

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

As expressed on the Town website, East Longmeadow's history was "one of steady progression." Although incorporation as a Town didn't occur until 1894, early land use included the presence of Native Americans and, by the 1740s, a growing population of Colonists who lived and worked in the area primarily utilizing the land for farming. The discovery of an abundance of sandstone, the development of the railroad system in the 1800s, and the introduction of streetcar lines by the early 1900s provided an avenue of rapid growth and attracted an influx of immigrants who "enriched and transformed the Town's social and cultural framework." These assets and the resulting population and economic growth also allowed East Longmeadow to gain independence as its own Town. Quarry use was discontinued by 1971, but the Town maintained agricultural and residential roots while continuing to attract industrial and commercial development. A variety of built historic resources exist today from pre-Colonial occupation through the mid-1900s, as well as early rural, agricultural, and industrial landscapes, many of which remain in use and valued by residents.

As of 2018, East Longmeadow had a population of more than 16,000 residents and today continues to pursue a balance between evolving as a modern Town while still working to protect what residents enjoy and value most. Representatives from the Town government and local organizations, with active and engaged volunteers, are interested in continuing to support the preservation of local historic and cultural resources while also utilizing these assets to inform, inspire, and engage the community.

Historic and cultural offerings include the collection and programs available through the Townowned Historical Museum House, community events like the Independence Day Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting, revitalization and engagement related to the adaptive reuse of the East Longmeadow Train Depot, highly valued resources like local agricultural landscapes and products, the Redstone Rail Trail and Heritage Park, symbolic public art like the Quarryman statue, and work by the Town to define welcoming and accessible public gathering spaces in underutilized locations. Although residents primarily work in other nearby communities, there remains a sense of pride of place and an interest in having reminders of the Town's roots and local cultural programming available for when they are at home in East Longmeadow.

While this East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan discusses the connection between historic and cultural elements and a town's strength, success, and resiliency, it is not unusual that previous Town planning initiatives didn't include or only minimally referenced these resources. Past strategies and programs like Urban Renewal, mentioned as a development tool in the 1960 Master Plan for the central section of East Longmeadow, resulted in the major loss of historic built resources, including those constructed with stone from the local quarries. The outreach process for this current plan confirmed that the Town's agricultural, railroad, and stone cutting origins and the stories of those who developed and lived in East Longmeadow still resonate with residents and are perceived as significant and relevant to planning and controlled future growth. There are opportunities, illuminated through this process, to determine best practices for documenting and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Town History," <u>https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/133/Town-History</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

strengthening protection of these resources, in addition to providing collaborative cultural programming for all residents to access and enjoy, and planning for future resiliency.

The strengths and opportunities related to East Longmeadow's preservation and cultural resource offerings include existing inventoried properties in the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) database, a strong knowledge of local history by residents involved with the planning process and those who are part of the East Longmeadow Historical Commission, and a valuable collection of items and archives, primarily located in the John Peaseley House 87 Maple Street (1852, ELG.5), now known as the Historical Museum House, and the East Longmeadow Public Library Local History Room. Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding is another good resource for accomplishing local projects as historic preservation is one of the required funding categories and many CPA communities sponsor projects that incorporate preservation, open space, and recreation. Related challenges are that the MACRIS inventory for the Town is generally outdated, doesn't meet current documentation standards, and is missing some significant local resources. This can result in a lack of protections, evident as many potential assets have already been altered, are deteriorated, or have been lost to demolition. A lack of documentation also limits opportunities to promote awareness and potentially seek funding for preservation. Related to the Town's CPA program, the East Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee (CPC) would also benefit from further development of a formal Community Preservation Plan to prioritize funding and promote outreach to help maximize the impact of this program. Additionally, clearly identifying challenges with accessibility to buildings, sites, and programming as well as developing vulnerability and emergency planning for built resources and collections are also presented as opportunities in this Resilient Master Plan.

