

Royalston

October 26, 1971

Mrs. Henry P. Cole
1148 Fifth Avenue
New York
New York 10028

Dear Mrs. Cole,

Enclosed is the material which I promised you in our telephone conversation this morning: the amended historic district act, the Massachusetts Historical Commission's manual interpreting the act and a National Park Service brochure on the National Register. We are still in the process of preparing the historic district manual and the copies enclosed for you are necessarily in draft form. I hope, however, they will be of help to you in creating an historic district for the Royalston Common.

As I explained this morning, it may still be possible to present your proposal for an historic district at the March Town Meeting but doing so will mean a good deal of work in a short time. You must submit a preliminary report and draft by-law for the district to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the local planning board if there is one, hold a public hearing sixty days later, and then prepare a final report to be presented to the Board of Selectmen at the Town Meeting.

The district which you propose for Royalston is both a beautiful and valuable area and all of us at the Historical Commission are most anxious to see it receive effective protection. If you have any further questions on the creation of an historic district or on our draft manual, please call or write us. We will be happy to offer whatever help we can.

Yours sincerely,

Polly Ann Matherly
Historian,
Massachusetts Historical Commission

:pam
Encls.

Re: Royalston Common historic district

December 21, 1971

Mrs. Katherine Cole
1148 Fifth Avenue
New York
New York 10028

Dear Mrs. Cole,

We have received the inventory forms for Royalston. I will file the originals with our other inventory material and hold the xerox copies to accompany your historic district report. We will expect to receive the duplicate photographs, zoning map and the preliminary report within the next few days.

I have checked quickly over the statements of significance on the inventory forms and there certainly is justification for creating an historic district for Royalston Common. Just as important, you have given us the information we need to nominate the Common for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. I am enclosing a brochure on the Register; if you have any questions on it, I will try to answer them for you.

Mrs. Amadon gave me your message concerning Mr. Abbott's appointment to the Study Committee. I think that should give you the membership you need to meet the requirements of the Historic District Act. I would hate to see you get stopped by a technicality like that after all the work you have done. I know all these forms and requirements are confusing but don't let it discourage you. I am sure Royalston will have its historic district one way or another.

My best wishes to you and your family for the holidays and the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Polly Ann Matherly
Historian/Retrieval Programmer,
Massachusetts Historical Commission

:pam
Encl.



OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01368

This is to certify that the following persons have been voted upon and appointed to be members of the ROYALSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE;

Mr. John Radford Abbot (A I A member)

Mr. William Frye

Mr. Donald Corser

Mrs. Donald Corser

Mrs. Kenneth Wilcox

Mrs. Henry P. Cole

Mr. P. Ernest Davis

So voted this 23rd day of December, 1971

Board of Selectmen

Town of Royalston

William Summington
John B. Lehtonen
Donald L. Langlois

HAVEN AND HAVEN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
220 EXCHANGE STREET
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS 01331

ROBERT R. HAVEN
R. RAND HAVEN, JR.

TELEPHONE
(617) 249-6743

December 23, 1971

Miss Polly Matterly
Massachusetts Historic Commission
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

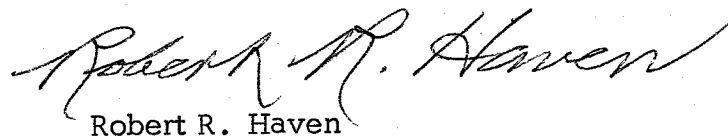
Re: Royalston, Massachusetts
Historic District

Dear Miss Matterly:

Please find enclosed the proposed By-Law to be included as an integral part of the Report of the Study Committee of the Royalston, Massachusetts Historic District.

The rest of the report was mailed to you under separate cover by the kindness of Mrs. Katherine Cole of Royalston and New York.

Very truly yours,


Robert R. Haven

RRH/ba

Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Katherine Cole
Board of Selectmen of Royalston

1. There is hereby established an Historic District Commission under the provisions of the "Historic Districts Act", General Laws, Chap. 40C, consisting of seven members, appointed by the selectmen, including one member, when possible, from two nominees submitted by the ^{Village Improvement and} Royalston Historical Society; one member, when possible, from two nominees submitted by the Mass. State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; and one member, when possible, from two nominees submitted by the Board of Realtors covering the area. One or more of the foregoing shall be a resident of an H. D. estab. in Royalston pursuant to the Historic Districts Act. When the Commission is first established, two members shall be appointed for a term of one year, two shall be appointed for a term of two years, and three shall be appointed in like manner for three years; and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years.

