



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

City of Newburyport
Community Preservation Committee

Applications for funding are due by **Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.** with the Community Preservation Committee, c/o Office of Planning and Development, City Hall, 60 Pleasant St., Newburyport MA 01950.

Application Instructions:

- Applicants should file ten (10) paper copies and one electronic copy of the completed application and all accompanying documents.
- Applications should be stapled or clipped. Bound applications are not required.
- Please be mindful of extraneous paper – double sided copies are acceptable.

PROJECT NAME: Cushing House

PROJECT ADDRESS: 98 High Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

MAP/LOT: 14-52

APPLICANT NAME: Historical Society of Old Newbury

(Group or Committee Affiliation)

CONTACT PERSON: Susan C.S. Edwards

TELEPHONE/FAX NO.: 978-462-2681

ADDRESS: 98 High Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

EMAIL: sedwards@newburyhistory.org

AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 59,430.00

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CATEGORY:

(Please check all that apply)

- Open Space
- Historic Resource
- Affordable Housing*
- Recreation

* Applicants seeking Affordable Housing funds must attend a Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust meeting to review and discuss their application. This review must occur prior to the Community Preservation Committee deliberations.

PROJECT SUMMARY: Provide a description of the Project, including the property involved and its proposed use.

The Historical Society of Old Newbury (HSON) is respectfully requesting a grant of \$59,430 from the Newburyport Community Preservation Commission to replace the original wiring at the Cushing House and install a comprehensive new electrical system. This significant project will protect one of Newburyport's most valuable resources, now under threat, and protect and preserve tens of thousands of objects and archival documents exhibited and stored there. The total project cost is \$118,860.

Although founded in 1877, the HSON has had its permanent home in the Cushing House since 1956 when it was presented to the organization by the heirs of Miss Margaret Cushing (1855-1955). Miss Cushing made virtually no changes to her family's home and preserved it as a fine example of Newburyport's Federal period architecture. For the last 63 years, the three-story brick building has housed offices, collections storage, period museum rooms, galleries, and a lecture hall that seats 65 people.

The greatest priority for the museum is the replacement of its electrical system which dates from the early 20th century and no longer meets code. The current system is 100 amp. Work done after the 1930s through the 1960s were small jobs cobbled together. As museum visitation has increased, the demand for programs has grown substantially, and the requirements of modern technology and equipment have eclipsed older systems, causing the electrical system to be a threat. Although not highly visible, this project is the most important to the infrastructure of the building and the infrastructure of the HSON as a vital organization.

Currently, the first floor period rooms are lit by two or three table lamps. The upstairs galleries are mostly without any lighting other than what the daylight affords. Work space on the third floor is poorly lit due to the scarcity of outlets which limits work hours for staff and volunteers. On a cosmetic level, a new electrical system will allow us to install gallery lights on the second floor, thus enhancing the visitor experience.

The September 2018 devastating fire that destroyed Brazil's national museum and its thousands of treasures made the staff and board of the HSON even more acutely aware of the need to implement this capitol project as soon as possible.

A comprehensive new electrical system will preserve and protect the Cushing House, Newburyport's only National Historic Landmark, as well as the significant collections that are held in public trust for all who wish to study them. The HSON will continue to operate as a museum at an enhanced level for the public.

A summary description of collections is attached to this proposal.

PUBLIC BENEFIT*: Describe in detail the benefits Newburyport will receive from the Project and how the Project fulfills the Community Preservation Committee's Project Evaluation Criteria.

* **Deed Restrictions:** The City may require, as a condition for funding, that the applicant grant to the City or other authorized grantee certain restrictions, including: Preservation Restrictions on rehabilitated or acquired historic resources, Conservation Restrictions on preserved or acquired lands, and Affordability Restrictions on affordable housing projects. The restriction shall be recorded at the Southern Essex Registry of Deeds.

The Cushing House, as its name might imply, is not a memorial to the Cushing Family. Rather it is a memorial to all Newburyport families and portrays the history of this community from its founding in the

1630s onward. It is an institution for the people of Newburyport and is open to all residents free of charge during regular open hours.

In addition to the several thousand individuals who visit the Cushing House each season, the museum is open year-round five days a week to serve those who wish to use the collections and conduct research. This varies from people researching a specific property to examining the impacts of the 19th century trade agreement that Caleb Cushing negotiated with China. Researchers also request information from Newburyport ship's logs, history of early industries and businesses, genealogical research on Newburyport families, the history of early parish churches and meeting houses, the legacy of inventor Jacob Perkins, and the significant contributions to the birth of U.S. photography through the work of Dr. Henry Coit Perkins.

