Historic Salem incorporated

P.O. Box 865
Salem, MA 01970
Telephone (978) 745-0799

November 30, 2009

Lynn Duncan
Planning Director – City of Salem
120 Washington Street – 3rd Floor
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Ms. Duncan:

On November 10th a team from Historic Salem, Inc. accompanied the consultant from LDa Architects on a tour of the building at 5 Broad Street with the purpose of preparing the following list of recommended preservation priorities, which we understand to be included in the Request for Proposals for the future use of this building.

The building at 5 Broad Street was constructed in 1855/56 as the Classical and High School. This Italian Revival style school, designed by Enoch Fuller, is one of three buildings that historically created an educational campus on the corner of Broad and Summer Street. The exterior, including the bell cupola, bracketed cornice, and brownstone details, has remained fairly intact despite changes in use. This building is a contributing structure to the Chestnut Street National Register District and is in a Local Historic District. As was indicated in your presentation to the Salem Redevelopment Authority, alterations to the exterior of the building must be approved by the Salem Historic Commission.

Exterior

We recommend that the following exterior elements be restored and preserved:

- Original wood windows.
- Copper detailing – Soffits and gutters.
- Slate roof, including dormers.
- Cupola - in need of immediate restoration.
- Sympathetic spot repointing and gentle cleaning as needed (no sandblasting).
- Original front door on Broad Street.

We also observed that the short wall along the sidewalk in the front of the building shows remnants of an iron fence and recommend installation of a replacement with a pattern from circa

1850. We also recommend that the existing handrails leading to the front door, which has no historic value, be removed and replaced with a more historically appropriate rail. The handrail at 1 Broad Street offers a successful precedent. In addition the concrete stairs at the front of the building should be replaced with granite steps.

Interior

Items in the building's interior that should be preserved are:

- The open, light-filled volume of space - future uses that may require multiple partitions, particularly imposing on the ceiling heights, should be avoided.
- The front and rear central stairs, with the original railings.
- The central hallway configuration.
- Doors and trim to be reused if possible.
- Original flooring, if possible.
- Chair rails and beadboard.
- Dimensions and alignment of windows.

Thank you for requesting this information. Please contact the office, 978-745-0799, or email emily_udy@yahoo.com if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Udy
Preservation Project Manager

CC: Dean Hofelich, LDa Architecture