

DRAFT – FOR REVIEW

To:

Ms. Giselle Stevens, Head Librarian
Newburyport Public Library
94 State Street
Newburyport MA 01950

From:

Glenn Richards, Chair; Newburyport Historical Commission

Subject: The Newburyport Public Library's application for a CPA grant

Dear Ms. Stevens,

I understand that the application for CPA funds made by the Newburyport Public Library's requires a letter from the Newburyport Historical Commission indicating our determination that the Library's Archival Center is an "Historic Resource" for the city, since the request is for funds to acquire HVAC equipment to ensure that the center's collections are adequately protected.

The Archival Center is home to archival material relating to all aspects of Newburyport history, going back as far as its settlement in 1635 and up to the present. These materials include printed documentation, microfilms, manuscripts, rare monographs, genealogical material, family papers, scrapbooks, newspapers, maps, charts, plans, photographs and more. These physical materials are literally priceless in the sense that many could not be replaced at any cost. Being physical objects, they are also subject to accelerated damage and deterioration from variations in temperature and humidity outside a tightly controlled range - hence the need for special HVAC capability.

The value of this collection as a historic cultural resource can hardly be understated. In addition to the 'normal' items any similar collection might have, such as books and maps, we are blessed to have many photographs of the area taken by local pioneers back in the earliest days of photography. The entire collection is a treasured resource for local residents, schoolchildren and scholars seeking to learn about the rich and colorful history of our city.

The Newburyport Historical Commission is pleased to support your application for CPA funding for purchase and installation of the replacement HVAC units to preserve this unique cultural historic resource.

Sincerely,

Glenn Richards, Chair.
Newburyport Historical Commission