

Minutes of the meeting of the Fairport Historic Preservation Commission, held December 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., in the in the Training Room, Fairport Municipal Commission Building, 43 Liftbridge Lane East, Fairport, New York

Commissioners:

Jean Whitney
Doris Davis-Fritsch
William Poray
Charles Smith

Others Present:

G. Wolf, Attorney
Matson Ewell
Ken Motsenbocker
Douglas Whitney
Kevin McGann

Absent:

Bill Barry

Minute Approval

Upon motion by C. Smith, and seconded by W. Poray, it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the FHPC meeting held December 1, 2011.

100 North Main Street

C. Smith reviewed the inventory sheet he completed for 100 North Main Street. The current use of the property is retail with apartments on the second and third floors. Anthony Pittinaro is the owner of record. Some of the windows have been replaced with vinyl and there have been substantial changes to the front porch. The Commission looked favorably on the property for consideration of designation and agreed that C. Smith should write a friendly greeting letter to the owner requesting a meeting to discuss his property.

Public Hearing/182 West Church Street

Chair Whitney re-opened the public hearing at 7 pm. for 182 West Church Street previously adjourned on December 1, 2011.

The secretary read the legal notice as it appeared in the Daily Record on November 14, 2011.

J. Whitney presented findings for 182 West Church Street and shared projected visuals of the property. She believes the property meets two criteria for designation.

The designation is specific to the main house.

One (1) of the following criteria needs to be met to qualify for designation:

Possesses special character of historic or esthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state, or nation? **Yes. 182 West Church Street presents the early history of Fairport. The building can accurately be traced back to the later 1840's. It was built in Fullam's Basin, the early settlement on the western edge of Fairport. In 1829, Elisha Fullam owned the land where 182 was built.**

The Cook family was part of the commerce and life in Fairport. Wesley Cook was on the police force; the 1850 federal census lists him as a laborer. John Wesley Cook's wife, Sarah Marie House Cook came to own the Cook parcel land through her father, Benjamin house who purchased the land in 1840. The Cook family is related to the Bringham's who actually sold the property to John Wesley Cook in 1872. The Abstract of Title for the 182 West Church Street refers to "heirs of Benjamin House and now occupied by J.W. Cook" in 1869. I have not been able to

determine exactly when John Wesley Cook moved into this house, but he owned it in 1872.

This house is reputed to have been a tavern. Fullam's Basin was the center of Fairport until the mid-1850's when the Village center moved to what is now Main Street. It was home to members of the Cook family from 1847 to 1898 when it sold to William Burnam.

Identified with an historic person? Yes. There are four (4) people of historic interest to Fairport who lived at 182 West Church Street.

As a child Nancy Armstrong was the property of Solomon Cook. When Solomon died she came to Fairport in 1833 with his son, William, as a freed slave. When William's son John Wesley Cook was married she moved to his "newly build house" (182 West Church Street) and lived there until her death in 1895. She was recognized for her energy, nursing skills and kindness. At time she worked for other families. Her age was between 107 and 118 and she was one of the first free blacks in Fairport. She is listed in the Greenvale Rural Cemetery-but her grave is unmarked.

Eight generations of the Castor family have lived in Fairport; 3 generations at 182 West Church Street. The family was very active in and held many leadership positions in the First Congregational Church.

Richard Castor was a Village Trustee from 1964 to 1968. He worked tirelessly as a Democrat to keep the two party system alive in Fairport in the 1950's -60's and 70's. He was part of the first tree planning committee. He patented several machines to produce non-woven material used in disposable diapers and scrubbies. In 1969 he formed his own company, Cast Fabrics Inc. to develop a fabric casting machine unique to the industry. He was an internationally known consultant to the nonwoven textile industry.

Matson and Ruth Ewell gave tirelessly of themselves to preserve the history of Fairport. They were recognized as Citizens of the Year in 1999 for their contributions to the village. Quoting the Historical Museum website: "Matson, along with other society members, was instrumental in the negotiations to move the society to the former Fairport Public Library on Perrin Street. Matson's love and care of this building was to continue for the next 27 years. He served as president of the Society from 1977 to 1979 and was on the board of trustees from 1980 to 1989. Even after his term expired, Matson continued to attend board meetings as Director of the Museum."