## **OVERVIEW**

Known as the "Inward Commons," East Longmeadow was included in the 1600s Springfield land grant and borders with Connecticut were defined in a 1642 survey.<sup>3</sup> By 1713, this area was established as part of Longmeadow Parish with a Colonial population developing here around 1740. In 1865 East Longmeadow was designated as a separate Parish within Longmeadow and was formally incorporated as the Town of East Longmeadow, effective July 1, 1894. Due to its origins as a part of Springfield and Longmeadow and a lack of Colonial period civic, industrial, and commercial operations, there is minimal formal documentation of the origins of East Longmeadow's land use.

The land within current Town borders was early utilized as an intermediate corridor between the central uplands and the Connecticut River and potentially included Native American sites along the upper Pecousic Brook around Indian Spring. According to a 1982 MHC Reconnaissance Survey of East Longmeadow, "the presence of a considerable amount of agricultural land and a network of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Alfred M. Copeland, *Our County and its People. A History of Hampden County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Century Memorial Publishing Co., 1902. 429-437. *Archive.org*, accessed 2021. <a href="https://archive.org/details/ourcountyitspeop03copel/page/528">https://archive.org/details/ourcountyitspeop03copel/page/528</a>



suspected Native trails suggests there was probably some Native period settlement."<sup>4</sup> The primary area of interest was identified as "the land surrounding the town center and bordered by Westwood and Mapleshade Avenues to the north and west and Chestnut Street to the south" as there are suspected early transportation routes in those areas. The current amount of rural, agricultural, and larger parcels of industrial land presents a potential of remaining Native archaeological sites in East Longmeadow. Native American artifacts from the area are on display at the Historical Museum House, and available for viewing when this facility is open and staffed.

Slavery, legal in Massachusetts until 1780, brought enslaved and later freed African Americans to Western Massachusetts.<sup>5</sup> There are records of Longmeadow residents owning slaves, to include Rev. Stephen Williams of Springfield (Longmeadow), who discussed the sale of one of his slaves in a diary entry.<sup>6</sup> Late 1700s census data also notes the presence of African American laborers in the area.<sup>7</sup> The Georgian style *Elijah Burt House* 201 Chestnut Street (ca. 1728, ELG.14, NR listed 1976), recognized as the Town's oldest building, relates to an early stagecoach route but also to the region's Underground Railroad network.<sup>8</sup> By the 1800s, many African Americans within Hampden County were either employed as day laborers or working as independent yeoman farmers with possible settlement in East Longmeadow.

By the late 1700s, East Longmeadow's center began to form with radial highways from the *Meeting* House. This infamous rotary was later highlighted by Ripley's Believe It or Not for being a seven street intersection with no traffic lights and remains in this unique form today. Also around this time period, an early Baptist Settlement, later known as the "Baptist District," developed due to a growing diversification of religious beliefs and is identified in MACRIS as Baptist Village (late 1700s, ELG.A). This is currently the Town's only inventoried area and today has a probable loss of context due to demolitions and alterations over time. The prominent First Congregational Church of East Longmeadow 7 Somers Road (1828, 1859; ELG.3, NR listed 1978), is a nineteenth century ecclesiastical building which remains today as a focal point near the Town Center. The former Methodist Church, built in 1853 on the corner of Elm Street, was known as the Church of Seven Roads.<sup>10</sup> It was demolished in 1969. The Romanesque Revival Style East Longmeadow Town Hall and Library 60 Center Square (1882, 1957, 1966; ELG.1) is a public building constructed with local stone donated from the Norcross Brownstone Company. It was planned to function as a combination schoolhouse and shared town hall prior to East Longmeadow's separation from Longmeadow and continues to operate as the Town's civic center. Today the East Longmeadow Public Library, established by 1897, is also located at 60 Center Square in a building completed in

<sup>&</sup>quot;About the East Longmeadow Methodist Church," https://www.elumc.org/history.htm , accessed 2021.







