

HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

13 AYER ROAD • HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01451



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE

Please read attached instructions and contact a member of the Harvard Historical Commission before you complete this form.

CERTIFICATE OF: ☒ APPROPRIATENESS ☐ NON-APPLICABILITY ☐ HARDSHIP

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Property Address	20 Fairbank St.
Property Owner Name	Matthew McRae
Applicant Name	Matthew McRae
Applicant Address	20 Fairbank St.
Telephone	978-325-0221
E-Mail Address	mtmcr@2005@GMAIL.COM

DESCRIPTION OF WORK PROPOSED: (You may attach additional pages to describe your proposed work)

If project consists of several different tasks, begin by listing each task, then describe each task in detail including drawings, plans, and photos as necessary. You may attach additional pages to describe your proposed work.

Please see detailed description and documents attached.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: (Please check off the listed items when attached)

Site Plan (showing changes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Construction Drawings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Photos taken from street	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building material samples	
Photos of areas to be worked	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

APPLICANT SIGNATURE (Sign to submit application)

DATE

	10/4/20
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GRANT OF EXTENSION. (With the following signature, the applicant grants permission to the Commission to review the application at its next scheduled monthly meeting in lieu of holding a Special meeting.)

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Dear HHC,

This is a 2-part request. The first request is for approval of removing a secondary chimney from the north side of the property. The second request is for approval of removing front porch bannisters from the existing wraparound porch.

Melissa and I are hoping to begin renovation of the north side of our home at 20 Fairbank before the ground freezes. Our structural engineer is requiring extensive underpinning, foundation, and flooring work to reinforce the structure and foundation of the home in preparation for interior renovations. Additionally, as part of our design, the rear of the north side of the house is going to be our new kitchen, dining room, and den (please see diagram 1). Within this space there is a chimney we would like to remove to accommodate the kitchen and den design. The chimney is currently bricked in (looks to have been done decades ago, if not longer) (see photo 1). Additionally, the chimney exits the roof behind the main ridge of the home. The chimney is NOT visible from the road from directly in front of the home but is visible from the road when viewed south from the north end of the street (the tree on the north side of the property almost entirely obscures the view (see photos 2 and 3, respectively). We would like to focus our resources toward restoring the main beehive fireplace and chimney that is the central focal point of the main dining room as well as the main roofline of the home.

Prior to the ground freezing, our contractor (CRM Construction) will be performing structural underpinning as well as digging out the soil from under the existing floor joists to add crushed gravel, insulation, vapor barrier, and new floor joists. Removal of this chimney prior to completing this work would facilitate the work required to bring the foundation crawl space to code.

The second request is for approval of removing the bannisters from the front wraparound porch. Melissa and I are making significant attempts to restore the home to its original historically accurate appearance (this includes hundreds of hours we have spent restoring the antique windows). When Susan Lee researched our home, she discovered a photo from the late 1800's which showed the patch family posing for a photo in front of 20 Fairbank (see photo 4). This photo shows the front porch without bannisters. As such, we would like to remove the bannisters to restore the home to its original appearance.

We will have additional applications in the coming months as we have more documentation from our architect. We are submitting this first application in hope to begin structural work before the cold weather prevents any ground work we are hoping to complete.

Sincerely,

Matthew and Melissa McRae

Diagram 1: Architectural rendering of the first floor kitchen, dining, and den. (Location of chimney requesting demolition shown in the red box)

