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Statement of Criteria for Massachusetts Historical Commission Nomination

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Statement of Achievement: The Project
2007 Preservation Awards
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Nomination: Cory House - 212 Cornell Road, Westport, MA 02790

Category: Rehabilitation and Restoration

Portions of the following information were extracted from Mrs. Anne Baker's 2004 report of the property's nomination for The National Register of Historic Places. A copy of this document is enclosed in the Additional Information of this package.

The Cory Farm complex is located on 212 Cornell Road in Westport, Massachusetts. The buildings on the property, presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Bryant of New York and South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, include an oak timber-framed dwelling house; a two-story, five bay, double-pile, gable roofed center-chimney house; a cow barn; a carriage house; and various small outbuildings. Surrounded by stone walls, the buildings are situated on the west side of Cornell Road amid open meadows and cow pastures.¹ The land that the Cory Homestead which it presently stands on was originally purchased by William Cory in 1669 and left to his son Caleb. The main house was constructed in 1777 and the ell was later added in c.1840. The Cory family was one of the many first families of Westport Pointe, Massachusetts. One of the most well known was Captain Isaac Cory who ran a prominent coastal trading and fishing enterprise off of Main Road before and post Revolutionary War; the shop remained active until 1915. The property's existence is a reminder of the town's development and growth. In turn, it has been made a focal point in some of Westport's previous activities. For instance, on August 27th and 28th of 2005 the current owners Timothy and his wife Maryann Bryant gave permission to allow public tours of the structure. Operated through the Westport Historical Society, visitors were able to learn about the homestead's history and conservation. All the proceeds were later given to the

Westport Historical Society. Earlier that same month photographer David Allen had his book *Expressions of the Place* exhibited. It consisted of Allen's private collection of images from the Cory /Cornell Homestead and was up for public viewing on the Cory House property.² The land has also been marked as a point of interest in the Historical Society's Tour of Westport.

The house was at its biggest state of disrepair when it was purchased by Timothy and Maryann Bryant. Most of its original architectural components on both the interior and exterior had been stripped, and the evidence of what had existed was sparse little to no records as far as what. Thus, the property's revitalization had to be carried out by using methods that were

¹ Baker, Anne W., Site and Building Summary -Cory House Complex.

² "Opening of the Cory/Cornell Homestead at 212 Cornell Rd." Westport Massachusetts History. Ed. Bill Wyatt. 16 Aug. 2006. ><http://www.westporthistory.com/news/archives/000334.html><.

different yet not unheard of in the field of preservation Tim Bryant had found in the remains of a burning pile near the property, elements of the house. Uncovered were pieces of mantles, chair railings and doors to name a few. In examining the interior fire-box cut outs were found in the sheathing of where the original chimney had been laid. While removing the imitation brick asphalt siding they had uncovered ghost markings of the window frames and door frames. Pencil rubbings were made from the scars and around window frames to act as an aid in reconstructing a match. Such processes were carried through out much the Cory House restoration. Structural elements from other sources had to be researched, some components were recontructed by only using old photographs and at times, nail patterns were studied to tell what materials were used.

If it were not for these methods and the intuitive drive carried out by Tim Bryant and the team from Architectural Preservation Group, the house would not be in the state of grandure that it is today. The Cory House is a an asset in itself to the town of Westport but also as documented proof of various methods of restoration. It's example stands vital to the preservation community as well as to educate others of the importance of preservation with in our society.