



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission



June 6, 2008

Thomas R. Gleason  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency  
One Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108

RE: 40B Development, Ames Shovel Shop Complex – Oliver and Main Streets, Easton, MA MHC# RC.44215

Dear Mr. Gleason:

It has come to the attention of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) that Turner Brothers is requesting a Certificate of Project Eligibility from MassHousing for a project under Chapter 40B to create approximately 167 to 182 units of housing in the Ames Shovel Complex in North Easton. The existing Ames Shovel Complex is comprised of approximately 15 buildings on eight acres of land.

As you may be aware, the buildings of the Ames Shovel Shops Complex are listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places as part of the North Easton Historic District (MHC# EST.E).

MHC understands that this 40B comprehensive permit project may involve a combination of complete demolition of some buildings, partial demolition other buildings and substantial alterations, such as adding stories to selected buildings.

The MHC would like to remind MassHousing and Turner Brothers that under M.G.L. Ch.9 ss.26-27C (950 CMR 71), the MHC reviews and comments on all projects that are subject to a state agency's funding, license, permit, determination, order, approval, or other entitlement for use. The proposed demolition of a building in the State Register of Historic Places requires the filing of an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) in compliance with MEPA unless the Project is subject to a Determination of No Adverse Effect by the Massachusetts Historical Commission or is consistent with a Memorandum of Agreement with the Massachusetts Historical Commission that has been the subject of public notice and comment (301 CMR 11.03(10)(b)).

At this time, the MHC is unable to determine what effect the proposed project will have on the various individual historic properties and historic district referenced above. The MHC requests current original photographs of the Ames Shovel Shops Complex's buildings and setting, keyed to a sketch map; project plans and elevations; and a proposed project description. The MHC also requests a Project Notification Form, which can be downloaded from the MHC website at [www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc), and a USGS map which clearly marks the project location. The MHC looks forward to receiving and reviewing the above requested information.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 9, Sec. 26-27C, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00), and MEPA (301 CMR 11). Please do not hesitate to contact Walter Maros of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Colleen Corona, Chair – Board of Selectmen, Easton  
Melanie Deware, Chair – Easton Historical Commission

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