



East Orleans Main Street Historic District Study Committee
19 School Street, Orleans, MA 02653

Sept. 18, 2023

Dear Owner,

The Select Board recently appointed an East Orleans Main Street Historic District Study Committee (the Study Committee) to explore the possibility of establishing a local historic district along Main Street in East Orleans, a 1.2 mile stretch of Main Street running from Route 28 to the Barley Neck Inn. Your property is in the study area for a proposed local historic district.

The primary goal of the Study Committee's efforts is to consider an historic district that would prevent the demolition of historic properties and to ensure that new construction does not diminish the historic character of Main Street. **Unlike most historic districts, the proposed district would not regulate modifications such as paint colors, siding or new windows.**

We are reaching out to all property owners within the study area to encourage participation in the process as we move forward. Please be on the lookout for public meetings dates as well as more information describing how the process might work. A questionnaire to gather owner feedback and input will soon be sent to you and all property owners within the study area.

We should all take pride in Main Street in East Orleans **as the most historically and architecturally significant streetscape in Orleans.** This part of Orleans was the institutional, ecclesiastical, and civic center of the town and it retains multiple high-style and large-scale buildings of these use types plus several historic cemeteries and monuments. The area also contains a well-preserved, cohesive collection of historic residences dating from the early-19th century to the mid-20th century, reflecting the period of prosperity from the fishing and agricultural industries up to the emergence of the seasonal tourist economy.

You may be receiving with this letter a new Massachusetts Historical Commission Building Form (Form B). These Form Bs have been prepared for all properties along Main Street in East Orleans that have made an important historical and/or architectural contribution to Orleans' unique history and sense of place.

We are excited to share with you the new Form B for your historic property. We hope you find it interesting to learn more about the architecture of your property and its contribution to Orleans's

history. The recent documentation of your property, and all historic properties along Main Street in East Orleans, are now available at Town Hall and Snow Library, and can be accessed online through the Orleans Historical Commission website under the “Research a Property” tab or directly with this link <https://HistoricOrleans.org/Research-a-Property/>.

The participation of all Orleans residents and especially those who live in the study area is critical in this process. For more information about the Study Committee and its work, or to join the committee, go to the town website and search for the Historic District Study Committee. Email communications can be sent to HDStudyComm@town.orleans.ma.us.

Sincerely,
The Historic District Study Committee

Joan Nix, Chair
Ron Petersen, Vice-chair
Charles Ellis

Edmund Marcarelli
Francis Mustaro
William Wibel

Attachments:
Inventory survey Form B, if one exists
“Orleans’ Historic Main Street” description