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To: [George Morrill](#); [Charles Yon](#); [Paul DeRensis](#); [Eric Johnson](#); [Jeff Waldron](#)
Cc: [David Williams](#); [Diane Moores](#)
Subject: Historical Commission response to Jan 31 letter
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2020 11:29:00 AM

To: The Sherborn Select Board

From: The Sherborn Historical Commission

Following is the Commission's further response and corrections to the January 31 letter from Lynne D. Sweet which followed the Select Board's letter of opposition to the proposed 40B development at the historic Whitney-Paul Tavern property located at 41 N. Main Street:

The Sherborn Historical Commission would like to reiterate that the **entire property at 41 N. Main St. including the Whitney-Paul Tavern and its surrounding outbuildings** is the anchor of the **Edward's Plain-Dowse's Corner National Register District**, an important Multiple Resource Area of 35 properties. Further, **the Tavern and its barn and outbuildings are listed on the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places and are recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places**. Including its historic barn and outbuildings, the property represents a rare 19th century tavern landscape that is fast disappearing in the region. According to the introductory narrative of the **1999 Sherborn Assets Survey update**, in the 18th and 19th century "taverns and stores constituted Sherborn's commercial architecture. The most significant example is the Whitney-Paul House at 41 North Main...in use as a tavern and store by 1824." An important objective of the local 1999 update was to survey complete "landscapes that possess historic outbuildings" such as this one.

Four Assets Survey Forms , #94, 286, 285 and 287, attest to the importance of each of the buildings to the whole, including the 1819 two-story barn with an extra tall door thought to have accommodated stage coaches. The Sherborn Assets Survey update was performed by professional historian Sanford Johnson following the process outlined by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. To claim, as the applicant does, that these are old structures only fit "to be demolished" is to deny the history of most of the region's small towns. To dwarf the importance of this rare survival by constructing a towering 4-story apartment building in close proximity to the Tavern would adversely alter the character and historic value of the entire property and the very visible Multiple Resource Area neighborhood it occupies.

We will place a hard copy of the map of the Edward's Plain-Dowse's Corner Historic District with 41 N. Main delineated in the file in the Select Board Office.

Thank you for your efforts to prevent this completely inappropriate 40B, The Pine Residences, from moving forward.

Susie Wheelwright, Co-Chair Peggy Novak, Co-Chair

Sherborn Historical Commission

