

## The History Center at 6 Locke Street and the *Campaign to Do More*: Q&A

### Why is the History Center purchasing 6 Locke Street?

There are three important reasons that are critical to our ability to meet our mission.

**Space:** The Hall of the November Club holds up to 110 people. Three times the number we can host at the Blanchard House.

**Accessibility:** The building is fully accessible from the outside and on the inside, and there are three accessible restrooms. The Blanchard House is not accessible to all.

**Income:** The History Center has relied on philanthropy and gifts from Member-Donors and others to fund operations since 1911. When renovated and restored, rentals of 6 Locke Street will create a much-needed earned income stream.

### What was the November Club?

In 1889, a group of Andover women came together to form a club. They named it the “November Club” for the month they first met. Four years later, they opened their clubhouse at 6 Locke Street. It was the first purpose-built women’s club on the east coast of the United States. For nearly 100 years, the Club hosted literary and social events for themselves and their community. During World War I, the building was the hub of activity for the Red Cross.

### How will the History Center use the building?

If you’ve been to the Blanchard House, you know that our largest space – the Main Gallery – holds just 30-35 people. There are so many more programs and events that we could hold in a larger space. The Hall of 6 Locke Street holds three times as many people. Among other activities, we want to revive and create an updated version of the November Club itself. We’ll host conversations, discussions, book clubs, music, performances, and other activities to bring the community together.

### How did the purchase come about?

In March 2023, the most recent owner of the building, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover, approached us with a question: would the History Center consider

purchasing the building? After six months of research and analysis, the History Center's Board of Directors voted to make an offer to purchase the property.

The congregation had placed preservation restrictions on the property that saved the building from demolition and restricted changes to the front facade. The restrictions also lowered the market value of the property. In January 2024, the congregation accepted our offer of \$300,000. We'll close on the property this December, 2024.

### **How is the History Center funding the purchase?**

The Board of Directors made the decision that the Center would not take on a mortgage or debt to acquire the building. We're fundraising to reach our goal.

The History Center has received a matching grant from the Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Facility Fund, along with donations from generous donors and a local grant from our state legislators. We're continuing to raise funds through grant proposals, individual meetings with donors, and soon we'll launch a community fundraising campaign.

### **What is the total amount of the History Center's campaign?**

The goal of our *Campaign to Do More* is \$1.1 million. The total is divided into two phases.

#### **Phase 1 ~ 2024-2026**

Acquire the building and renovate public spaces and Hall  
\$300,000 to acquire 6 Locke Street  
\$200,000 for Phase 1 renovations  
\$ 50,000 for operations  
\$550,000

#### **Phase 2 ~ 2027-2030**

Further renovations and upgrades to other parts of the building  
\$250,000 for Phase 2 renovations  
\$300,000 for operations  
\$550,000

\$220,000 has been committed toward Phase 1 acquisition.

### **How can I learn more?**

You can visit our website at [AndoverHistoryandCulture.org](http://AndoverHistoryandCulture.org), where you can download a packet of fact sheets. If you have questions or other thoughts to share, you can call Executive Director Elaine Clements at 978-475-2236, or email [eclements@andoverhistoryandculture.org](mailto:eclements@andoverhistoryandculture.org).

Watch your mail and email for invitations to special Member-Donor events and tours at 6 Locke Street. Like and share stories on social media to spread the word about the History Center's new building and public campaign when it is announced.