century two-family dwelling in 1922 and resided in the new apartment building in 1930. Brooker was a small-scale contractor and real estate developer who was active in Dorchester and Roxbury in the 19-teens building and selling brick apartment houses on Blue Hill Avenue and Homestead Street, among other local streets. Also part of the Jewish building community, he emigrated from Russia in 1900. He died shortly after the completion of his six-unit apartment building on Esmond Street

but his widow, Esther, resided in the building through the late 1930s when she moved to Blue Hill Avenue.

In 2015, the Cruz Development Corporation, current owner of the Harry Brooker Apartments, 92-94 Esmond Street, renovated the building for continued use as affordable housing units using historic tax credits.

The 1930 census confirms that the vast majority of the residents of the Esmond Street Historic District during this period, like the developers of the new apartment buildings, were of Jewish heritage and either arrived as immigrants from Russia and Eastern European countries or were first-generation Americans with parents hailing from these regions. On the whole, these were largely middle-class families operating their own small businesses or working in trained professions, though some were also employed as general workers.

As a testament to the dominance of this community in the district, St. Leo's church, which was intended as a chapel to be replaced by a more permanent structure as the parish expanded, did not, in fact, develop beyond its original construction. On the contrary, plans for a more substantial building to accommodate the growing parish had been initiated in 1915 but were postponed by 1917.

As further evidence of the thriving Jewish community, many of the single family homes in the district were altered to accommodate more Jewish residents, either with the addition of extra rooms or with the conversion of single-family residences to multi-family dwellings in the 1930s and 1940s.

The thriving Jewish community that defined the Esmond Street Historic District from the 1920s through the 1950s began its decline in the late 1950s and early 1960s as the neighborhood demographics changed once again. This reflected a larger trend in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan as a whole. Beginning in the mid-twentieth century, African-Americans began settling in Dorchester and Roxbury, many making their way north from the southern United States during a period known as the Great Migration. As African-Americans moved in, Jewish residents began to migrate into the Boston suburbs. The Jewish population of the Esmond Street Historic district gradually diminished between 1955 and 1965.

St. Leo's church and the buildings that comprised the complex became the institutional focus of Boston's Haitian community in the early 1970s through 2006 when the property was purchased by the Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church, its current owners.

The next nomination presented was for the **Tobin's Beach site**, in the **Town of Brookfield**. The applicant is the Town of Brookfield; Eric Johnson and UMAS Archaeological Services worked on this nomination under a Survey & Planning grant from MHC, jointly funded with the town. In 1986, the Tobin's Beach site was Determined Eligible by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for inclusion in the National Register. At that time the property was not listed because the then-owner objected to the listing. The property is now owned by the Town of

Brookfield, which supports listing in the National Register. Mr. Johnson will present the nomination.

The Tobin's Beach Site is an ancient Native American archaeological site located in the town of Brookfield, near the shore of Quaboag Pond.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site was as a private campground. It was recently acquired by the Town of Brookfield for open space. The site is a mostly open area, with trees scattered or clustered here and there.

The site contains unmarked graves, some of which were excavated in the 1960s and found to contain mixture of local artifacts and artifacts of distant origin including artifacts originating with what archaeologists call the Adena culture, of the Ohio Valley.

Adena are the first of the so-called "mound builders," people who created large conical earthen mounds in which they buried their dead in log tombs or crypts. They also created earthworks in geometric or representational forms, like the Great Serpent Mound in southern Ohio. Although the Tobin's Beach site does not contain any mounds, the Adena artifacts found here date the graves to between 3,000 and 1,900 years ago. Other artifacts, beads of copper and shell, originated in the Great Lakes or south Atlantic Coast regions of North America. The site's mixture of local and exotic funerary objects and local, mortuary practices reflects the deep, entwined history of ritual and exchange among the indigenous people of southern New England and eastern North America.

Recent investigations by Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts, funded by the Town of Brookfield through a Survey and Planning grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission have confirmed that significant archaeological features remain including what are likely human burials, and that much of the property contains intact archaeological deposits and features associated with the ancestors of the Nipmuck people, both within the burial area and the surrounding acres. The nomination documents the site's significance under criteria A, C, and D at the local, state, and possibly national levels. The nomination expands the boundaries of the property beyond those proposed in 1986 to include all contiguous parcels now owned by the town of Brookfield.

The Tobin's Beach site and a few others like it in the northeastern United States reflect an ancient trade network that archaeologists are beginning to recognize, trace and understand. Tobin's Beach holds information that is valuable to understanding the deep past of Massachusetts and beyond.

The next nomination presented was for the **Dunstable Center Historic District** in the **Town of Dunstable**. The applicant is Dunstable Historical Commission with preservation consultant Sanford Johnson, with editing by Karen Davis of MHC, who will present the nomination. Two public informational meetings have been held in the community for this nomination, most recently last week.

