

Sherborn Historical Commission
Susie Wheelwright, Co-chair
Peggy Novak, Co-chair

Sherborn Select Board
George Morrill, Chair
19 Washington Street
Sherborn, MA 01770

Re: Historical Commission Comments – 41 North Main Street 40B application

Dear Mr. Morrill,

At the December 10, 2019 meeting of the Sherborn Historical Commission the board unanimously supported the attached comments regarding the proposed development at 41 North Main Street. The application for a 4 story, 60 unit apartment building incorrectly states that the property is not within a historic district. In fact the property is at the center of the Edward's Plain-Dowe's Corner National Register District. Located at the intersection of two main routes (Rte 27 and Rte 16), it is the first view of Sherborn as one enters the village center from the east or north. The Whitney Paul House with its outbuildings has been recommended for the National Register of Historic Places. The oldest portions of the building are believed to date to 1681, with significant additions added in 1761 and again about 1820 and 1830. The house, along with its 1830 barn and outbuildings, is historically and architecturally significant to the town of Sherborn.

Although we recognize that the Whitney Paul House is not specifically included in the development proposal, the entire property lies within and anchors the district, a Multiple Resource Area of 35 properties. As proposed, the 4 story apartment building is completely out of scale with these historic structures. The height and mass of the building would be further accentuated by the fact that the plans site it uphill from the existing buildings. In sum, the Historical Commission feels that, in style, scale and lack of regard for the historic character of the area, its preservation and context, this development as proposed is inappropriate.

Sincerely,

Sherborn Historical Commission
Susie Wheelwright, Co-chair
Peggy Novak, Co-chair