

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE

HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE:

CERTIFICATE REQUESTED	Appropriateness
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

PROPERTY ADDRESS	5 Old Littleton Road
PROPERTY OWNER NAME	BW Services, Inc.
APPLICANT NAME	BW Services, Inc.
APPLICANT ADDRESS	12 Peninsula Road, Harvard, MA 01451
TELEPHONE	978.505.5628
EMAIL ADDRESS	boyntoncompany@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION OF WORK PROPOSED:

Please see the attached document below.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

SITE PLAN (showing changes)	N/A
PHOTOS (taken from street)	Yes
PHOTOS (of areas to be worked)	Yes
CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS	Elevations
BLDG. MATERIAL SAMPLES	To match existing

5 Old Littleton Road



View of West & South Sides of 5 Old Littleton Road

DESCRIPTION OF WORK PROPOSED

Applicant is requesting Board approval for the following renovations/additions at 5 Old Littleton Road:

1. Reconsideration of 2/2 windows instead of 6/6 which were recently approved.
2. Construction of a north facing dormer.
3. Removal of failing section of the existing barn.
4. Siting for installation of two sheds.
5. Painting of screen panels on front screen porch

1. RECONSIDERATION OF 2/2 INSTEAD OF 6/6 WINDOWS

We want to thank the committee for the time and consideration previously spent on our replacement window request at your 3/3/21 meeting. Since then we have acquired some new information, relevant to the style of windows for this wonderful old house. We believe this knowledge supports our present request and desire to be consistent with houses built during the mid to late 19th century around the Common.

First, a bit of history! A home on the site of 3 (or 4!) Elm St. built circa 1828, was moved across the Harvard Common to 5 Old Littleton Rd. sometime in 1884-85. Pre 1850, it was the home of Jason Bigelow, the colorful "Uncle Jason" as he was known! From 1850-1871, this "charming Greek Revival Cape" was the home of Dr. John Dow, who later moved to Reading MA, to become a highly respected physician. After the doctor's departure, the house was occupied by F.A. Willard.

The relocated house, now at 5 Old Littleton eventually became the home of Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Gale. "The adorable old house was remodeled, and the roof was raised." The date and builder were unknown. "The house owned by Mrs. Gale has had its face lifted so it does not much resemble the steep-pitch roofed little house that was moved across the common." A full two story house with a large attic, a taller second story height and many windows was created."

In all, there have been at least 7 deeds for this property. Owners were: Wetherbee, Daby, Stevens, Sawyer, Atwood, Streeter, Newick and McClellan. We purchased it from the estate of Constance Reed McClellan who owned the house with her husband James from 9/1976 to 12/2020. All these inhabitants undoubtedly made changes to the house, throughout the many years.

So over the years, through many owners, the style, structure and materials of the house were changed. Like many of the surrounding houses on the Harvard Common, built at this time, the homes had a Victorian flair, with porches, 3 stories, attractive trim and large, often 2/2 windows. We have photographs of 13 houses, near or on the common which illustrate this. With subsequent owners, the siding and windows changed, for personal preference, for style, economy, or convenience, from an original classical revival style, to the house we see today.

A sectional photograph of the West side of the house reveals 5 different windowpane-arrangements, including (what we think, because of the old and wavy glass) an original 2/2 window at the top of the stairs, letting in a great amount of wonderful light. Other 5 Old Littleton Rd., photos with 2/2 windows, reveal the very same decorative porch trim that remains on the house today!

Speaking of the porch, the original floor to ceiling windows in the living room can be seen from that (exterior) porch wall into the interior. They are also of the “old” glass. Their design is 4 small panes at bottom and top, and 2/2 large panes in the middle. We will not change the layout of these panes on the 3 front windows. Here is a consistency with our 2/2 request, appropriate for the age, late 19th century of the house.

We are thus asking for a reconsideration of the commission’s March 3 approval. The amount of available light and view would be significantly increased and the exterior would be consistent with this house as built in the late 1880’s. We would also offer to include the basement windows so that there would be consistency on the West side of the house. They will be in keeping with the house as it was originally transformed as well as with the 2/2 window on the East side of the barn. The house will look very handsome with the dark bronze window trim you have already approved.

We attach some photographs in support of this request and appreciate your reconsideration.