The Dunstable Center Historic District meets Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. The Period of Significance is ca. 1733 – 1968. Areas of Significance are Architecture and Community Planning & Development.

The Dunstable Center Historic District is in the geographic center of the town of Dunstable, which is on the New Hampshire line, and is a western suburb of Lowell. The core of the historic district is at the junction of Main, Pleasant and High streets, where the town's most prominent civic and institutional buildings are clustered. These include the Town Hall, the Congregational Church and the Union School. Dunstable Town Hall was listed in the National Register in 1999. The three buildings date to the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when the center achieved its present appearance.

Dunstable Town Hall/Roby Memorial Building was built in 1907 with funds from Dunstable native Sarah Roby. The site held the town's meetinghouse from ca. 1790 to 1864, when it burned down. The land was then used as a town common until town hall was built. Designed by Lowell architect Warren L. Floyd, it was Dunstable's first purpose-built town hall.

The Union School, also designed by Warren Floyd, was built in 1895 when the district schools scattered throughout town were consolidated into one building. In 1962, the Union School was greatly expanded with the rear addition of the Swallow Elementary School, which is named for Ellen Swallow Richards, who was born in Dunstable in 1842. She became an MIT chemist, and is credited with founding the home economics movement in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Evangelical Congregational Church dates to 1913. Designed by Boston architect Samuel W. Mead, it replaced the 1831 congregational church, which was destroyed by fire in 1910. It is the only historic church building in Dunstable.

Moving outward from the core, the majority of the historic buildings in the district are houses and farmsteads dating from the Colonial to the Victorian periods. The historic appearance of the district, which is a former agricultural village, is enhanced by the presence of barns, stonewalls and fields.

The oldest houses in the district appear to date to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, as is the case with the houses of Ebenezer Proctor and town physician Dr. Ebenezer Starr. Both display center entries, center chimneys and classical door surrounds that are characteristic of rural Georgian-period houses.

The stateliest historic house in the district is the Federal style Cummings House with its hip roof and paired end-wall chimneys. It was built ca. 1812 for Josiah and Rebecca Cummings. He served as postmaster, state rep, and kept a store in the rear of the house.

An example of the Greek Revival style is the ca. 1830s Tolles House. The style is characterized by a side-hall entry and a front-gable roof that could be decorated to resemble a temple.

The Italianate style is represented by the ca. 1850 Wright-Davis House with its ornate door hood and projecting bay window decorated with paired brackets. The house stands on a 6.2 acre parcel and is also an example of a connected farmstead in which a farm house is attached to its outbuildings by a series of wings or ells.

Sarah Roby, who funded town hall, built one of the few late-19<sup>th</sup> century houses in the district. She had it built after her husband died in 1883, and lived in it until she died in 1906 at age 95.

Other important resources in the district include Central Cemetery and Woodward's Mill Pond. The cemetery was established in 1754 as a private burying ground. It was purchased by the town in 1801. The most unusual marker in the cemetery is composed of two mill stones that mark the burial sites of several members of the Swallow family.

Woodward's Mill Pond is believed to date to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. It was the primary location of Dunstable Center's limited industrial activity through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Black Brook, which flows through it, was the site of a gristmill and a sawmill operated by the Woodward family. Charles N. Woodward's house is pictured.

Together these resources form a remarkable ensemble that retains integrity as Dunstable's historic civic, institutional, and residential center.

Ms. Davis concluded by showing a slide of a quilt that includes illustrations of various historic properties in the district. This quilt, which was on display last week at the public informational meeting in Dunstable, was made by Dunstable Historical Commission member Carol Bacon in anticipation of Dunstable's first National Register District. Ms. Bacon left a blank spot on the middle right, where the name of the historic district and date of listing will be added.

The next nomination presented was for the **Gill Center Historic District** in the **Town of Gill**. The applicant is Gill Historical Commission; Bonnie Parsons, then with PVPC, wrote the nomination. She is unable to be here, so Ben Haley of MHC will present the nomination. Two public informational meetings have been held in the community, most recently two weeks ago.

Gill is located in the northern Connecticut River Valley, in Franklin County. Its western and southern boundaries are formed by the Connecticut River. The towns of Bernardston and Northfield are to the north and east; Greenfield is to the west.

The district is eligible for the National Register for criteria A and C. Reflecting criterion A, Gill Center is associated with the broad patterns of western Massachusetts' rural history from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, beginning with the 1775 establishment of a grist mill. Further following criterion A, the Center is significant for its pattern of development centering around the 1796 town common where for over 200 years its residential, institutional, commercial, and governmental functions have taken place. Criterion C applies to Gill Center for the collection of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate

and Colonial Revival style buildings as well as utilitarian buildings like barns. Here is the meetinghouse, or First Congregational Church, built in 1796 and altered in 1846 to the Greek revival style.