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission. *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report East Longmeadow*. Boston: MHC, 1982. https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/CT-Valley/elg.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Joseph Carvalho III. *Black Families in Hampden County, Massachusetts 1650-1865. Second Edition.* United States: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011. *ResearchGate.net*,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305045959 Black Families in Hampden County Massachusetts 1650-1865 2nd Edition, accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Elijah Burt House 201 Chestnut Street (ca. 1728, ELG.14, NR listed 1976), https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhcId=ELG.14, accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Baptist Village, East Longmeadow (late 1700s, ELG.A), https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhcld=ELG.A, accessed 2021.

1957 with later additions and hosts the Local History Room on the second floor with limited public access.<sup>11</sup>

In addition to agricultural operations, "East Longmeadow owes its development principally to its valuable quarries of red sandstone, which have given to the town a wide fame." These sandstone outcroppings, along with a railroad connection to Springfield by the late 1800s, expedited the Town's independence from Longmeadow. East Longmeadow sandstone was used in the construction of the Springfield Armory Buildings and is the foundation under the Armory perimeter fence, now part of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. In the early 1900s, these quarries were nationally recognized for contributing to the construction of fine residences and significant public buildings across the country, to include Boston's Trinity Church, buildings at Harvard, Princeton, and Yale Universities, the original Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City, which was demolished in 1929 and the site reused to construct the Empire State Building, and the Smithsonian Institution. During the heyday of operations, the Town's most prominent quarries were the Taylor, Salisbury, McGregory, Billings, Kibbe, Pine Kibbe, Worcester, and Maynard, and James & Marra, of Springfield, which ran another large operation with about 75 employees. James & Marra, with a main office in Springfield, owned several of these quarries in town, as did the Norcross Brothers.

The largest East Longmeadow quarry industry was carried out by the Norcross Brownstone Company, organized in 1901 from an earlier firm conducted by the Norcross Brothers and having more than 100 employees. The Norcross Brothers firm is very significant as it worked directly with renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) and consequently relates to Romanesque Revival style buildings across the country constructed with its stone. The *James Franklin Norcross House* 89 Maple Street (ca. 1879, ELG.4)6) (known as the Norcross Center) serves today to provide a connection to this history. The remaining quarry sites, the Historical Museum House, and the *Quarryman Statue* School and High Streets (1994, ELG.923) are also good resources for East Longmeadow to utilize for programming related to the Town's heritage. Other areas and buildings related to the community's growth, like the *East Longmeadow District #4 Schoolhouse* 35 School Street (1868, ELG.11), now known as the Little Red Schoolhouse, and to the presence of early immigrant populations, like the *Adolphus Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church* 30 Somers Road (1891, ELG.2), and to residential areas developed during the Town's growing population can also be highlighted to help tell East Longmeadow's story. There is a long history of adaptive reuse here to include three 1792 district schools which have been repurposed as residential buildings. 13

## INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The MHC is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), organized in 1971 related to the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. According to the MHC, "Local Historical Commissions are an important part of municipal government in Massachusetts. Almost all cities and towns in Massachusetts have established a local historical commission. Historical Commissions are



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Local History," East Longmeadow Public Library, eastlongmeadowlibrary.org, accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Alfred M. Copeland, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Per 2021 interview with Bruce Moore, Chair of the East Longmeadow Historical Commission

responsible for community-wide preservation planning."<sup>14</sup> The East Longmeadow Historical Commission's Mission Statement is described as follows:

The purpose of the Historical Commission is to acquire, organize, preserve and maintain material assets of interest that pertain to the history of East Longmeadow, to make these assets accessible to the public and promote historical awareness within the community.

To research, record and recommend places of historical value and interest; advise and assist on historical preservation issues; and seek to change or create legislation to better protect our historical resources.<sup>15</sup>

The East Longmeadow Historical Commission currently has a presence on the town website, and has six members out of the available seven positions. Prior to the 2020 Covid19 Pandemic, meetings were held on the second Monday from September through June, as advertised on the Town website. Since public meeting restrictions were authorized in the Spring of 2020, the Commission has not met virtually or otherwise as of early 2021 but remains interested and ready to engage in future preservation work.