These are a small sampling of requests by visitors and researchers. Approximately 2,000 research inquiries are received each year. This number does not include all email requests. Local students use the museum's archives regularly and experience place-based educational visits during the school year. Authors and college professors regularly conduct research of the archives and request permission for the use of images from the collections.

Beginning this spring, the museum will be displaying its newest acquisition – the early 18th century gilded cock weathervane that formerly graced the steeple of the First Religious Society. The HSON was selected as the organization best qualified to care for and exhibit the weathervane for all residents to enjoy and cherish. It will remain in Newburyport in perpetuity. This indicates the stature of the organization and the level of respect that it has earned from the community.

Preserving the Cushing House and the collections from a very real threat will result in a significant benefit to the community.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission holds a preservation restriction on the property, recorded in Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds at Book 35748, Page 113, on March 22, 2017.

CONTROL OF SITE: Indicate whether the applicant owns or has a purchase agreement for the Project site. If the property is under agreement, include a description of the agreement and the timing and conditions. If the applicant does not have site control, explain.

The applicant has full control and ownership of the property.

FEASIBILITY: List all steps that may be required for completion of the Project, such as environmental assessment, zoning or other approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability or historic preservation restrictions, and any other known issues. For projects that may impact abutters or the neighborhood, describe support or objections from those affected.

Over the last several months, the HSON has met with licensed electricians who have expertise working with historic buildings to review and discuss the required work and the best techniques for accomplishing the tasks without any negative impact on the structure. The work will be phased over the course of eight months (October 2019 – May 2020) to avoid disruption during the summer season.

A primary requirement will be to pack and move the contents of each floor, storing them off-site until that portion of the work is completed. Each area will be cleared before work begins. This has been factored into the work plan.

PROJECT TIMELINE: Describe the anticipated steps or phases for completion of the Project. Demonstrate whether the Project will be ready to proceed in the coming fiscal year.

The HSON sought multiple proposals for the project. Cost estimates and specifications by a licensed electrician with whom the HSON has previously worked are included here. The project is broken down by floor.

A work plan for the packing and storing of collections by floor has been drafted and can be implemented in September 2019 allowing for work on the project to begin in October, if funded. The project will be ready to proceed in the coming fiscal year, and the HSON is committed to undertaking the project. The executive committee of the board of directors has appropriated a small reserve in the museum's collections fund to meet the project budget.

FUNDING:

- A. **Project cost estimates:** Provide recent cost estimates for the proposed project, dated within the past six (6) months, detailing the scope of work and associated costs for each task. **SEE ATTACHED.**
- B. **Amount of Newburyport Community Preservation Funding Requested:**
\$ 59,430.00
- C. **Other Sources of Funding Available:** If funding from other sources may be available for the Project, please complete the following table:

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT REQUESTED	STATUS (COMMITTED Y/N IF NOT-WHEN)	CONTINGENT ON CP FUNDS (Y/N)
Private foundation	29,715.00	No – June 2019	Yes
HSON collections fund	29,715.00	Yes	Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

Include the following with ALL copies of the application:

- Assessor's map showing location of the Project
- Photographs
- Recent written estimates of cost with detailed scope of work
- Proposed oversight and management plan for the Project
- If the project involves public property, provide verification that the applicable public agency or department supports the project as presented and will oversee the project if funded.

determined to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city by the local historic preservation commission. If the project involves a historic resource, please provide evidence (date of listing on the state register or a letter from the Newburyport Historical Commission confirming its determination of significance) with the application that it meets these criteria

Include the following, if applicable and available:

- Architectural plans and specifications, for new construction or rehabilitation
- Maps, renderings, site plans
- Historic structures report, existing conditions report
- Names and addresses of project architects, contractors and consultants
- Budgets
- Letters of Support

Attach additional sheets as necessary to answer all questions.