Two institutional buildings from the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century remain in town today converted to residences. The Methodist Church of 1828 and the Center schoolhouse of 1825 stand as essential components of the Gill Center Historic District, representing its historical continuity and state of preservation.

The Slate-Marble house is the work of master builder Lewis Platt and dates to 1838. Inside and out it shows many features of Asher Benjamin designs, suggesting that Platt was using one or more of his pattern books or that Benjamin was involved in the design.

The district also contains the Slate Library, designed by Boston architect Joseph Randall Coolidge. Although he had officially retired as an architect by the time he was commissioned for this building, Coolidge was still engaged in architectural research. The library he designed for Gill is a modest but fine concrete block building, a type of construction the architect promoted in publications for its economy and fireproof qualities.

The Center cemetery was established early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and several of its first burials were for people who died in an 1813 epidemic. The cemetery was expanded several times and is still active today. The cemetery contains good examples of gravestones from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Some of the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century stone carvings are particularly fine; markers from the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century include family plots where the central monument surrounded by individual footstones convey, the message of family unity in the afterlife.

Architecture and Community Planning and Development are both Areas of Significance. There are several fine examples of farmsteads in the district that first developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are still in use today. One example is the Roswell and Mary Purple House of 1864, seen here in the 1930s photograph when it was known as the Zak farm. It is a stylistically transitional farmhouse with a number of still-functioning and relatively unaltered barns. Another outstanding farmstead is the Clapp Farm with its minimal Italianate embellishments and collection of different types of barns also all still in use. The Purple-Conant Farm dates to about 1850 and is another outstanding farmstead in the Center and represents the evolution of agriculture in the district as it developed from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a farm with assorted livestock, to a dairy farm starting in 1945. It remains a dairy farm today.

Gill Center's Town Hall was built in 1867 in the Greek Revival style and expanded in 1910 as it was raised with a new first story built underneath. The town hall faces the common and is the civic center where town meetings and social events have been held since 1867; for a while the local Grange chapter was headquartered here.

This final slide is of the former General Store. A general store was first built on this spot facing the common between 1801 and 1803 and it is thought to be incorporated within this 1874 building. The store is now a popular restaurant.

2018 is the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Gill, so the nomination comes at a time of increasing interest in town history. The district has strong community support and the Local Historical Commission hopes that this National Register nomination will further appreciation for historic preservation in town.

This concluded the presentation of the September National Register nominations. Chairman Rosenberry thanked the presenters and Ms. Friedberg. He asked whether any commissioners needed to recuse themselves from voting on any of the nomination. There were no recusals. The chairman called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Dodgeville Mill in Attleboro** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. Chairman Rosenberry called for questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner DeWitt said that he is very impressed by the nomination. Commissioner Cosco noted that the nomination map suggests that the boundaries of the proposed district included the adjacent MBTA train tracks and he asked whether the MBTA was notified. Ms. Friedberg said that they were notified; the tailrace goes under the MBTA tracks and so a small portion of the nominated resource is MBTA property. Ms. Friedberg also said the MBTA has not responded back to MHC's notification letter concerning the tailrace. Ms. Simon said that MHC's notification letter to the MBTA stated that there were no plans to modify the tailrace which could be why MHC hasn't heard back from them. The chairman called for any other questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Esmond Street Historic District in Boston** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner Pride asked who the applicant was and whether there was any opposition to the nomination. Mr. Simon said that the applicant was Cruz Development and that their property, which was being rehabilitated using historic rehabilitation tax credits, had to be listed within thirty months after their project was done. She said that the building was not individually eligible, which was why it was being nominated as part of a district. She added that there had not been any opposition to the district nomination. Chairman Rosenberry then called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Tobin's Beach site (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)** in the **Town of Brookfield** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Crowley and SECONDED by Commissioner Sullivan. Chairman Rosenberry called for questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner Crowley expressed her thanks to MHC staff and the UMASS staff for a very important increase to the Boundary, new research, and hard work that went into the updated nomination. The chairman called for any other questions or

comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Dunstable Center Historic District** in the **Town of Dunstable** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Levy and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. Chairman Rosenberry called for questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner DeWitt said he would like to see greater discussion of the accomplishments of Ellen Falls Richards in the nomination; he said that while her involvement with home economics was important, even more significant was the pioneering work she did regarding water quality testing, analysis, and mapping throughout the state, and that this should be recognized in the nomination. The chairman called for any other questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Gill Center Historic District** in the **Town of Gill** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Avenia and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for any other questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This concluded the National Register voting. Chairman Rosenberry thanked the audience for taking time out of their busy schedules to be present. He then turned to the next item on the agenda, the **Executive Director's Report**. Executive Director Brona Simon began by announcing Archaeology Month is being held in October. There are a number of Archaeology Month posters for the Commissioners to take on their way out. The calendar of events is being produced at the graphics department as we speak and includes over sixty events throughout the state in the month of October to celebrate archaeology and to provide opportunities for people to learn more about archaeology in their town as well as other parts of the world. The poster features the archaeology that was conducted at the Mill Workers Boarding Houses that housed mill girls who worked at the Boott Mills in Lowell. It shows a montage of artifacts from the dig there, superimposed on top of a plot plan of the Boott Mills. These artifacts provide much information about the day-to-day lives of mill girls beyond what was written in historical documents.

Next, Ms. Simon mentioned that the new Massachusetts quarter to be issued in the National Parks series will be in 2019, and will feature Lowell National Historical Park by showing a mill girl at work. This dovetails very well with the exhibit here in the Archives Building on the Boston Industrial School for Girls, another archaeological site. All the artifacts found there were girls' artifacts. They were found in the privy and belonged to the girls or their teachers. It's a rare opportunity to see an assemblage of artifacts just from girls and women. It demonstrates how archaeology allows us to understand more about historically underrepresented people, such as girls and women.

Commissioner Sullivan asked who put this extraordinary exhibit together. Ms. Simon said that Joe Bagley, the City Archaeologist, conducted the dig, and he worked with a public history student at UMass/Boston.

Ms. Simon then reported on the federal budget FY19. The federal funding that MHC receives is from the Historic Preservation Fund, which is in the Department of Interior's budget. Last week, Congress appointed a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Department of Interior budget, both of which passed through the House and Senate to reconcile the \$10,000,000 difference between the House and Senate versions. It doesn't really matter to the SHPO offices, because in both versions, the amount allocated for the Historic Preservation Funds for SHPOs is identical. It is a short window before the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup> and is unknown whether a federal budget can be passed before then. The options are the same as in prior years: a continuing resolution to keep the federal government going until there is a federal budget, or a federal government shutdown. If there is a federal government shutdown, it would not affect MHC. MHC will still be in operation because we can rely on MHC's state funding and the carry forward of two years' federal funds that has not yet been spent, like a Rainy Day fund.

Finally, Ms. Simon spoke about the news article that was handed out involving another court decision involving a church and historic preservation. This is the case of the First Parish Church in Bedford, which is located in a National Register and a local historic district. The First Parish Church applied to Bedford's Historic District Commission for a certificate of appropriateness to install solar panels on their roof. The Bedford Historic District Commission denied it. The church sued the town, and the Superior Court recently made a decision on the court case. The judge ordered the town to grant the permit to the church to put up the solar panels, because in its defense the church is a Unitarian Universalist church, and in their faith, their seventh principle concerns climate justice, which requires "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." The judge decided that putting solar panels up is part of their religious principles. The town of Bedford has appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals. MHC's counsel told MHC staff that since it is only a Superior Court decision, it doesn't have precedential force that an appeal court would have. If it is held up on an appeal, it could apply to any religious faith that has environmental concerns as an explicit tenet of their faith. Commissioner DeWitt said that under 40C there is language that refers to bearing in mind the state's attitude towards solar energy, or words to that effect. Commissioner DeWitt said he doesn't know if there have ever been any court cases from this part of Chapter 40C. Ms. Simon said she doesn't know of any either and she referred to Chris Skelly, who tracks these matters. Mr. Skelly said that he also doesn't know of any such decisions and added that the wording in Chapter 40C is weakly worded, for merely "consideration."

This completed the Executive Director's report.

**New Business:**

Hearing no further discussion, the chairman called for a MOTION to adjourn. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Levy. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm.

Commissioners Present

JOHN ROSENBERRY  
CHARLES SULLIVAN  
DENNIS DEWITT  
DONALD FRIARY  
CAITLIN EMERY AVENIA  
SUANNA SELBY CROWLEY  
MARK WILSON  
MICHAEL MCDOWELL  
ANNE PRIDE  
BARBARA LEVY  
CY FIELD  
JONATHAN COSCO

Staff Present

BRONA SIMON  
BEN HALEY  
ROSS DEKLE  
BETSY FRIEDBERG  
PAUL HOLTZ  
NANCY MAIDA  
PATRICK POWERS  
PETER STOTT  
ROBIN OSTEN  
KAREN DAVIS  
ED BELL  
SHIRLEY BROWN  
CHRIS SKELLY

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Brown