



Notice of Public Hearing

Cranston Historic District Commission (HDC)

At a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, at 6:00PM, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 869 Park Ave, the HDC will review an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, as follows:

Property: 5 Turner Avenue, AP 18, Lot 451
Applicant: Pamela and John Lawson

Project Description: To remove the stack on top of the detached garage; to remove wooden siding and install new vinyl siding to the detached garage which is designated as a priority historic structure.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the City Clerk (461-1000, Ext. 3197) 72 hours in advance of the hearing.

Status of former Pratt windmill up for historic review

Owners applying to modified structure



This historic postcard gives a glimpse of what Pratt's workshop looked like. Located in the far background of the photo, the propellers of a windmill can be seen on the building's shingled stack.

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**

An unusual-looking garage on Turner Avenue in the Oaklawn Village section of the City, with what appears to have a stunted steeple, is being reviewed by the City's Historic District Commission (HDC) following the owners' application to modify the structure.

According to historical documents, the garage was originally the workshop of local craftsman Henry Pratt who built some of the finer homes in the area in the late 1800s. And the odd tower that juts from its roof is a 40-foot shingled "stack" that once included a windmill mechanism that Pratt had hoped would generate enough energy to power his tools.

The application on file with the City states that the current owners John and Pamela Lawson would like to remove the tower part of the building and would apply vinyl siding to the remaining part of the building.

The building is in Oaklawn's federally designated Historic District, which means that it is a protected preservation area. Proposals for new construction or exterior alterations are subject to review by the HDC in order to determine the impact on historical character and whether or not changes will make a structure inconsistent with the historic character of the

mately 35 buildings cluster, some of them built in Revival or Queen Anne homes listed as historically the late 19th-century by

The district includes the meeting house which is Oak Lawn Community are also modern house throughout the district.

As for Pratt's use of article published in the newspaper states that he windmill to power his equipment. It was sufficient water from his his garden.

The Oak Lawn District is designated historic district in there have been attempts tract in Pawtuxet Village, Cranston-Warwick line. City of Cranston's website, not have the protection because Cranston has never designating Pawtuxet as a area is listed on the National places and the Warwick side does have historic protections since that City declared it a local historic district in 1989.

"Oaklawn" is spelled two ways in this story. It is spelled as one word when describing the area and nearby Oaklawn Avenue. The Historic District uses two words 'Oak Lawn' for the area and its many local buildings. Both are correct when used appropriately.

tered near Wilbur Avenue the 18th century in Greek style. Some of the finer significant were built in Pratt.

site of an old Quaker now the location of the Baptist Church. There and buildings scattered

wind power, a June 2000 Providence Journal was never able to get the tools and woodworking client, however, to pump well so he could tend to

the only nationally designated Cranston. Apparently, to create a historic district which straddles the But, according to the Pawtuxet Village does ing a historic district be-passed a local ordinance city historic district. The al Register of Historic

Editor's note: Cranston Herald reporter Barbara Polichetti is a volunteer with the Cranston Historical Society.

