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October 14, 2021

**Town of Lexington Select Board**

**Attn: Ms. Jill Hai, Chair**

Via email to: [selectboard@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:selectboard@lexingtonma.gov)

**Re. Support for the creation of the Mt. Independence Local Historic District**

Dear Chair Hai and Lexington Select Board Members,

We write to express our strong support for the creation of a new Mt. Independence Local Historic District in Lexington.

Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit historic preservation advocacy organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage. Among our many priorities, we often support the efforts of communities to protect their historic resources through the establishment of locally administered historic districts—one of the strongest tools available to help ensure the preservation of community character and to achieve the right balance between preservation and new development.

We were contacted by Lexington residents earlier this year who were concerned about the possible demolition of 12 Summit Road and the dense redevelopment of this important property, which includes grounds known to have been designed by the Olmsted Brothers. Since then, we have been impressed by the diligent and thoughtful efforts of this group to pursue the establishment of a local historic district to help protect this and 8 other adjacent significant properties.

We have reviewed the Study Report prepared by the Lexington Historic Districts Commission Study Committee and agree with its conclusion that this group of 9 properties is historically and architecturally significant to the Town of Lexington and that steps should be taken to proactively manage their future, beginning with the establishment of the Mt. Independence Local Historic District.

Sincerely,

James W. Igoe  
President  
Preservation Massachusetts

CC:

**Ms. Anne Laurin Eccles, Chair, Lexington Historic Districts Commission:** [anne.eccles@alelanddesign.com](mailto:anne.eccles@alelanddesign.com)

**Mr. Paul O'Shaughnessy, Lexington Historic Districts Commission:** [frommage@comcast.net](mailto:frommage@comcast.net)

**Mr. Charles Hornig, Chair, Lexington Planning Board:** [hornig.lex@charleshornig.org](mailto:hornig.lex@charleshornig.org)