

Design Review: (8/2/22)

Robert Morris Home

Mary Battenfeld, Boston University

The proposal to install a bronze plaque on the front façade of 78 West Newton Street came out of work on a grant that Mary Battenfeld, a Clinical Professor in American and New England Studies, and Perri Meldon, a BU graduate student, were awarded by the Boston University Initiative on Cities. The project, "[Shame oh Shame: Robert Morris, Public Space, and Commemorating Black Boston](#)" seeks to research and commemorate Morris (1823-1882), the 19th century Black lawyer and abolitionist best known for bringing the nation's first school desegregation case, *Roberts v. City of Boston* (1849). From at least 1870 on, Morris lived at 78 West Newton, with his wife Catherine and son Robert Jr., and passed away there in 1882. No site in Boston marks Morris and his presence and accomplishments in the city.

[Story Map: Robert Morris's Boston \(BC project\)](#)

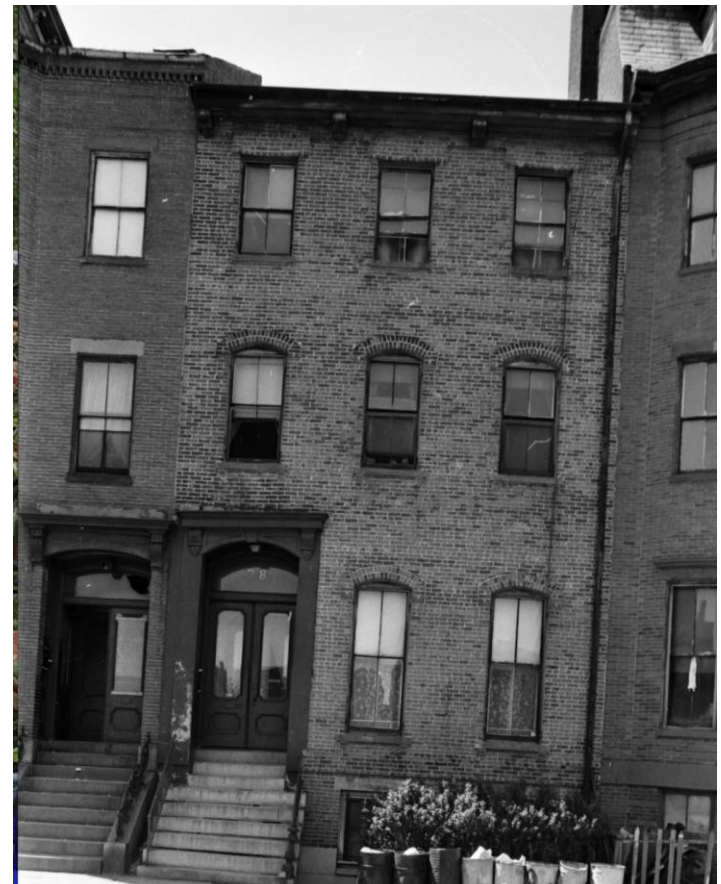


Photo from South End Historical Society (1972)

The Morris Family Home (78 West Newton Street)

Around 1870, the Morrises moved from Chelsea to Boston's South End. Their new home was a short walk from the Boston College-affiliated Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, where the Morrises attended services and established lasting ties with BC. Robert Morris Sr. died at home on December 12, 1882 with his wife and son present. Robert Jr. died two weeks after his father from typhoid fever. He was 35. Catharine lived in this home until her death in 1895. The three are buried in a family plot at Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline.



Property Owner: Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción

What is the West Newton and Rutland Streets Project?

In 2015, IBA was selected by Boston Housing Authority as the designated developer of the West Newton Rutland Project in the South End. These housing units are very close to IBA's existing Villa Victoria housing community. As part of the project, IBA is rehabilitating 146 units of affordable housing on which 11 are new units that were previously offline, enlarging IBA's affordable housing footprint in the South End and welcoming new residents to the IBA community.

We are excited to work with IBA, and plan for a community block party to celebrate the completion of the West Newton/Rutland project, along with the plaque installation. Project delays make the timing uncertain, but IBA hopes for early spring 2023.



Possible Model: Allan Rohan Crite house, 410 Columbus Ave.



**Another option? Susie Baker King Taylor house,
23 Holyoke St.**



**Or if a plaque on the house isn't feasible?
Harriet Tubman House,
25 Holyoke St.**

Proposal



Kendall Clayton
Bluebird Graphic Solutions
17 Everberg Rd., Suite E
Woburn, MA, 01801
617-250-8500, x-None

Proposal #2000980-1

Date: 01-24-2022 10:12 AM	Recipient: Mary Battenfeld
Project: Robert Morris Plaque	Account: Boston University
Location: 78 West Newton Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02118	Billing Address: None
	Email: mbatten@bu.edu
	Phone: None

Item	Description	Qty	Unit	Install	Ext. Qty	Ext. Install	Tax	Total
1	Robert Morris Plaque +/- 18" x 24" bronze plaque; layout TBD; will include engraving of name, dates, descriptive words, and a quote of 35-50 words	1	\$2,500.00	\$450.00	\$2,500.00	\$450.00	\$156.25	\$3,106.25
Subtotal					\$2,500.00	\$450.00	\$156.25	\$3,106.25
Grand Total								\$3,106.25

General Conditions

- Lead times and/or final material section may vary due to availability. Changes in material and delivery dates shall be communicated in as timely a way as possible.
- Project priced as Union installation at normal business hours
- All concrete foundations by others (not in BGS scope)
- All electrical or lighting by others (not in BGS scope)
- All drawings are reviewed by a licensed engineer and stamped
- Does not include payment system fee. If used to be billed as additional
- If site condition readiness causes delays to installation additional fees may apply
- Bond not included. If required to be priced as additional
- Project priced as a single phase for delivery with storage on site and installation broken out into chunks (full day pay for union install if less than full days worth of work)
- Color samples as priced to include all vinyl and paint colors on 6" square tiles. If physical product samples are requested to be priced as additional
- Pricing does not include permitting - if required to be priced as additional
- Pricing subject to change based upon quantity change or drawing revision

Proposal from BlueBird Graphics

It was a priority to have the plaque designed by a fabricator of color. We identified and have been in conversation with Anthony Clayton of [Bluebird Graphic Solutions](#). He recommends bronze, but prices are rising.