



## CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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December 6, 2023

To: Yi-An Huang, City Manager

From: Charles Sullivan, Executive Director  
Cambridge Historical Commission

Re: Final Landmark Designation Report, Miss Markham's School, 10 Buckingham Street,

I am submitting the Final Landmark Designation Report for Miss Markham's School at 10 Buckingham Street on the Buckingham, Browne & Nichols (BB&N) Lower School campus with the request of the Cambridge Historical Commission that it be transmitted to the City Council for their consideration.

The Commission considers Markham significant for its many associations with the cultural and social history of the city. It was the first building of the original Miss Markham's School and remains the oldest purpose-built private school building still in use in the city. Preservation of the Markham Building would honor a pioneering woman educator, Jeanette Markham, and commemorate the formative educational experiences of thousands of schoolchildren who have attended classes there for the past 130 years.

On October 5 the Commission held a public hearing to consider landmark designation of BB&N's Markham, Kelsey and Morrison buildings. The Commissioners voted against designation of Kelsey and Morrison, and BB&N is now free to clear those sites to accommodate the renovation of Brick and construction of a new Meeting House, as outlined in the school's October 6, 2022 presentation to the Commission.

After the hearing CHC staff updated the Preliminary Report and circulated it for comments. BB&N staff made numerous suggestions and edits, corrected factual errors, and suggested changes in emphasis. The *Guidelines for Review of Alterations* to Markham now incorporate suggestions from school administrators exempting from review required life safety improvements and playground equipment. The guidelines recognize the complex history of the building and offer a framework for evaluating proposals for both new additions and removal of old ones, accept synthetic materials consistent with existing CHC practice, and facilitate achievement of the City's climate resiliency and accessibility goals.

The effect of the designation, which can be accomplished by a simple majority vote adopting the attached Order, will be to protect the publicly-visible exterior of Miss Markham's School from demolition or inappropriate alterations or additions while allowing the School to proceed with their stated development plans with no further review by the Historical Commission.

Attachment