YOU MAY BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

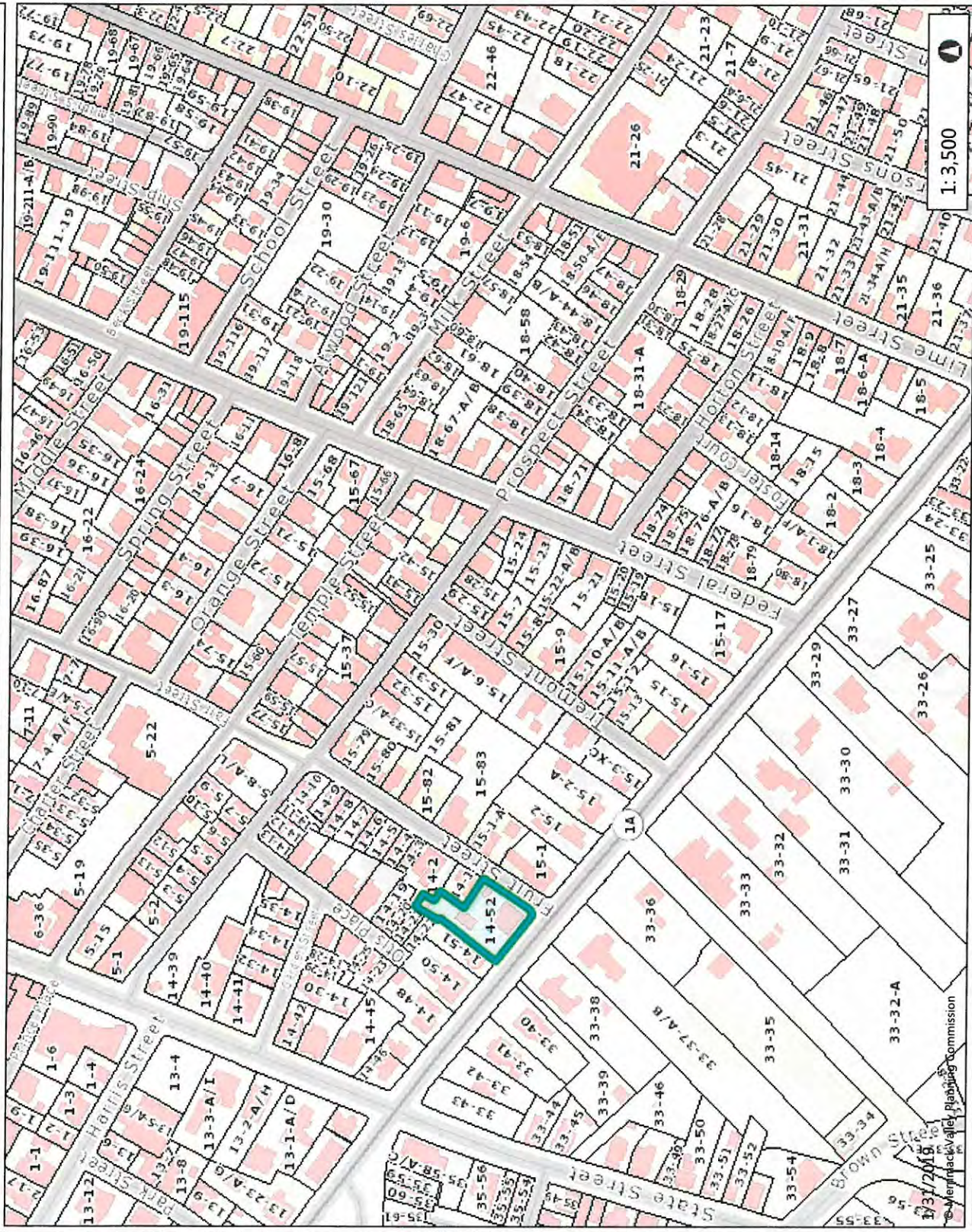
For questions contact: Office of Planning and Development
Newburyport City Hall
cpc@cityofnewburyport.com
(978) 465-4400

City of Newburyport



- Legend**
- Municipal Boundary
 - Parcel Label
 - Roads**
 - Interstate
 - Major Road
 - Local Road
 - Parcels
 - Driveways
 - Road Right of Way
 - Paved
 - Unpaved
 - Hydrographic Features
 - Streams
 - Intermittent Stream

Notes



583 0 292 583 Feet

1:3,500

Data Sources: Produced by Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) using data provided by the City of Amesbury & MassGIS. The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation. THE CITY OF AMESBURY MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, CONCERNING THE ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, RELIABILITY, OR SUITABILITY OF THESE DATA. THE CITY OF AMESBURY DOES NOT ASSUME ANY LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OR MISUSE OF THIS INFORMATION.

