

Newburyport Community Preservation Committee
% Office of Planning and Development
Newburyport City Hall
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members,

This letter is in support of the Newburyport Preservation Trust's efforts to install signs that would draw attention to the birthplace of William Lloyd Garrison and, ultimately draw attention to the role he played in the nation's history.

As a relative newcomer to Newburyport-I moved here in '98- I have often wondered why the city has not promoted its native son. Garrison stirred the conscience of Americans and helped move slavery to the top of the political agenda. To quote from **All on Fire**, the definitive Garrison biography, "Garrison inspired two generations of activists-female and male, black and white-to build a social movement that challenged the dominant assumptions of white supremacy and forced change on a reluctant majority." Garrison is owed his historical due. And what valuable lessons his work holds for us today as the country struggles through its latest chapter of work toward social justice.

Unfortunately, preservation of the Garrison birthplace is an opportunity that seems to have slipped through our fingers. It is my hope that the Office of Planning and Development will do what it can to correct this wrong by approving the installation of signs in the Garrison Gardens of Atwood Park.

Thanking you in advance for your support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Macaulay