ARTICLE - To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following by-law establishing an historic district and an Historic District Commission under the provisions of Chapter 40C General Laws or do anything in relation thereto;

1. There is hereby established an Historic District Commission under the provisions of the "Historic Districts Act", General Laws, Chapter 40C, consisting of seven members, appointed by the Selectmen, including one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the Royalston Historical Society, one member, where possible from two nominees, one of whom shall be submitted by the Massachusetts State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. One or more of the foregoing shall be a resident of an Historic District established in Royalston pursuant to the Historic Districts Act. When the Commission is first established, two members shall be appointed for a term of one year, two shall be appointed for a term of two years, and three shall be appointed in like manner for three years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years.

2. There is hereby established an Historic District under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, General Laws, Chapter 40C, bounded and described as follows:

"as shown on Plan of the Historic District of the town of Royalston, Massachusetts, date _____, scale _____, name _____, Registered Land Surveyor, said plan being on record with the town clerk".

3. The Historic District Commission shall have all the powers and duties of historic district commissions as provided by the Historic Districts Act, General Laws, Chapter 40C, and of subsequent amendments thereto.

4. The Historic District Commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the provisions of the Historic District Act, General Laws, Chapter 40C, and may, subject to appropriation, employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants and may accept money gifts and expend same for such purposes.

5. When taking action under the provisions of the second paragraph of Section 7 of the Historic Districts Act, General Laws, Chapter 40C, the Historic District Commission shall make a determination within thirty days after the filing of the application for a certificate of appropriateness, or such further time as the applicant may in writing allow.

6. In case any section, paragraph or part of this by-law be for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of last resort, every other section, paragraph or part shall continue in full force and effect.

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*needs
rewrite*

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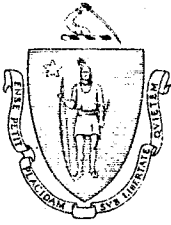
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Lannon

Secretary of the Commonwealth

January 25, 1972

Memorandum to: Massachusetts Historical Commission
From: Staff, Wardwell and Matherly
Re: Preliminary Report,
Royalston Historic District Study Committee

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has received a preliminary report from the Royalston Historic District Study Committee. The Committee proposes a district consisting of the town common and twenty-one buildings surrounding it, including the Town Hall, Congregational Church and parsonage, library, the old schoolhouse (now the post office), and the old store. Staff has visited Royalston and surveyed and photographed the entire area under consideration for historic district zoning.

There is no doubt that the area proposed deserves the protection of historic district zoning. This is possibly the best preserved example of a nineteenth century town common in the Commonwealth. Much of the significance of the district derives from the architectural purity of the individual buildings (primarily Federal and Greek Revival in style) and the total congruity of the common and the buildings in and with their hilltop setting. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has already voted to declare this area eligible for submission to the National Register.

The Study Committee has contacted staff several times in the last three months regarding the form and content of the preliminary report. However, despite detailed explanations, there are still some changes which should be made in the Study Committee's report before a final version is presented to the Town Meeting. Staff would like to make the following comments and recommendations to the Royalston Study Committee.

1. Qualifications of the Study Committee members. The final report should list the members of the Study Committee and indicate which are nominees of the organizations specified in section 4 of the Historic Districts Act.
2. By-law. The draft by-law submitted with the preliminary report does not provide for a representative of the local Board of Realtors on the historic district commission, as required in the Historic Districts Act. Our records indicate that Royalston is part of the area served by the Northern Worcester County Board of Realtors and that organization should be requested to submit nominees for membership on the historic district commission.
3. Bounds of the district. The Study Committee's report is accompanied by a copy of the latest residential zoning map for Royalston but no specific bounds for the proposed district are indicated on it. The preliminary report states only that twenty-one buildings and the Common are to be included in

January 25, 1972

the district. Therefore staff would like to recommend general bounds for the historic district, as indicated on the enclosed map. The exact legal description of the district should be prepared by the Study Committee with the assistance of Town Counsel or the Committee's lawyer.