Projection: NAD_1983_StatePlane_Massachusetts_Marlboro_FIPS_2001

B.A.S. Electrical Contractors, Inc.

P.O.BOX 1324
Newburyport Ma 01950

Estimate

DATE	ESTIMATE NO.
2/4/2019	76

NAME / ADDRESS
Old Newbury Historial Cushing House

PROJECT

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Electrical upgrade of Cushing House Museum.	
1) Upgrade electrical service to 400 amp and install 4 100 amp 30 circuit panels. 1) Basement. 2) 1st floor. 3) 2nd floor. 4) 3rd floor and Top Knot.	23,680.00
2) Complete rewire of basement . 1) electrical outlets. 2) Lighting. 3) All mechanicals.	26,530.00
3) Complete rewire of 1st floor power and lighting.	20,870.00
4) Complete rewire of 2nd floor power and lighting.	20,660.00
5) Complete rewire of 3rd floor and top knot power ,lighting and mechanicals.	27,120.00
Thank you for the opportunity to bid this job.	TOTAL \$118,860.00

New Electrical System Scope of work

Historical Society of Old Newbury – Cushing House

- Upgrade electrical service to 400 amp
 - Add breaker boxes on each floor (basement, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and attic/topknot) to support each floor's electrical and lighting distribution needs
 - Rewire all existing individual floor wiring to individual floor breaker boxes
 - Add wiring to support added outlet boxes and ceiling lighting to meet current code
 - All new ceiling lighting to be LED museum grade lighting, location, number of units, etc. to be designated by museum Director
 - All ceiling lighting to be wirelessly operated to avoid addition of wall switches
 - Existing wall switches to be rewired and replaced and/or repurposed
 - Additional replacement lighting to be designated by museum Director
 - Replacement of all existing smoke detectors and smoke detector wiring after review with local fire marshal and insurance company input
 - Addition and expansion of video surveillance system to include halls and rooms in the house as well as house exterior and grounds
 - To insure the least amount of disruption to the historic infrastructure of the building, all work to be conducted through the removal of floor boards.

Proposed Oversight and Management Plan

The project will be overseen by HSON executive director, Susan C.S. Edwards. Ms. Edwards has 40 years of experience in preservation management of historic buildings and structures with projects ranging from \$30,000 to \$4 million. Five of the preservation projects for which she has been responsible received a National Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2001.

All work will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Site meetings will be held with the team on a weekly basis to ensure that the work is being done properly and in a timely manner. Ms. Edwards will also oversee the trained team who will pack the collections for storage.

The Cushing House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark on November 7, 1973 #73000327

FORM B - BUILDING

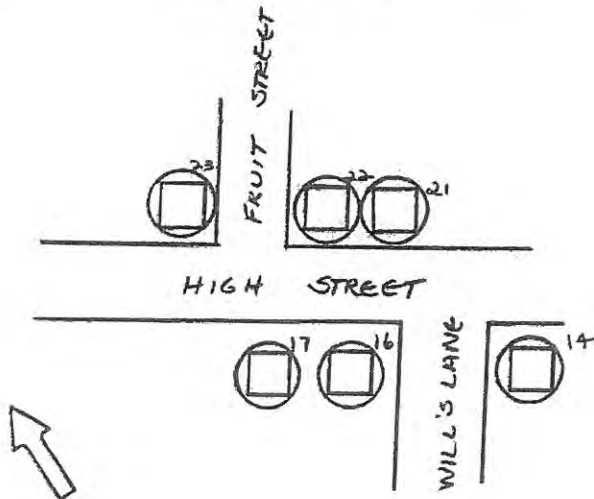
Area	Form no.
A	23

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
Address 98 High Street
Historic Name Cushing House
Original Residence
Present Historical Society
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Historical Society of Old Newbury
 Public
Original owner William Hunt

location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1808
Source Currier, "History of Nbpt"
Style Federal
Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Brick
Outbuildings Barn, Shed
Major alterations (with dates) hip roof raised (1863)
Moved _____ Date _____
Approx. acreage 17,120 sq. ft.

