



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

June 1, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Hancock Village, Brookline and Boston

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am writing to respond to your letters dated March 2 and May 25, 2016 regarding the National Register nomination form for Hancock Village, located in both Brookline and Boston. In your letter, you request that the nomination be scheduled for the next State Review Board meeting. And, more specifically, you ask whether this nomination will be considered at the June 8, 2016 State Review Board meeting. It will not.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's long-standing policy for nominations of private property nominations requires a letter of support from the property owner. To date, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has not received a letter of support from the property owner. The MHC's policy recognizes an owner's right to object to listing. The MHC has received a copy of the owner's letter to Stephanie Toothman, Keeper of the National Register, dated March 18, 2016, in which he fully supports the MHC's policy not to move forward with the nomination of his property. In that letter, the owner has requested that "the National Park Service decline to involve itself in the ongoing dispute between the Town and the Owner, and that it upholds the State Historic Preservation Officer's determination not to pursue this matter." I would appreciate receiving a copy of your response to the owner's letter.

The MHC hereby declines to process the nomination, since the owner is not supportive of its designation with respect to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Because this is private property, in accordance with the Massachusetts Historical Commission's policy, the nomination cannot proceed until a letter of support from the property owner has been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brona Simon".

Brona Simon
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: see attached

xc: Marissa Barrett, Brookline Preservation Commission
Rosanne Foley, Boston Landmarks Commission
Tonya Loveday, Boston Landmarks Commission
Mel Kleckner, Brookline Town Administrator
Marc Levin, Chestnut Hill Realty
Representative Edward F. Copping
Alison Steinfeld, Director, Brookline Planning and Development
Patrick Andrus, National Register of Historic Places