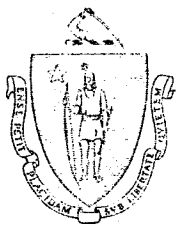
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It will be necessary to extend the bounds of the district beyond those of the residential zone along the western edge of the Common to give adequate protection to the Town Hall, the Congregational Church and the third house on Warwick Road. Since the line of the standard set-back falls within a few feet of these three buildings, we suggest that a 400-foot set-back be used on the western side of Main Street from its junction with North Fitzwilliam Road to its junction with the southeastern portion of Route 68 (see map).

District bounds should be set short of those for the residential zone at two points. On the southeastern portion of Route 68, the bounds should follow the 300-foot set-back from Main Street. The southwestern boundary of the district should follow the high power lines which cross Athol Road. In both cases, cutting back from the bounds of the residential zone will eliminate areas of doubtful significance while retaining enough open space to protect the setting of the approaches to the Common.

Unless informed to the contrary by Wednesday, February 2, we will assume that you concur with the comments and recommendations made here. Our recommendations will then be forwarded to the Royalston along with a map indicating suggested bounds for the district.

WM:pm
Encl.



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Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

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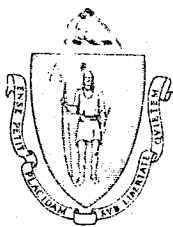
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WM:pm
Encl.



Letter Feb. 2

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. N. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

January 25, 1972

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January 25, 1972

Map of Roy. res. zone sub. w/ pre. rep. did not indic. the district. Therefore staff would like to recommend general bounds for the historic district, as indicated on the enclosed map. The exact legal description of the district should be prepared by the Study Committee with the assistance of Town Counsel or the Committee's lawyer. Nat. local circum. of which we are not aware, S.C. may wish to make changes in bounds we outline.

Back lot-lines are not feasible for district bounds since most of the lots fronting on the Common are narrow and quite deep. Therefore, we would suggest that, with the exceptions noted below, district bounds follow the 300-foot set-back adopted for residential zoning. This will also bring the district bounds generally in line with the natural boundaries of the Common area. The bounds which staff proposes will include more buildings --on Frye Hill Road, ^{North} Fitzwilliam Roads and Warwick Road ~~(northern portion of Route 68)~~ --than are covered in the Study Committee's preliminary report. However, we feel that the addition of these buildings is justified on the basis of their architecture, their compatibility with other buildings in the district, and the protection they will provide for the approaches to the Common.

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WM:pm

Encl.

February 3, 1972

Mrs. Katherine Cole

~~Royalston Historic District Study Committee~~

1148 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10028

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February 3, 1972

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We hope that these comments and recommendation will be of assistance to the Royalston Study Committee in preparing its final report and by-law for presentation to Town Meeting. Should you have questions on the suggestions we have made, our staff will be happy to discuss them with you.

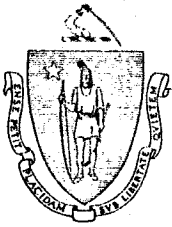
Yours sincerely,

Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH:pam

Encl.

cc. Mrs. Elbridge Smith (Pauline)
Robert R. Haven



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Donovan

Secretary of the Commonwealth

February 3, 1972

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Royalston Historic District Study Committee
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New York, New York 10028

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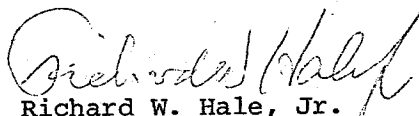
Back lot-lines are not feasible for district bounds since most of the lots fronting on the Common are narrow and quite deep. Therefore, we would recommend that, with the exceptions noted below, the district bounds follow the 300-foot set-back adopted for residential zoning. This will also bring district bounds generally in line with the natural boundaries of the Common area. The bounds which we propose will include more buildings--on Frye Hill Road, North and Northeast Fitzwilliam Roads and Warwick Road--than are covered in the Study Committee's preliminary report. However, we feel that the addition of these buildings is justified on the basis of their architecture, their compatibility with other buildings in the district, and the protection they will provide for the approaches to the Common.

It will be necessary to extend the bounds of the district beyond those of the residential zone along the western edge of the Common to give adequate protection to the Town Hall, the Congregational Church and the third house on Warwick Road. Since the line of the standard set-back falls within a few feet of these three buildings, we suggest that a 400-foot set-back be used on the western side of Main Street from its junction with North Fitzwilliam Road to its junction with the southeastern portion of Route 68.

District bounds should be set short of those for the residential zone at two points. On the southeastern portion of Route 68, the bounds should follow the 300-foot set-back from Main Street. The southwestern boundary of the district should follow the high power lines which cross Athol Road. In both cases, cutting back from the bounds of the residential district will eliminate areas of doubtful significance while retaining enough open space to protect the setting of the approaches to the Common.

