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April 5, 2016

Dear Common Neighborhood Association,

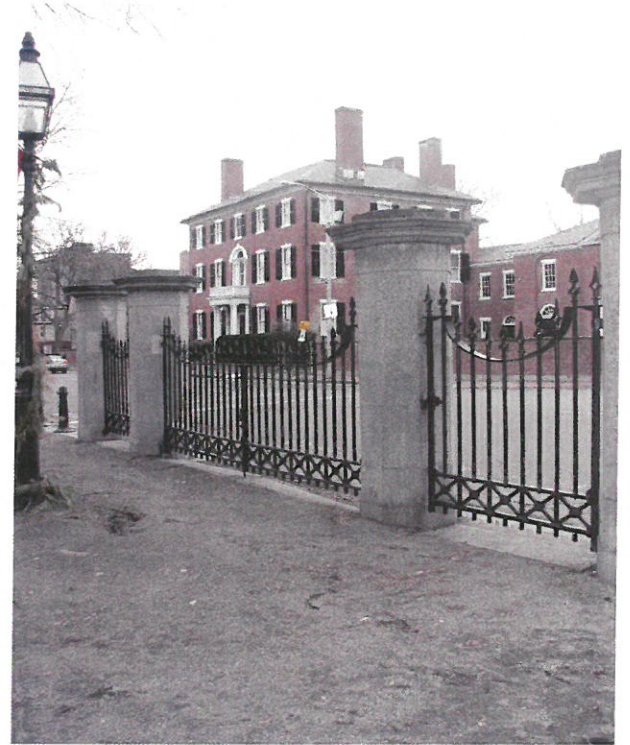
I am writing to inform the Association that the Department of Planning and Community Development and Departments of Parks and Recreation are working together to continue to restore the Common Fence as outlined in the Common Fence Restoration Condition Assessment Report (See [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)).

The purpose of this project is to restore the Common Fence to its original condition. Vandalism, acid rain, animal waste, accidental damage, and inappropriate repairs have placed the fence at such risk that Historic Salem Inc. (HSI) designated the Common Fence as one of Salem's Most Endangered Historic Resources.

In 2012, CBI Consulting created an Existing Conditions Study and Preservation Plan for the Common Fence funded by Survey and Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Historic Commission. During their examination, CBI found that *at least* fourteen (14) sections of the fence were completely missing. Several additional sections of fence have fallen since completion of CBI's report, several of which were replaced during the Phase II restoration project. There is damage throughout and historically inappropriate fixes that need to be repaired. The integrity of the fence is increasingly threatened and its rapidly deteriorating condition invites vandalism and further destruction.

Over the last four (4) years the Department of Planning and Community Development has secured funding through Community Preservation Project Funds (CPA), Capital Improvement Project Funds (CIP), and grant funding through the Massachusetts Historic Commission Preservation Project Fund and Survey and Planning Grant program to undertake the Common Fence Restoration Condition Assessment and complete two (2) of the projected ten (10) restoration phases of this project based on the average annual funding level of approximately \$100,000 from the sources listed above.

Before and After Examples Phase I Restoration

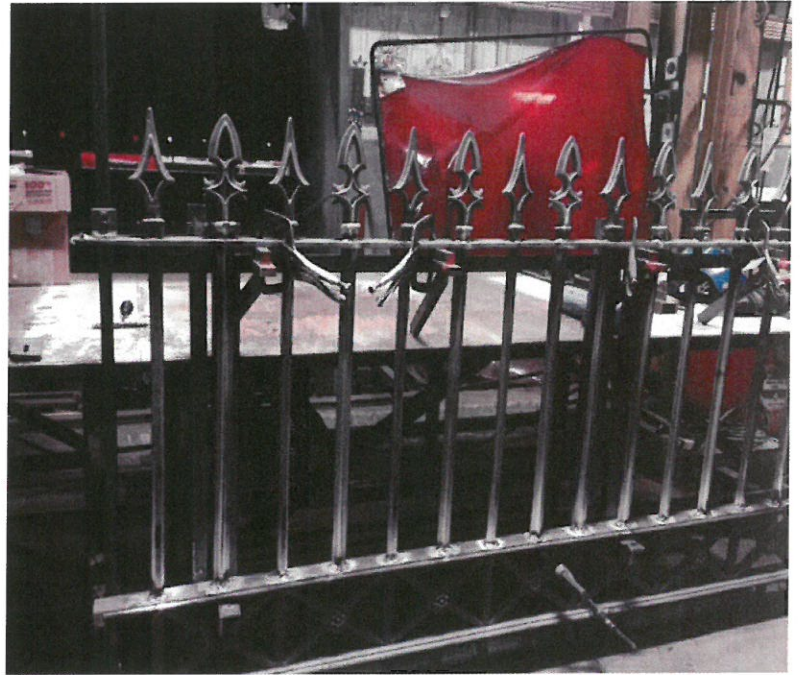


Before and After Examples Phase II Restoration



In both examples above, fence sections were completely missing and were recast in the original form. (Photos: CBI Consulting)

The restoration process includes securing a specialized foundry through a public bid process. In the past, the City has contracted with DeAngelis Iron Work, Inc. to restore and also remake missing fence sections. Below are pictures from Phase I and Phase II restoration in progress at the foundry (now complete).



Original cast iron pieces are labeled, mapped, and then removed from the Common and taken to the foundry. At the foundry, the fence sections sandblasted to remove paint, repairs are made to the metal and then painted. The goal is to always keep as much of the original fabric of the fence as possible.

In Phase I of this restoration project, the foundry made molds to match the original design of the fence to be able to recast all components of the fence in the extreme case that an entire fence section is missing or components are damaged beyond repair. Generally, each fence section is made of a top rail, bottom decorative rail and individual pickets with alternative patterns of diamonds and spades. When an entire fence section is recast, all of these components are cast separately and then joined by a metal worker as shown above. The same is done for the decorative fence posts. Each fence post has three components: a base, decorative middle and pineapple shaped top. The decorative fence posts are held together by being welded at the seams and further reinforced by a metal rod that is capped by the decorative pineapple top. Restoration of the fence is a particular specialty and extremely labor intensive.



Above images (Photos: City of Salem): Missing fence sections along Washington Square East, bollards and fence section in need of repair and replacement at the Washington Street South entrance and severe structural damage to the existing fence example.

At this time, the City has secured CBI Consulting to assist the City to establish a scope of restoration work for Phase 3 to provide an updated site plan, recommendations, budget, scope of work and bid documentation to restore as many fence sections as funds will allow. For Phase III, the City is particularly interested in restoring the fence along Washington Square East and the entrance at Washington Square South along the playground (see images above).

Enclosed is a paper copy of a site plan that shows the locations of all restored fence sections to date. For additional information, project updates, or to be involved in advocating for this restoration effort please contact Erin Schaeffer, Staff Planner at eschaeffer@salem.com.

Sincerely,

Erin Schaeffer

Erin Schaeffer, Staff Planner