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Newman Avenue*

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From the Editor

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From the Editor

It is not difficult to think of an historic district as a static area bordered by velvet ropes and encased in a giant bell jar to prevent too many “modern” changes from creeping in. This is not the case, however. The example of Newman Avenue being added to the existing Twickenham Historic Preservation District shows the flexibility and adaptability that an historic district can encompass.

This issue of the *Quarterly* focuses on the addition of a street of homes to an already existing historic preservation district. The attempt is not to justify its inclusion; that has been done. The purpose is to offer an overview of the process and history of adding the street, and then to move to personal accounts of living in an historic home, renovating an historic home, and tracing the evolution of a home.

The owners and occupants of the featured structures of Newman Avenue show their own understanding of the significance of their homes in words and drawings. People live in historic districts; people leave historic districts; homes are altered in historic districts; homes are

lost in historic districts. These events allow us to remove the bell jar, duck under the ropes and walk through the life of historic architecture without incurring the anxious stare of the docent.

—Heather A. Cross