Local historic preservation should begin with planning and documentation to formally identify an area's remaining archaeological and built historic resources, structures, objects, areas, and landscapes with potential significance on a local, state, and national level. Documentation of existing conditions and historical narratives will then provide public record in the MACRIS database. If resources are found eligible and listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, additional funding opportunities may be available to support preservation, resiliency, outreach, and adaptive reuse.

The identification and documentation of historic and archaeological resources is listed as the first goal in the 2018-2022 *Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan*. Comprehensive state documentation of East Longmeadow's cultural resources was done through a 1982 MHC *Reconnaissance Survey Town Report* and a 1984 report on the *Historical and Archaeological Resources of the Connecticut River Valley* which identified multiple remaining historic resources within the Town. In particular, the 1984 report's chapter on building stone identifies the quarry sites as the area's most significant remaining resources and notes a need for their thorough documentation. The "diversity of interests" with the quarry industry and railroad connection to Springfield, along with the natural geographical separation allowed East Longmeadow to separate from "West" Longmeadow and become a self-sufficient town and relates to a national context of architectural styles and building methods from the period of operations. The state of the context of a national context of architectural styles and building methods from the period of operations.

<sup>17</sup> Alfred M. Copeland, Ibid.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Local Historical Commissions in Massachusetts. A Summary Sheet for New Commission Members." https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/lhcsum.pdf , accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> "Historical Commission," eastlongmeadowma.gov, <a href="https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/564/Historical-Commission">https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/564/Historical-Commission</a>, accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic & Archaeological Resources of the Connecticut River Valley: A Framework for Preservation Decisions* Boston: MHC, 1984, 1988, 2007. <a href="https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/regionalreports/ctvalley.pdf">https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/regionalreports/ctvalley.pdf</a>

There was a major initiative by the East Longmeadow Historical Commission to document the Town's historic resources in the 1970s. The 1982 Reconnaissance Survey noted that this earlier inventory work was adequate at that time to identify existing 18th and 19th century resources but that later 19th and early 20th century resources should be inventoried as well. There does not appear to have been much inventory work done since then. As of early 2021, there are 74 inventory points for East Longmeadow in the MACRIS database and five listings on the Massachusetts State Register and National Register of Historic Places. This can be compared to 1,648 inventory points in Longmeadow, 234 in Wilbraham, and 118 in Hampden. Renewed planning for and execution of formal documentation to include all of East Longmeadow's historic and cultural resources, including quarry and agricultural properties, will support the Town and Local Historical Commission planning process, is in accordance with the state's current preservation plan, and could lead to increased awareness of and opportunities for preservation, funding, and cultural programming.

## **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

East Longmeadow contains historic and cultural resources that are generally perceived as significant and valued by residents. Recognizing the value of these resources and honoring the related local history also presents an opportunity to reflect upon past strategies for resiliency such as the adaptive reuse of locally significant buildings and successful land conservation to include former agricultural and quarry sites. 18 Feedback during the 2021 Resilient Master Planning process indicated that the Town Hall, First Congregational Church, Norcross Center, Historical Museum House, Little Red Schoolhouse, Quarryman Statue, rehabilitated Railroad Depot, and agricultural and former quarry properties continue to stand out as the most locally significant built historic and cultural resources. The MACRIS documentation for the Historical Museum House includes a 1973 Needs and Objectives for Funds document with Immediate and Future categories. Nearly 50 years later, it can be said that many if not all of these needs were addressed and this could serve as a framework for determining current and future needs and objectives. Many historic and cultural resources currently remain which are not comprehensively documented and formally recognized as assets and generally do not have protection through by-laws and ordinances or by review for state or federally funded projects.