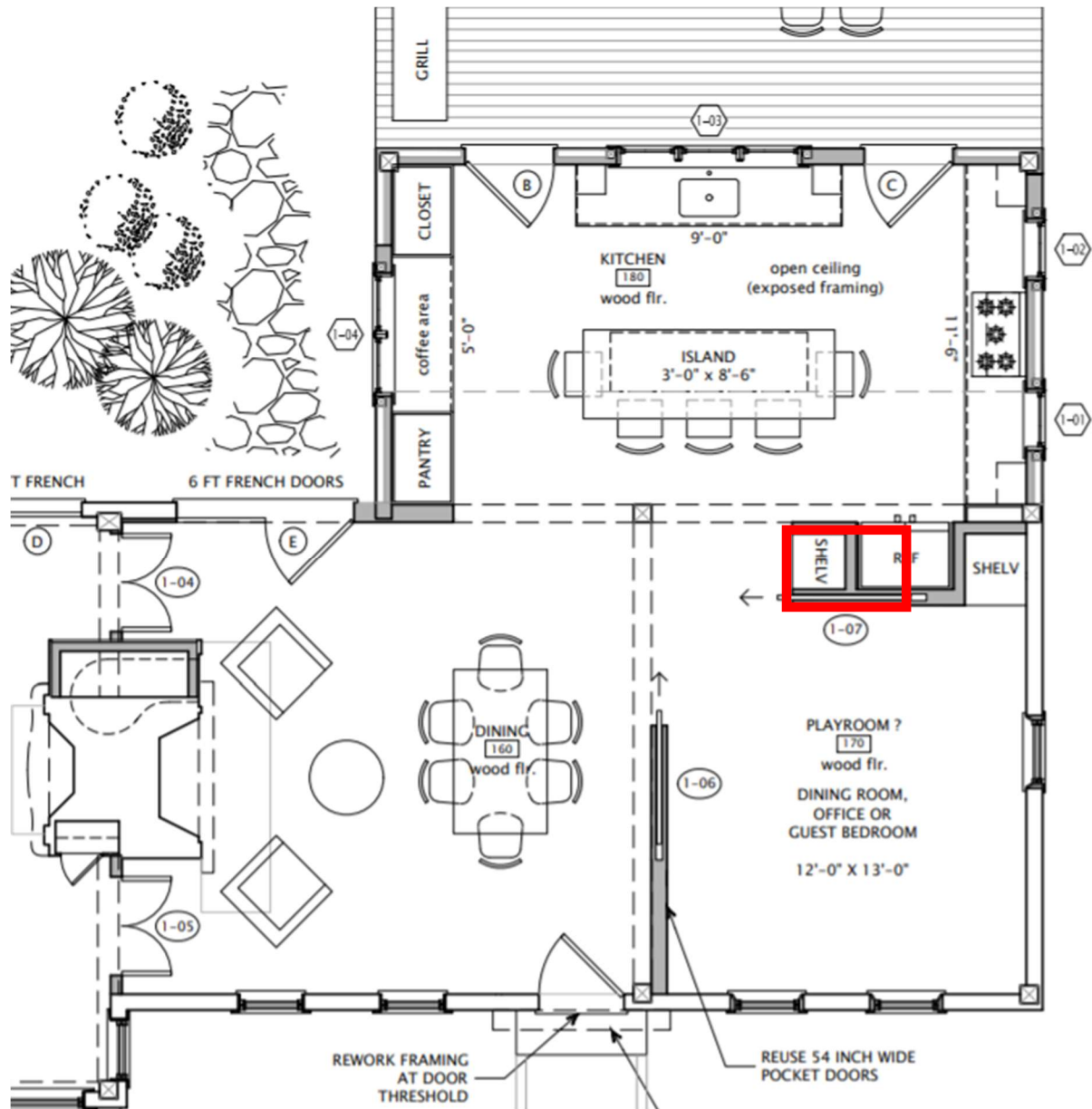


Photo 1: Fireplace is currently closed-in with brick



The chimney exits the roof at the rear of the structure, behind the main ridge line of the home and is not visible from directly in front of the home. Photo 2 shows the view from the front of the home. The red arrow indicates where the chimney is located. As you can see, the chimney does not protrude above the ridge of the home.

Photo 2: View from directly in front of the north side of 20 Fairbank. Red arrow indicates the current location of the chimney in relation to the full span of the roof.



Photo 3 shows the view of the chimney looking south from the north end of Fairbank St. The chimney is visible from this location but is currently obscured by the foliage on the maple tree. However, please note that the height of the chimney does protrude above the ridge of the home and exist at the rear of the roof. The red circle indicates the location of the chimney.

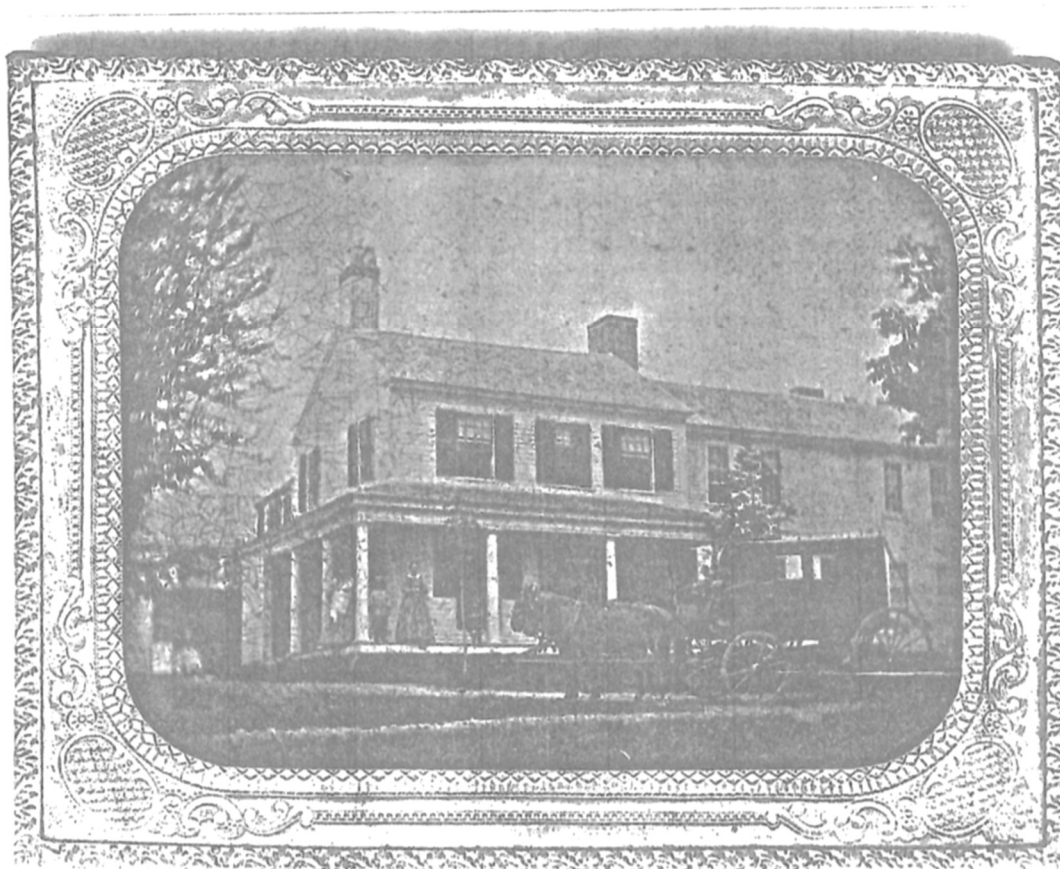
Photo 3: South view of 20 Fairbank from the north end of the Fairbank St. Red oval shows the location of the chimney for demolition.



Photo 3: Street view of the front porch of 20 Fairbank. The red rectangles show the bannisters we would like to remove to bring the home back to the original look. Photo 4 shows the late 1800's photo of the home without the bannisters installed between the columns.



Photo 4: Late 1800's photograph of 20 Fairbank St.



family on porch stage