



10/14/2021

Ms. Jill Hai, Chair
Town of Lexington Select Board
Town Office Building, 2nd Floor
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
selectboard@lexingtonma.gov

Dear Ms. Hai,

Architectural Heritage Foundation (AHF) is a 501 c (3) with a broad mission to support and promote historic preservation, and we are dedicated to preserving and reactivating historic properties to stimulate community growth. We are writing today in support of the creation of the Mount Independence Local Historic District that is being considered before the Select Board on October 25, 2021. Historic preservation invigorates communities by safeguarding their heritage. The Mount Independence Local Historic District initiative presents an opportunity for the Select Board to preserve the story of this artists' enclave, the example of the varied architectural styles represented by the individual structures and the surrounding landscape, and to build upon the aesthetic layers that reflect changes to the community over time and that make Lexington so attractive and unique.

As you know, the distinctive architectural styles of the seven homes within the proposed district include an Italian Villa Revival property built in 1916, a Craftsman Colonial from 1922, an English Revival from 1923, the Eclectic style Aiden Ripley house of 1932, an early Mid-Century Modern house built in 1947, and 2 Contemporary homes from 1997 and 1999. Further, the Olmsted-designed landscape features at 12 Summit Road are a town treasure. Combined, the architecture, history, and landscape features of the proposed district, including the neighborhood's hilltop location and historic Bridle Path, merit National Register inclusion and exemplify the characteristics of Lexington neighborhoods that make the town visually and historically interesting. The loss of these historic features would be a detriment to the town's broader heritage as well as to the neighborhood's history, values, and the people who cherish them.

Thank you,

Sean McDonnell

Sean McDonnell
President, AHF

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