To help focus efforts, supporting the East Longmeadow Historical Commission in the development of an overall Preservation Plan to include identifying significant and irreplaceable institutional, residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural buildings and sites as well as structures will benefit the Town in determining the best way to proceed with documentation, protection, and potential use for the public benefit. Planning for targeted updates of the existing 1970s inventory to current standards and to include more resources that were not previously documented could be one approach. Recommended resources to focus on are individually significant resources, up to at least the mid-20th century; those which relate to underrepresented groups (Native Americans,

<sup>18</sup> "Brown Farm-Watchaug Meadows, East Longmeadow, MA." October 2011, https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8234/Brown-Farm-Watchaug-Meadows



African Americans, and the immigrant populations who helped develop East Longmeadow as a Town); quarry areas; agricultural properties to include all related outbuildings; areas that retain at least some context from the period of construction (ex. Somers Road); burial grounds; and structures like stone walls. Identifying all of these resources and planning for inclusion within or updates on MACRIS would help to determine next steps for protection and/or to seek potential funding sources to complete project goals. Utilizing local and regional and state agencies as well as existing guidance such as publications related to best practices for the preservation of local burial grounds could also be helpful for planning and prioritization.<sup>19</sup>

Existing historic resources can also be considered assets to support cultural programming and community needs. An example of this is the adaptive reuse of the Pleasant View Grade School 328 North Main Street (1915, ELG.10) as the Pleasant View Senior Center, housing the East Longmeadow Council on Aging. The Historical Museum House, the Norcross Center, the Little Red Schoolhouse, and the East Longmeadow Train Depot are also examples of historic resources that have been repurposed. The Little Red Schoolhouse was moved to the previous site of the undocumented and now demolished Center School. This building, which has public space available through the Town Recreation Department, serves as the meeting site for the Local Historical Commission and other local groups and has also been used as a space for cultural programming. The William Henry Hall Store and Post Office 38 Center Square (circa 1830, ELG.4), at the Town center, was a residential home prior to the 1830s and has been called an East Longmeadow center landmark.<sup>20</sup> Cooley's General Country Store, Barrett's Dry Goods Store, Nooney's Hardware, and the Village Smithy are other examples of businesses that operated from this prominent building which remains in commercial use today. Willow Barn Designs is another local business which operates out of a former residential building at 81 Maple Street. This property maintains the exterior appearance of a historic residence and is in proximity to the Redstone Rail Trail. The Apple Place on Somers Road and connected to farmland that has been utilized for more than 200 years has become very effective with utilizing social media for outreach and developing new ways to attract visitors.<sup>21</sup> Exploring the potential use of by-laws and ordinances, façade improvement programs, options for preservation zoning, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program could also provide avenues to help slow down the process of further deterioration and loss of East Longmeadow's irreplaceable built history while allowing for more scenarios of potential adaptive reuse.

East Longmeadow passed CPA in 2006 and this strong funding source to "improve a community's character and quality of life" has supported local projects but does not have a developed plan and does not have projects listed on the Community Preservation Coalition database. <sup>22</sup> CPA is categorized as a "smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. [It] also helps strengthen the state and local economies by expanding housing opportunities and construction jobs for the



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> "Terra Firma #10 – Mourning Glory: Preserving Historic Cemeteries" <a href="http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/histland/terra-firma10.pdf">http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/histland/terra-firma10.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> "William Henry Hall Store and Post Office," <a href="https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhcld=ELG.4">https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhcld=ELG.4</a>, accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>quot;All About Us," The Apple Place, https://www.theappleplace.net/our-story

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> "CPA: An Overview," <a href="https://www.communitypreservation.org/about">https://www.communitypreservation.org/about</a>

Commonwealth's workforce, and by supporting the tourism industry through preservation of the Commonwealth's historic and natural resources." <sup>23</sup> CPA funds can also be used to provide a match for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grants. <sup>24</sup> Developing an East Longmeadow-specific Community Preservation Plan will help to positively support the impact of this resource.

Cultural opportunities can start with local partners and build on previous and current local and regional initiatives. The East Longmeadow Library has a strong tradition of cultural programming and getting sponsorship from local and regional partners. The Library's mission is "to provide free and equal access to information, resources, and technology. Its purpose is to help educate and enrich our community in response to the intellectual, educational, and cultural needs and input of its patrons." The library building was expanded around 2003 and currently has two meeting rooms. There were more than 450 local meetings and non-profit events held there in 2016.

