

Joint News Release: Orleans Historical Society, Captain Linnell House

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TRANSACTION TO CLOSE OCTOBER, 2020:

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND CAPTAIN LINNELL HOUSE OWNERS SIGN PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT

The Orleans Historical Society (OHS) and owners of the Captain Linnell House, William and Shelly Conway, have signed an agreement to sell the 1850 property on Skaket Beach Road to OHS in October, 2020. Until then, the Conways will maintain full operation of the restaurant and special event facility. Afterwards, OHS will continue the Conway's 30-year tradition of hosting weddings and special civic and private events at the popular venue.

"We are very pleased to have reached this agreement with OHS because we know they will be good caretakers of the Captain Linnell House and will preserve it for many years to come," Bill Conway said. "Ebenezer Harding Linnell, the clipper-ship captain who built this house for his wife, was a founder of the Orleans Universalist Church whose Meetinghouse OHS has owned and occupied for decades. It is truly fitting that these two landmarks be preserved together for the enjoyment of Orleans residents and visitors."

"It will be an incredible opportunity and honor to own the renowned Captain Linnell House on behalf of the community," said OHS Board Chair Kathleen McNeil. "It will triple the display space for Orleans history and cultural exhibits, and expand archive, research and event space for public use. The large special event space is unmatched in the area and can provide sustainable rental income to offset OHS operating costs. The challenge now is to raise funds to purchase the Linnell property while making necessary improvements to our current 1834 Meetinghouse and 1939 Hurd Chapel on River Road so that they are more functional and accessible."

The sale includes the French neo-classical Linnell home (listed on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places), the 2.28-acre grounds and gardens, all business-related items and equipment, the Captain Linnell House brand, and the furniture and fine art in the building. A purchase price was not disclosed.

More information will be announced as it becomes available.

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