We hope that these comments and recommendation will be of assistance to the Royalston Study Committee in preparing its final report and by-law for presentation to Town Meeting. Should you have questions on the suggestions we have made, our staff will be happy to discuss them with you.

Yours sincerely,



Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH:pam

Encl.

cc. Mrs. Elbridge Smith

Robert R. Haven

May 11, 1972

Mrs. Henry P. Cole
1148 Fifth Avenue
New York
New York 10028

Dear Mrs. Cole,

Enclosed are ~~additional~~ copies of the Massachusetts Historical Commission's standard inventory forms and accompanying manuals for use by the Royalston Village Improvement and Historical Society. We are delighted to know that you will be expanding your inventory to include significant buildings in South Royalston. Should you or the other members of the Society have any questions on your inventory, Miss Wardwell and I will be happy to discuss them with you. And, of course, we will send more inventory forms as you need them.

I am also enclosing a xerox copy of the brochure prepared by the Historic District Study Committee in Shrewsbury to promote its proposed historic district. This idea might easily be adapted as part of your campaign for an historic district for the Royalston Common area. I have also send a copy of the brochure directly to Mrs. Smith.

It was a pleasure to meet with you and the other members of the Society last Thursday evening and to see so much enthusiasm for historic preservation in Royalston. Both Miss Wardwell and I look forward to another productive meeting in June.

Yours sincerely,

Polly Ann Matherly
Historian,
Massachusetts Historical Commission

:pan
Encls.

May 12, 1972

Mrs. Elbridge Smith
Royalston
Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Enclosed is a copy of the brochure prepared by the Historic District Study Committee in Shrewsbury to promote their proposed historic district. As Miss Wardwell and I suggested, this idea might easily be adapted for use in Royalston.

It was a pleasure to meet with you and the other members of the Royalston Village Improvement and Historical Society last Thursday and to see so much enthusiasm for historic preservation. There are certainly areas and individual buildings in Royalston which are worthy of protection and preservation.

If our staff can be of any further help to you, please do not hesitate to call on us. We look forward to another meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Polly Ann Matherly
Historian,
Massachusetts Historical
Commission

:pam
encl.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary,
State House, Boston

Page 1

INFORMATION SHEET

File Royalston HDSC

Date Remarks, contacts, etc.

Initials

Nov 6, 1973 Paul McBridey (Anderson-Nutter Assoc. 10 Thacher St Boston)
is working with Royalston groups on preservation projects
sent 5 HD manuals to him + 3 HD manuals to
Mrs Suzanne Bosco Royalston hdsoc at his request.
McBridey met with the hdsoc on Nov 5, 1973

P.L.W

~~351-4493~~
356-4493

~~Ipswich~~
High Street

Aug. 13, 1974

Report on Meeting with Royalston HOSC

Met with ~~five~~^{six} members of the study committee

John Poor, Ch.

Maxine Wilcox Sec.

Susanne Bosco

Dorothy Corser

Richard Boast, Architect

Wayne O'Kirkman

members of
earlier study committee

Reviewed entire area being considered and proposed to Study Committee by Anderson-Notter. The Boundaries are drawn inside tree line all the way around the Common. There is an excellent view of the common (esp 'the pillars') from the NE corner of the district boundaries. Protection is needed for this view as any incompatible building could drastically alter the environs of the common proper. Study Committee members explained that the proposal (smaller) was tabled at Town Meeting due to feeling that it would be defeated. Apparently people elsewhere in the community misunderstood the proposal and felt that more properties (other than the Royal Academy buildings) would be removed from the tax roles. The present study committee feels that a larger proposal would ameliorate this feeling. The study committee decided to adopt the proposal by Anderson-Notter

Sepatember 25, 1974

Mr. John L. Poor, Chairman
Royalston Historic District Study Committee
P. O. Box 85
Royalston, Massachusetts 01368

Dear John:

You are quite welcome for the forms. Your study committee can present its proposal at the annual Town Meeting, or at any special Town Meeting.

Paragraph 14 on page 11 states that an historic district shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting, not necessarily the annual Town Meeting.

We certainly hope that your study committee is able to complete the proposal in time for the Town Meeting in May. There is certainly no question about the significance of the area. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely

Patricia L. Weslowski
Acting Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PIW:

ANDERSON NOTTER ASSOCIATES INC.