"Ruth was corresponding secretary on the Executive Committee of the Historical Society from 1977 to 1983 and from 1991 to 1994.

She was editor of the Historogram. Her articles and columns chronicled the history of the Society for 20 years." She is now an honorary member of the Fairport Historical Club and has written articles on architecture for the Perinton Historical Society.

Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style? No.

Work of a designer/architect whose work significantly influenced an age? No.

An Established or familiar feature of a neighborhood? No.

Matson Ewell appeared and stated that he is "deeply honored" to have his home designated.

No one else wishing to speak, Chair Whitney closed the public hearing. The Commission shall make a decision within 62 days.

Public Hearing/141 West Avenue

Chair Whitney re-opened the public hearing at 7 pm. for 141 West Avenue previously adjourned on December 1, 2011.

The secretary read the legal notice as it appeared in the Daily Record on November 14, 2011.

D. Davis-Fritsch presented findings for 141 West Avenue and shared projected visuals of the property. She believes the property meets two criteria for designation.

Mr. McGann, property owner, said he is honored but concerned. The cost involved in making repairs would be expensive if forced to use "period" and original materials. He is also concerned that the designation would impact adversely resale value. W. Poray explained and gave examples of designated homes that successfully have had post-designation changes. The Commission is very willing to approve materials similar with the same appearance as existing. He also stated that since designation two homes have been sold with no known concerns.

The designation is specific to the main house and carriage house.

One (1) of the following criteria needs to be met to qualify for designation:

Possesses special character of historic or esthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state, or nation? **No.**

Identified with an historic person? **Yes. William H. Dobbin (1840-1923) was a prominent businessman in Fairport. He came to Fairport in 1866 and began working in the lumber business. He worked as a carpenter for five years and then began to manufacture sash doors and blinds. In 1879 he formed a partnership with Clarence C. Moore under the firm name of Dobbin and Moore. They had a successful planing mill and lumber yard business carrying hemlock lumber, timber, fencing, posts, shingles, lath and sand. They continued to manufacture sash doors and blinds. The business closed after Moore's death in 1903. By industry and economy they built up one of the largest and most important industries in Fairport.**

Mr. Dobbin was also one of the most extensive dealers in real estate in Fairport and engaged in building homes for the working class, which were sold on easy terms; "a form of practical philanthropy worthy of wider emulation" (History of Monroe County).

Dobbins was an active member of Fairport society. As president of the School Board, Dobbins was involved in planning and construction of the former Union School on West Church and Northside on East Avenue. He was president of the YMCA, served on the Water Commission, and was deacon of the Congregational Church and superintendent of the Sunday school.

Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style? **Yes. This home is a cross gable type Italianate (1840 to 1885) with wood clapboard**

siding, wide overhanging eaves, tall narrow windows, window groupings and crowns. The main part of this home has two groups of segmental arched windows with crowns. The single segmental arched windows also have crowns. The first floor windows on the north and west are rectangle with peaked crowns. Most of the windows are two over two double hung with wood louvered shutters. Many of the windows have the original wood storms. There is a one story cut-away bay on the east side with decorative brackets.

The home has front and side single story porches. The front porch, the most ornate, has square posts with beveled edges, molding, elaborate arch supports and decorative brackets under the eaves. There is a hanging porch lantern. The entrance has tall paired doors with large segmentally arched windows.

The carriage house is a combination of Italianate and Gothic Revival (1840 to 1880). The board and batten wood siding gives the illusion of height. The front has two doorways, a projected centered gable with cross bracing, picket fence patterned trim, a loft door and a small window in the peak with rounded top and crown. There are two stall windows on the east side and cross bracing in the gable. The peak has a cupola on top with louvers, decorative brackets and weather vane.

*Work of a designer/architect whose work significantly influenced an age? **No.***

*An Established or familiar feature of a neighborhood? **No.***

No one else wishing to speak, Chair Whitney closed the public hearing. The Commission shall make a decision within 62 days.

Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 5, 2012 at 6:30.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah L. Fuller, Secretary
Village of Fairport
Historic Preservation Commission