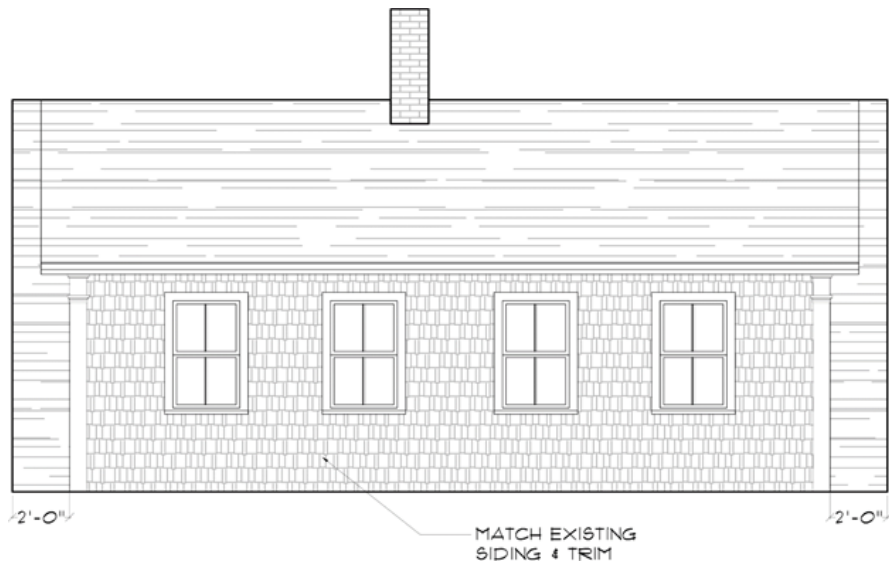
References:

Quotations are from former resident Connie McClellan's saved newspaper articles supplied by her son, Andrew McClellan of St.Louis,MO.

Sources: History of the Town of Harvard MA 1732-1893, Henry S. Nourse; The Harvard Album, Dianne M. Newton; Historic Harvard Files, Wordpress (from Mass Historical Comm); Local Register/Forum for Historic Harvard; Worcester Registry of Deeds; as well as our personal photographs

1. CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH FACING DORMER

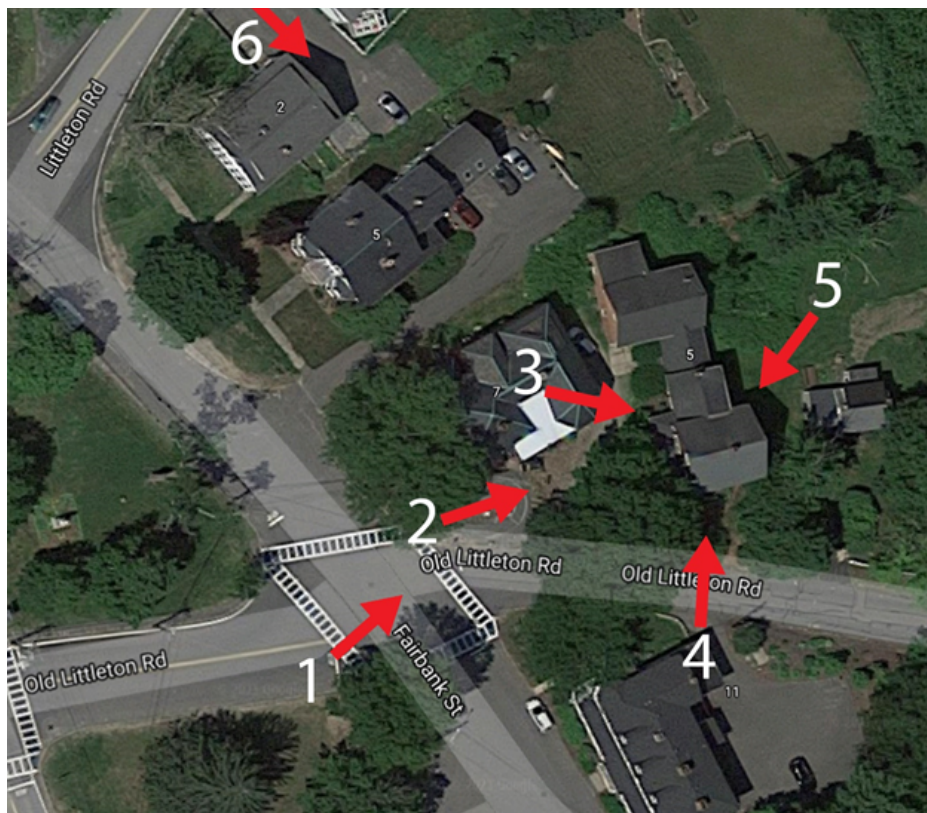
Applicant is seeking Board approval to construct a dormer off the existing attic at 5 Old Littleton. The dormer has been designed to match the existing siding and trim of the house, as well as windows to match what is ultimately chosen for replacement windows.