The Historical Commission is involved with overseeing the collection, public access, and maintenance of the Museum building. A "Friends for Historic Preservation Group" referenced in the 1970s and an East Longmeadow Historical Commission Associate Member program may be useful past initiatives to consider revisiting to engage more members of the community in supporting and helping with outreach for these resources. Perhaps students could be engaged with these groups as Junior Associate Members and earn hours for community service.

The East Longmeadow Cultural Council is also a valuable resource and supports a variety of local programming on a limited budget. Funding from this Council recently supported programs like the Independence Day Parade, Rotary Summer Concert Series, plays and music programs at the Senior Center, library programs, and New England ghost stories at the Norcross Center. Exploring the creation of a local cultural district designation with assistance from the Massachusetts Cultural Council would serve to enhance this resource and make broader connections among like-minded community and cultural groups.

East Longmeadow connections as well as other communities' cultural programming could provide inspiration as well. The East Longmeadow High School's Fine Arts Department could be a good resource to work with teachers and engage students in volunteer programs to support local cultural sites and potentially become involved in public art projects within the town. Recent creations by local artisans like the 2020 3D sidewalk chalk art by Amy Reyor (@artonroosevelt) at Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters on Shaker Road and the Community Paints and Seating Area project coordinated by the Town Planner could also serve as inspiration for the positive impact increased public art could have in East Longmeadow.<sup>26</sup> Town artistic alumni include William Wegman, David Brega, and Doug Brega. Perhaps these connections, as well as partnerships with East Longmeadow industries, could lead to inspiration and plans for future cultural programming or displays to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Heather Morrison, "Springfield Artist Creates 3D Sidewalk Chalk Drawings to Bring Joy to People Walking By During Coronavirus Pandemic," August 13, 2020. Masslive.com, <a href="https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2020/08/springfield-artist-creates-3d-sidewalk-chalk-drawings-to-bring-joy-to-people-walking-by-during-coronavirus-pandemic.html">https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2020/08/springfield-artist-creates-3d-sidewalk-chalk-drawings-to-bring-joy-to-people-walking-by-during-coronavirus-pandemic.html</a>, accessed 2021.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "Municipal Vulnerability Program," <a href="https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program">https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program</a>, accessed 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> "Library," eastlongmeadowm.gov, https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/528/Library

benefit all residents and add beauty to currently unappealing and underutilized locations. Partnerships with neighboring municipalities could help to jointly celebrate the aspects of shared history.

Other local examples of utilizing outdoor spaces for public entertainment venues could also serve to inspire.<sup>27</sup> Public areas can be enhanced by vibrant murals appearing on exterior building walls and street banners with historic images or saluting local Veterans are additional ideas seen in neighboring communities. Encouraging and facilitating partnerships among groups with similar missions, and cultivating strategic outreach campaigns to promote understanding and encourage participation in the preservation of East Longmeadow's historic and cultural resources could also help support a small volunteer base that is already over extended and encourage increased community engagement.

A 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan did not consider impacts to historic resources and collections or the potential for historic resources to have cross-over relevance to support disaster planning and recovery efforts. There have been more than 15 tornadoes in Hampden County since the 1950s. East Longmeadow has worked on previous initiatives related to emergency and resiliency planning such as the CERT training. Including valued historic and cultural resources and stakeholders in this process will help to support a more positive outcome in the event of an emergency. Stakeholders should prioritize resiliency planning and develop emergency response plans for significant built cultural resources and collections and develop existing conditions and long-term maintenance plans for significant public and private resources. If buildings become eligible through historic designation, apply for grant funding to support preservation and resiliency. Identify the roles cultural resources can play as Disaster Response Locations, as facilities like libraries and other public buildings can often be very effective in this role and work to provide these locations with the necessary resources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Lauren LeBel, "Easthampton's city hall parking lot transformed into entertainment venue," *thereminder.com*, October 13, 2020, <a href="https://www.thereminder.com/localnews/easthampton/easthamptons-city-hall-parking-lot-transformed-int/">https://www.thereminder.com/localnews/easthampton/easthamptons-city-hall-parking-lot-transformed-int/</a>

