

**PRESS RELEASE - RFP ISSUED FOR KEMPER-GUNN HOUSE**

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**Town Issues RFP for Preservation and Adaptive Re-Use  
of 1885-Built House on Church Lane**

The Town of Westport Monday issued a request for proposals from real estate developers to redevelop the Queen Anne-style Kemper/Gunn house which has stood since 1885 on Church Lane adjacent to the Westport Weston Family Y.

The site at 35 Church Lane will be redeveloped as part of the Bedford Square Associates mixed-use project planned for the Family Y property. Bedford Square, which cannot incorporate the house into its project, has offered to pay to move it to the nearby town-owned Baldwin Parking Lot.

The developer has also agreed to contribute the construction of a new foundation for the house on the new site.

The RFP, which is available on the town website, was developed with a group of preservation advocates and with the support of the Westport Historic District Commission.

The concept as outlined in the RFP would include placing the house on a new foundation that would include parking beneath the house. The town would retain ownership of the land and enter into a ground lease with a new developer, who would take ownership of the structure at no cost.

That developer would be responsible for renovating and adapting the house to new uses that could include commercial use, under the terms of an agreement to be collaboratively drafted with the town.

The preservation and adaptive re-use of a significant historic resource would provide long term benefits to the town.