

Introduction to the Newburyport Local Historic District (NLHD)

The proposed Newburyport Local Historic District is designed to protect the city's best-known historic architecture and its setting. The District would encompass High Street and the commercial downtown between Federal and Winter Streets. The nationally acknowledged restoration of the Market Square/ State Street area and the continued presence of outstanding residences on High Street have made real estate in the proposed district highly desirable. In the effort to maximize the property's usable space, owners have removed historic features, authorized teardowns, and built oversize additions.

The LHD process is intended to protect historical architecture and encourage new construction compatible to the surrounding buildings. Commonsense guidelines focus on permanent changes visible from the street. Routine maintenance and temporary features like paint, gutters, and sheds are exempt from review. Property owners considering renovations apply for permission from the LHD Commission.

The Study Committee, formed in 2007, is following the Massachusetts General Law 40C in establishing the LHD. A report will be submitted to the Massachusetts Historic Commission and a public hearing for the property owners will be held. Before this public hearing, information via the committee's website and neighborhood meetings will be conveyed to residents. The City Council then will vote upon the LHD ordinance.

The Study Committee looks forward to answering questions from fellow Newburyporters. Please contact us via email: lhpsc@cityofnewburyport.com .