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Executive Director

Anna West Winter



Save Our Heritage

Protecting the birthplace of the American Revolution, the cradle of the American Environmental Movement, and the home of the American Literary Renaissance.

September 22th, 2020

Town of Concord
Historical Commission
141 Keyes Road
1st Floor
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Concord Historical Commission,

Given that you are charged with safeguarding the unique and historic attributes within the town, we write to you in the hope that you might be interested in lending a bit of last-minute advocacy to the potential preservation of an architectural detail existing on the James Barrett Jr. House located at 612 Barrett's Mill Road.

As you are most likely aware, as fate would have it, it was not possible to restore the James Barrett Jr. House. As *Save Our Heritage* worked for close to a decade on the preservation of the Colonel James Barrett homestead, we fully understand the necessary commitment of time and financial resources that must be garnered and combined to undertake such a project. The James Jr. House was in need of significant structural repair, and the cost of such a restoration repeatedly proved far too daunting for prospective buyers. Finally, it was sold to *J&L Home Designs*, and they have undertaken to rebuild the structure to accommodate two families, but they intend to preserve the front exterior. We were pleased to have been contacted by Ms. Schunemann (*of J&L Home Designs*) last fall, when we were invited to work with her on the removal and preservation of three of the most significant rooms in the James Barrett Jr. House.

Save Our Heritage provided a crew of skilled craftsman to painstakingly remove the three front James Jr. parlor rooms, one of which is architecturally identical to his father's (the Colonel's) dining parlor – complete with hand-fluted pilaster columns flanking the raised panel firebox surround. The Barrett family cut-out trefoil symbol – again just like the one in his father's home -- was carefully removed, intact within the door jamb that showcased it, along with specific attic boards with 18th century Barrett chalk inscriptions. We were also able to save the trefoil wall paper that, again, reflects the meaningful Barrett family symbol.

Our intention is for these James Barrett Jr. rooms to live on. *Save Our Heritage*, partnering once again with *Minute Man National Historical Park*, has arranged for the rooms to be safely stored and, hopefully, one day they will be integrated into both unfinished space in the Colonel's farmhouse and within a future barn structure on the Barrett Farm landscape.

What will remain preserved and restored at the Barrett Jr. House site will be the familiar façade that mirrors that of the Colonel James Barrett Farmhouse. **The father and son homesteads share in common one architectural detail that is most recognizable and most historically significant: that being the “Beverly Jog”** located on the east side of both homes. This distinctive addition to New England Georgian-style homes provided an additional entry point and second story space.

In order for *J&L Designs* to preserve the Barrett Jr. Beverly Jog, the Zoning Board would have to approve a variance given that today -- as it did for the Barretts in the 18th century -- it adds an extra 200-plus square feet to the overall farmhouse structure. Apparently, the *J&L* builder's plan for the home has already met the allowance for square footage on the site. ***Save Our Heritage* recently wrote to the Concord Zoning Board respectfully requesting they consider saving and preserving this historic feature by grandfathering such a variance for the extra 200+ feet. By doing so, they would secure for the future the unbroken visual connection between these two intimately connected historic family homes – two homes that together tell the story of how one family played such a pivotal role in the events of April 19th, 1775.**

We would be most appreciative if you might be willing to contact the Zoning Board and add your voice to the preservation of the James Barrett Jr. exterior by saving the **Beverly Jog** structure – which presently remains its most significant existing architectural feature.

Thank you for your service and for your time and attention to this important matter.

Wishing you well in these most challenging times.

Most sincerely,



Anna West Winter
Executive Director