

From: The Newburyport Historic Commission

To: Newburyport Community Preservation Committee
To: Andrew Port, Planning Director

Subject: Preservation Restriction on 14 Titcomb Street

On 23 January 2019, the Newburyport Historic Commission (NHC) was shown a draft Preservation Restriction (PR) for the Central Congregational Church at 14 Titcomb Street. We were asked to approve the proposed PR so it could be forwarded to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for review and approval. A motion to do so was passed.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission review revealed several faults and/or errors in the PR. A key finding was that it “must include the entire envelope of the Central Congregational Church,” which is the usual practice with PRs.

At the time the PR was presented to the NHC in January, the exclusion of the “rear component” of the building was described as an acceptable, more or less routine matter, and not something that should raise any concern. We did not dispute that claim at the time, but we now know that not to be the case.

After due consideration, the Newburyport Historic Commission agrees with the finding of the Massachusetts Historical Commission that the PR for this property should conform to standard practice, and must apply to the entire structure.

We look forward to reviewing an amended Preservation Restriction from the Central Congregational Church which rectify this and all other errors.

Sincerely,

Glenn Richards, Chair.