Recorded by Scott Ackerly
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 09-13-80

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early twentieth century.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Cushing house is one of the finest examples of the Federal style in the High Street area. The house is three stories with a hipped roof. The classical cornice is exceptional as is the arched window above the front doorway. The doorway itself is arched with sidelights and a semi-elliptical fanlight. The only major alteration that has been made to the house was the raising of the hipped roof in 1863 to accommodate a nursery.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This house was built by William Hunt around 1808. In 1818 John Newmarch Cushing, Sr., bought one half of the house and property from Sarah Hunt who was the widow of William Hunt. He purchased the remaining half in 1822. Until 1815 John Newmarch Cushing, Sr., had been an active shipmaster; after that date he no longer sailed but became a ship owning merchant. He owned thirteen brigs all built by the Jackman family in Newburyport. From 1835 to 1837 he was a Newburyport Selectman.

John Cushing had a son, Caleb Cushing, who became an important lawyer, statesman, and diplomat. Caleb was born in Salisbury, Massachusetts, in 1800 and came with his family to Newburyport in 1802. He graduated from Harvard in 1817, went to Harvard Law School and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1821. Caleb was very active in local affairs. He delivered many public addresses and wrote the editorial page in "The Newburyport Herald and Commercial Gazette" for several months during 1823. In the sessions of 1833, 1834, 1847, 1858, 1859, 1862, and 1863, he was a Representative in the Massachusetts General Court.

In 1834 Caleb Cushing was elected to the United States House of Representatives and was re-elected for four terms. In 1843 he was appointed Commissioner to China by President Tyler. In this position he arranged the Treaty of Wanghia which opened five major Chinese ports to American trade and authorized the stationing of consular officers at these ports.

(cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
- J. J. Currier, Old Newbury: Historical and Biographical Sketches, Boston, 1896.
- R. Cheney, Maritime History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.
- B. Levy, National Register Nomination Form, 1973.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 23
Property Name: Cushing House 98 High Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Caleb was an advocate of Newburyport becoming a city and with Newburyport's incorporation in 1851, he was unanimously elected the first mayor. A year later he resigned and entered President Pierce's cabinet as Attorney General.

In 1868, He went to Bogota to negotiate a right of way for a ship canal across Panama with the Colombian Government. He also represented the United States in Geneva for claims against Great Britain for union merchant ships damaged or destroyed during the Civil War. Cushing was later appointed Minister to Spain and served until 1877 when he returned to Newburyport where he died in 1879.

Caleb Cushing lived in his father's house at various times until John Cushing died in 1849. At that time Caleb bought another house at 63 High Street. In 1827 Caleb met John Quincy Adams, when the Ex-President visited Newburyport, and entertained him at 98 High Street.

The Cushing House remained in the Cushing family until 1955 when it was bequested to the Historical Society of Old Newbury. The house is now maintained by the Historical Society as offices and a museum. The Cushing House has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Summary of the HSON's holdings which set it apart as a treasured institution

The HSON collections include tens of thousands of paintings, furniture, decorative arts, textiles, photographs, and archives relating to the history of the Newburys. Many of these are of national significance. Objects from the collections have been exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the New Orleans Museum of Art in Louisiana, the American Folk Art Museum in New York City, the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY, the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Portland Museum of Art in Maine. The collections have also been featured in many publications and scholarly articles. It is unusual for a community the size of Newburyport to have a museum with such significant collections.

Highlights of the collection include approximately 50 documented pieces of Colonial and Federal period signed furniture made by Newbury area cabinetmakers. The portrait collection represents prominent Newbury and Newburyport citizens painted by regionally and nationally significant artists including John Smibert, John Greenwood, John Brewster, Jr., Benjamin Blythe, William Jennys, Moses Dupre Cole, John Blunt, Thomas Bayley Lawson, Christian Gallagher, and Laura Coombs Hills.

The silver collection spans the 17th through the 20th centuries with flatware and hollowware produced by John Noyes, Elias Davis, Jacob Perkins, Theophilus Bradbury, Jonathan Stickney, the Moulton family, Towle Silversmiths, and Old Newbury Crafters. This significant collection of Newburyport silver is featured in an exhibition at the Cushing House. There is an extensive collection of American samplers, quilts, and other textiles as well as numerous objects representing the China trade brought here by Newburyport ship masters.

Eighteen thousand photographs represent all aspects of Newburyport area history. The museum is systematically digitizing the photographs for accessibility. Several hundred were selected for a book the museum wrote for the *Images of America* series published by Arcadia Publishing Company in July 2018. The photograph collection includes five rare 1839 daguerreotypes by Newburyport pioneer photographer Henry C. Perkins. Documents and manuscripts span the 17th century through the 20th century including deeds, ships' logs, account book, ledgers, sermons, diaries, legal documents, letters, and maps. The collections are used extensively by researchers and scholars of American history and decorative arts and enjoyed by several thousand visitors each year.