ARCHITECTS AND LAND PLANNERS • 10 THACHER STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02113 • (617) 227-9272

October 24, 1974

RECEIVED

Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

OCT 24 1974

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Attention: Pat Weslowski

Re: Royalston Historic
#12701 00

Dear Pat:

We are pleased to present our final report on the preservation of the Royalston Town Common. This study and the progress achieved in assisting the local Historic District Study Committee has been most rewarding. We sincerely hope that the study represents a positive contribution to the preservation of Royalston, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and to the National Trust.

In addition to you, we have also reviewed a draft of the report with SPNEA and with Mrs. Cole in Royalston. All comments and suggestions have been carefully analyzed and incorporated into the final report. We have also made available to the local committee maps and slides for use in the community.

The major recommendations of the report include:

1. Establishment of a local historic district with recommended boundaries.
2. Listing of the historic district on the National Register. The necessary nomination forms and supporting documentation have been completed.
3. Preservation of the existing open spaces by scenic easements and various conservation procedures.
4. Active use of all structures to ensure their maintenance and preservation.

In addition, we have spent considerable time and effort in assisting the Town in establishing a legally constituted Historic District Study Committee. When we began our work, we discovered that their committee had not been properly formed as they really did not understand the basic procedures of State enabling legislation for historic districts. Through our study, they have now been able to legally re-constitute the committee. Apparently, this is a common problem with rural communities which have a sense of preserving their history and architecture but are not experts in the technical procedures of State and Federal legislation.

J. TIMOTHY ANDERSON
GEORGE M. NOTTER, JR.
JAMES G. ALEXANDER
ANTHONY C. PLATT
PAUL J. MCGINLEY

ANDERSON NOTTER ASSOCIATES INC.

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Re: Royalston Historic

#12701 00

September 23, 1974

Page 2

We have prepared our final report in a form which can be readily printed. All photographs and materials are available for this purpose. Much of the basic data and references would be of interest to preservation groups that seek to initiate preservation activities in other communities.

Sincerely,

ANDERSON NOTTER ASSOCIATES INC.



Penelope P. Behrens

B/b

Enclosure

cc: Peter Smith, National Trust

November 4, 1974

Ms. Penelope P. Behrens
Anderson Notter Associates, Inc.
10 Thacher Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02113

Dear Penny:

Thank you for the copy of your final report on the preservation of Royalston Common. We think that it is an excellent report, defining the various options open to communities, such as Royalston, which are attempting to plan programs designed to best preserve their historical assets. The Town of Royalston has certainly benefited by your efforts. We are confident that, as a result of this report, the Royalston Historic District Study Committee will complete a preliminary report proposing an historic district encompassing the common area in time for the spring Town Meeting. We have stressed to the Study Committee the value of this report as the basis for their own study. We will also be encouraging submission of the area for listing in the National Register in the near future.

We agree with you that this report would be of interest to preservation groups in many communities. Unfortunately, we presently are unable to assist you in publishing the report. However, if you have no objections, we would like to be able to supply various interested groups with photocopies of the report. If we do not hear otherwise, we will assume that we have your permission to do so.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Acting Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW:cb

PHONE REPORT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CALL TO/FROM

Art Platt

TOWN:

Raylston

ADDRESS: Raylston Planning
% County Realty Board.

253 E Main St
Orange MA

ZIP

01364

PHONE #

BUSINESS:

HOME:

SUBJECT/PROJECT NO.:

HDSC.

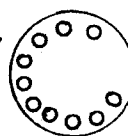
DATE: 8.28.78

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

- art called to say HDSC preliminary report was almost finished -
he expects to ^{submit} ~~present~~ it in a month
- he requested 30 B form, 5 monumail, 5 structure, 1 HOC, and 4
copies HD manual.
- 2 Houses on common have recently been bought & are being
restored. (Bullock & Austin House)
- when district is passed (apparently no problem) HOC will also
be HC, & will start on comp inventory!

STAFF MEMBER:

cf





RECEIVED

OCT 4 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Office of the Planning Board

ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01368

September 27, 1979

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commission Members:

Enclosed are two copies of the Preliminary Report for the Royalston Historical District.

