

Dear Members of the BB&N and Buckingham/Parker Street Communities,

Thank you for your interest in the Historical Commission's proceedings with regard to BB&N's Lower School campus.

On October 5 the Commission held a public hearing to consider landmark designation of the Markham, Kelsey and Morrison buildings. The Commissioners voted against designation of Kelsey and Morrison, and BB&N is now free to clear those sites to accommodate the renovation of Brick and construction of a new Meeting House, as outlined in the school's October 6, 2022 presentation to the Commission.

The Commission also voted to recommend preservation of the Markham Building as a Cambridge Landmark. After the hearing CHC staff updated the Preliminary Report and circulated it for comments.. BB&N staff made numerous suggestions and edits, corrected factual errors, and suggested changes in emphasis. The *Guidelines for Review of Alterations* to Markham now incorporate suggestions from school administrators exempting from review required life safety improvements and playground equipment. The guidelines recognize the complex history of the building and offer a framework for evaluating proposals for both new additions and removal of old ones, accept synthetic materials consistent with existing CHC practice, and facilitate achievement of the City's climate resiliency and accessibility goals.

The Commission considers Markham significant for its many associations with the cultural and social history of the city. It was the first building of the original Miss Markham's School and remains the oldest purpose-built private school building still in use in the city. Preservation of the Markham Building would honor a pioneering woman educator, Jeanette Markham, and commemorate the formative educational experiences of thousands of schoolchildren who have attended classes there for the past 130 years.

I've attached a copy of the Final Landmark Designation Report for your review. The City Council will discuss the Historical Commission's recommendation at their regular meeting on Monday, December 11, at 5:30. Follow the instructions at <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/citycouncil> to attend or participate in the proceedings.

In the meantime, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Charles Sullivan

Charles Sullivan, Executive Director
Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617 349-4684