Name and address of contractor

Donald Beliveau
B.A.S. Electrical Contractors, Inc.
P.O. Box 1324
Newburyport, MA 01950

Project Budget

The HSON is using the quote from the electrician as the project budget.

The area referred to as the “basement” is actually at ground level and is used by the HSON for lectures and other programs. The area referred to as the Top Knot consists of two finished rooms above the third floor used for collections storage.

The project will begin by bringing the upgraded service into the building. From there the work will be done floor by floor. Please see the attached scope of work for more detail.

Total project budget	\$118,860.00
Request from CPC	59,430.00

February 3, 2019

Mr. Mike Dissette, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
City of Newburyport
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Dissette:

I am pleased to present this letter of support on behalf of the application submitted to the committee by the Historical Society of Old Newbury for a complete new electrical system for the Cushing House. The current system dates back to the early 1900s and does not meet code or the current needs of the museum.

As a member of the Newburyport community involved in promoting our rich history and educating residents, students and tourists on a variety of topics, the Historical Society and Museum of Old Newbury – Cushing House – is an invaluable resource. Extensive collections of images, objects and archival material help tell the story of our history since the 1630s - maritime trade and shipbuilding, comb making and shoe factories, architecture and culture.

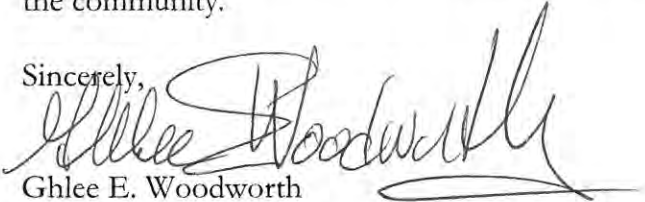
In addition, Newburyport is a cultural and heritage traveler destination. The Museum of Old Newbury plays a vital role in helping to attract these type of travelers who assist in strengthening the economic engine of our community.

Over the past few years, museum visitation has increased, there are requests for more program activities, and the usage of computer technology and equipment has placed the outdated overworked electrical system in jeopardy. Poor lighting greets visitors on the first and second floors that is only supplemented with sunlight. Gallery lighting to highlight collections and paintings does not exist. The third floor space for staff and volunteers is limited due to a lack of outlets and lighting thus limiting work hours. I know, I've been there.

In 2016, the National Museum of Natural History was a museum focusing on nature, located in New Delhi, India. The building and entire collection was destroyed by fire. Brazil's oldest and most important historical and scientific National Museum with over 20 million items was completely destroyed in 2018. Very aware of these devastating events, the Historical Society board is committed to a new electrical system to help protect Newburyport's irreplaceable history, the Cushing House and to enhance the visitor's experience.

It is without reservation and with enthusiasm that I recommend this deserving project to benefit the community.

Sincerely,


Ghlee E. Woodworth
51 Prospect Street
Newburyport

**Charles Griffin, Architect
EGA
Old Gaol, One Vernon Street
Newburyport, MA 1950**

February 6, 2019

Dear Members of the Newburyport Community Preservation Commission:

Hopefully it isn't counterproductive for me to weigh in on two requests to the CPC. But the two are forever linked. The results of research conducted at the Historical Society of Old Newbury (HSON) led directly to the revival now being under taken at Bartlet Mall.

Susan Edwards states succinctly the wealth of the extraordinary collection Newburyport is fortunate to possess. But perhaps examples of why this matters to us today would be useful.

Upon moving here in 1987 I wished to know all possible things about the Old Gaol of 1825. It was the HSON who possessed five images of Newburyport taken in November of 1839.¹ These exist as the oldest city photographs taken in the Americas. When the National Gallery of Art in Washington prepared their research on early photography in America, the curator came to HSON to look at our collection.

She was dumbstruck at the wealth of our collection and the Perkins daguerreotypes, one of which then took pride of place in the exhibition as not only the oldest but indeed the most significant due to Perkins invention of the Stop Bath and Fixer that allowed daguerreotypes to remain visible over time.

Recently, when I became interested in the status of Bartlet Mall, Sharon Spieldenner, our city's remarkable archivist, based in the Archival Center in the library, suggested that HSON would contain the information I was seeking. "We [the Library] have hundreds of pictures, they [HSON] have thousands".