North facing elevation of the proposed.

Photos of 5 Old Littleton Road with and without proposed dormer.





Photos below are from the angles above. The proposed dormer is most visible to the public from position 2 followed by position 1. It should be noted that the large tree in front of the house will substantially screen the dormer. The dormer would also be quite visible from position 3 & 5,

however both these angles are from private land. The dormer would be pretty hard to see by the public driving west on Old Littleton road. The view of the proposed dormer will be quite limited from positions 3 & 6.



3. REMOVAL OF FAILING SECTION OF EXISTING BARN

Applicant is requesting approval to remove a section of the barn (the addition on the northern end of the structure). This approximate 300 sf has deteriorated over the past decades and is no longer safe. Once removed, a new rear wall will be constructed to match the remaining barn. 3 of 4 sides of the barn structure are barely visible from any public way.

1.



2.



3.



4.



1. Section of barn Applicant is proposing to remove can be seen from the street facing the former library. Once this section is removed, neither the barn nor any proposed windows will be visible from this angle.

2. The section of the barn to be removed cannot be seen at all driving west on Old Littleton Road (toward Town Commons).
3. Looking south from Littleton Road, the section of barn to be removed can be seen just to the left of the white house. Proposed new window and siding will hardly impact the public view of the structure.
4. The section of the barn to be removed cannot be seen looking north from the Town Commons.

Regarding the section to be demolished:

According to Colonial Restorations (www.cr1981.com) of Sturbridge, MA just prior to our purchase:

“The second barn measuring approximately 19’ x 15’ is mediocre at best. It was very light duty when it was built. The joists are rotted and have been sistered. The verticals/footings underneath are compromised.”

According to Dana Wilson Home Inspection Services, LLC (Inspection completed 11/04/2020):

“The beams and supports situated under the rear section of the barn have fatigued, shifted and were found to be displaced (not fully bearing on footings, supports or foundation walls). The floors at the interior of the barn were sloping excessively and in some areas unsafe to walk on.”



Barn with and without addition - shot from driveway



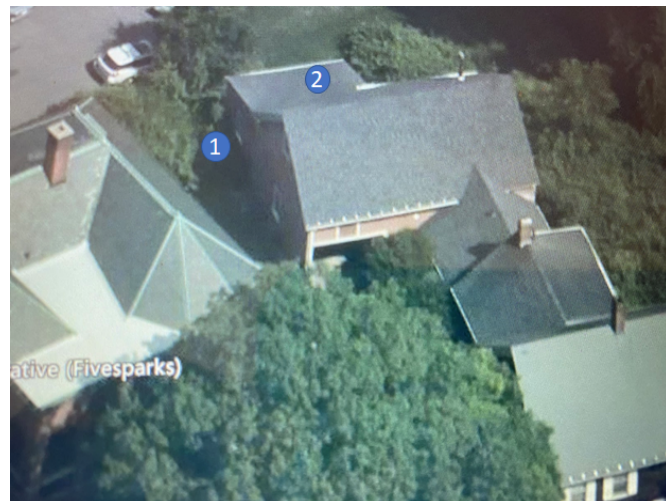
Barn with and without addition - shot from rear property line.

4. SITING OF SHEDS TO BE MOVED TO 5 OLD LITTLETON

Applicant is seeking permission to relocate two sheds from their existing home. According to the Commission Guidelines:

“Garden sheds...require careful siting in Historic Districts. Every effort should be made to site these elements out of view from the public way to the maximum extent possible, or screen them with plantings when it is not. In the case of sheds...selecting ones that compliment the house in both architectural style and materials is desirable. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for all of these items...”

Both sheds have been carefully sited to be as out of view from the public ways while also maintaining reasonable accessibility



Applicant is proposing to tuck shed #1 (8'x12' = 96sf) at the end of the existing driveway between the former library and the west side of the barn. The only angle that will be in the public view is from in front of the house (Old Littleton Road) looking north down the driveway. Plant screening currently exists and the shed would only be visible from Old Littleton Road and only from in front of the house.



Left is shed #1 at its current location and right is proposed shed location

Applicant is proposing to place shed #2 (7' x 14' = 98sf) behind the north side of the barn. This location is NOT visible from any public way.



Left is shed #2 at its current location and right is proposed shed location (after rear section of barn has been removed).

5. PAINTING OF SCREEN PANELS ON FRONT SCREEN PORCH

Applicant is requesting Board Approval to paint the screen panels a dark bronze to match the Andersen Windows which were approved by the Board in March 2021.

