



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

11/13/23

PRESS RELEASE -

What: Public forum "Preserving our Heritage - An Historic District in East Orleans?"

When: Monday, Dec. 4, 6pm to 7pm

Hosted by: East Orleans Main Street Historic District Study Committee

Where: Nauset Room, Orleans Town Hall

Remote access: Real-time public access will be provided by Orleans Channel 8 on the Town website and cable television. Residents may join by phone at (646) 558-8656, or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83812515189>. The webinar ID is 838 1251 5189.

The East Orleans Main Street Historic District Study Committee (Study Committee) is pleased to invite residents and interested parties to a public meeting to learn about a potential local historic district along Main Street in East Orleans. The area's unique history and architecture will be described, and there will be discussion about historic districts in general. In addition, the results of a recently completed questionnaire sent to all property owners within the study area will be presented. There will be brief question and answer period.

The Study Committee's goal is to prevent the demolition of historic properties and to ensure that new construction does not diminish the historic streetscape of Main Street. The Study Committee is proposing a district which would not regulate paint colors, siding, windows, solar panels, or other common modifications.

Main Street in East Orleans from Route 28 to the Barley Neck Inn is 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. The area contains a well-preserved, cohesive collection of historic residences 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. There are forty-six historic homes and buildings along the 1.2 mile stretch of Main Street along with several historic cemeteries and monuments.

If there is sufficient support for a district, the Study Committee will prepare a proposed bylaw to be reviewed by the Select Board and Planning Commission. The ultimate decision would be made at Town Meeting, which requires 2/3 approval vote by voters.

The participation of Orleans residents in this process is critical. For more information about the Study Committee and the project, contact it at HDStudyComm@town.orleans.ma.us or visit the webpage at the Orleans' town website under Historic District Study Committee.

Submitted by Joan Nix, Chair
201-738-5079