Within a week Sharon provided the complete and exhaustive records of the MALL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION of 1887, preserved at the HSON, and without which the wide ranging efforts to bring back to us what our forefathers created at the Mall would not have been possible.^{2, 3}

Indeed, Susan Edwards provided the hand colored photograph of the Mall in 1890 that is the poster child of the efforts of a new MALL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION 2.0, of our time.^{4, 5}

We are only the most recent to inhabit this place.

Those who preceded us created a most remarkable environment that we treasure. Those people, that process, who they were, is stored at the HSON and the Archival Center in the Newburyport Library.

The HSON is our most important structure. Everything else that we have can be replaced with treasure. Not so with the HSON.

Electrical fires are a too common source of the loss of buildings. In this case it is the COLLECTION that is even more valuable. Modern lighting will allow us access to these rare and unique treasures.

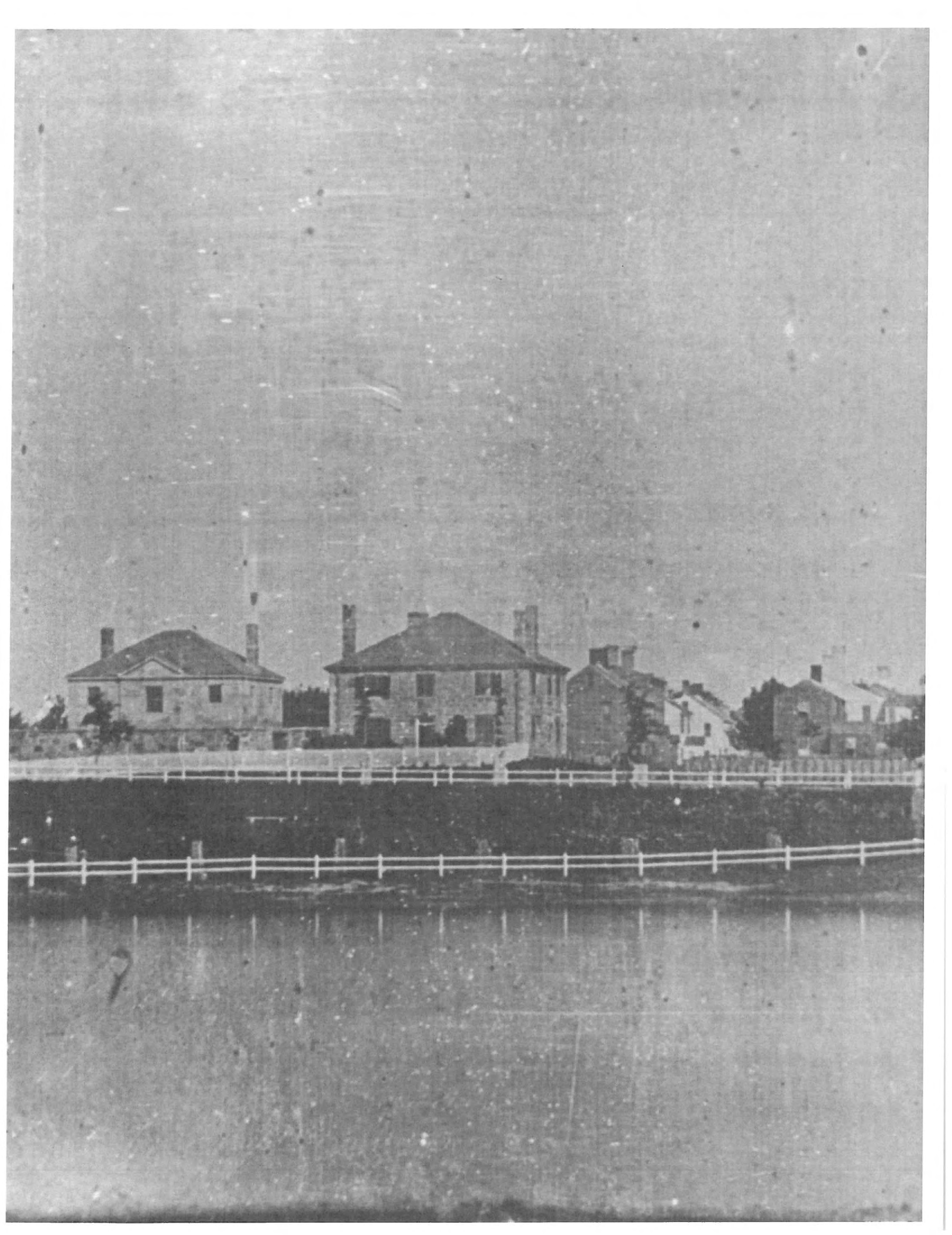
I urge you to fund the effort to upgrade the electrical systems at the HSON to the fullest extent that you have the ability to do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. GRIFIN". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Chuck Griffin
Architect
EGA
Old Gaol, Newburyport