The committee was appointed by the selectmen on June 5, 1978. The members are:

Arthur H. Platt - Chairman, Royalston Planning Board

Colleen R. Richardson - Secretary

-Realtor, Northern Worcester County Board of Realtors
-District resident

Royal M. Frye - Selectman

Alan W. Bowers - President, Royalston Historical Society

Maxine E. Wilcox - Royalston Historical Society, District resident

Lillis Bowers - Royalston Historical Society, District resident

Pauline C. Smith - Royalston Historical Society, District resident

An attempt was made through the American Institute of Architects to secure one of its members but none of the area architects has the time.

Any correspondence should be mailed to my office: Countryside Realty,
253 E. Main Street, Orange, MA 01364. (617)544-7406

Sincerely,

Arthur H. Platt
Realtor



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

October 11, 1979

Mr. Arthur H. Platt
Royalston Historical District Commission
c/o Countryside Realty
253 E. Main Street
Orange, MA 01364

Dear Mr. Platt:

This letter will acknowledge receipt on October 4, 1979 of the preliminary study report for the Royalston Historic District. A date-stamped copy of the transmittal letter is enclosed for your records. As you know, 60 days must elapse from the date of receipt of the transmittal letter before the public meeting can be held.

The proposed district will be presented at the Massachusetts Historical Commission monthly meeting on November 14, 1979, and comments will be mailed to you shortly thereafter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth T. Durfee

Elizabeth T. Durfee
Preservation Planning Coordinator

ETD/mt

Proposed Historic District under MGL Chapter 40C

Royalston Historic District

The Royalston Historic District Study Committee is proposing the creation of a local historic district in Royalston Center. The district consists of 45 buildings (41 residences, a church, town hall, library and former school house), most of which are clustered around a hill top common. District boundaries would be slightly larger than those of the Royalston Common NR District.

Growth of the town occurred primarily in the early nineteenth century when the owners of mills in South Royalston constructed large Federal style houses on the common. Later buildings were constructed in the Greek Revival style; the town hall is an elegant Second Empire structure and the library a small Classical Revival building.

The common today is remarkable for its lack of intrusions, quality of architecture, and setting and vistas. It is one of the state's best preserved early nineteenth century commons.

Recommendations

The MHC staff recommends the approval of the preliminary study report as submitted, with two additional recommendations. First, since Royalston lacks an historical commission, the staff recommends that the Historical District Commission shall have the powers and duties of an historical commission as provided in Section 8d of Chapter 40, MGL. Second, to protect the open space of the proposed district, the Historical District Study Commission should explore, with the Conservation Commission if one exists, the acquisition of conservation easements.



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

November 20, 1979

Mr. Arthur Platt, Chairman
Historic District Study Commission
c/o Countryside Realty
253 E. Main Street
Orange, MA 01364

Dear Mr. Platt:

At its November 14, 1979 meeting, the Massachusetts Historical Commission voted unanimously to approve the preliminary study report for the proposed Royalston Common Historic District. The area is remarkable for its lack of intrusions, quality of architecture, setting and vistas; it is one of the state's best preserved early nineteenth century commons characterized primarily by the Federal and Greek Revival style, the buildings were erected by the owners of the mills in South Royalston.

Two recommendations were made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. First, since Royalston lacks an historical commission, the Commission suggests that the Historic District Commission also take on the powers and duties of an historical commission as provided in Section 8d of Chapter 40, MGL. Second, to protect the open space within the proposed district, the Historic District Study Commission should explore, with the Conservation Commission if one exists, the acquisitions by the town, of conservation easements.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission supports the creation of a local historic district around Royalston Common and commends the Historic District Study Commission for the preparation of an excellent study report.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director

PLW/ED/mt
enc.

RECEIVED

MAY 27 1980

TOWN CLERK
ROYALSTON, MASS. 01368

May 23, 1980

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Massachusetts Historic Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find two documents plus other information concerning the Royalston Historic District.

- (1) A copy of the final report of the Royalston Historic District Study Committee which includes a map of the Historic District.
- (2) A separate copy of the Historic District By-law marked with date of acceptance by the Town and numerical vote.
- (3) On May 1, 1978 the Royalston Selectmen voted to reactivate the Historic District Study Committee.
- (4) The Selectmen are in the process of forming the Royalston Historical Commission.
- (5) The required documents have been sent to the Attorney General for approval.

If there are other documents or other pieces of information we should send to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Frye
Virginia M. Frye
Town Clerk

Phone: 249-3005

CB ✓
EO ✓
4p6 aso
ack in envelope