Key to photographs

1. 1839 daguerreotype of the Newburyport Gaol taken by Henry Coit Perkins, HSON collection
2. Archivist Sharon Spieldenner with HSON archival documents pertaining to the Bartlet Mall and the Mall Improvement Association 1887
3. Photograph of the Bartlet Mall, 9.14.91, HSON collection
4. Sharon Spieldenner and Susan Edwards reveal the hand tinted photo of the Bartlet Mall
5. Hand tinted photo of the Bartlet Mall, HSON collection

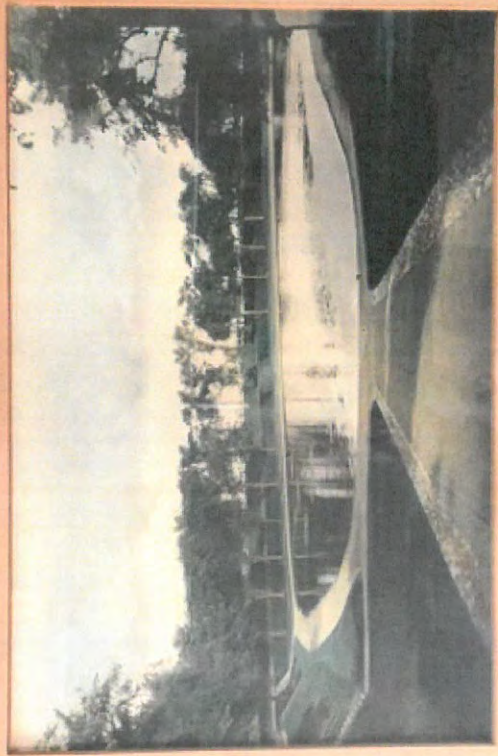






411
9.14.91





The White House, Washington, D.C.



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February 6, 2019

Mike Dissette
Chair, Newburyport Community Preservation Committee
60 Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 550
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Dissette and Committee,

It has been my pleasure as North Shore Regional Manager for Historic New England to work closely with the Historical Society of Old Newbury for nearly twenty years. They are a valued community partner, a researcher's treasure trove, and custodians of a world-class collection of objects, ephemera, and archival material, as I am sure you well know. It is my pleasure to write in support of the urgent need for electrical system upgrades at the Cushing House.

The threat to the irreplaceable collection if the outdated electrical system were to be compromised cannot be overstated. The loss of these records and collections would be a tragedy on a national scale. This project will protect one of Newburyport's most valuable resources, now under threat, and protect and preserve tens of thousands of objects and archival documents stored and exhibited there.

In addition to critical safety implications, the new system will enhance every aspect of the visitor experience at the Cushing House, allowing employees, researchers, and tourists greater use and enjoyment of the space.

Please accept my whole-hearted support of this project.

Bethany Dorau

North Shore Regional Manager



EMERY - PARTON HOUSE, NEWBURYPORT
1797

KEMBLE WIDMER
272 HIGH STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MASS.
01950

February 5, 2019

Dear Members of the Newburyport Community Preservation Commission:

The Museum of Old Newbury would be very appreciative of assistance.

Maintaining an old building is ongoing and expensive. I have been on the collections committee for 15 years and am proud of the progress the Society has made through grants and appeals in repairing or updating parts of the facility that, out of necessity, had been neglected for too long. Examples include re-roofing, substantial repairs to the old mint building, restoring the original courtyard cobblestones (on the agenda for this summer) re-glazing original windows and installing storm windows to conserve heat, etc.

But the building is susceptible to a severe accident. Wiring is early 20th century that does not come close to meeting current building codes. It is also "out of sight" and does not receive the attention that other parts of the building do.

You have one of the most significant collections of any historical organization in the state, thanks to the generosity of present and former citizens and their heirs. We hope you can help protect these irreplaceable artifacts for present and future generations by assisting in bringing electrical circuits up-to-date and out of the potentially dangerous category.

Sincerely,

Kemble Widmer
Co-chairman , Collections Committee