

NEWBURYPORT
PRESERVATION TRUST

P. O. Box 184, Newburyport, MA 01950
www.nbptpreservationtrust.org

Linking the past with the present and future



Quarterly Newsletter of the Newburyport Preservation Trust

Spring 2015



High Street (from the west)



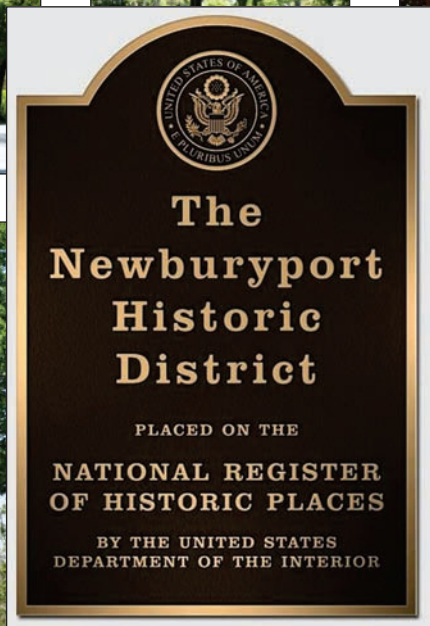
State Street



High Street (from the east)



Water Street



Merrimac Street



Recognition of National Register Historic District is highlight of Preservation Week

Established in 1984, city's historic district finally has signs indicating the national significance of its architecture

The work of this year's Preservation Week is done, and this year's theme that served us well, "Signs of the Times," is retired. But the presence of physical signs will fuel awareness of the city's architectural preservation for years to come.

A highlight of Preservation Week 2015 was the ceremonial unveiling and installation on May 12 of five signs that mark the city's National Register Historic District. The district – the largest in Massachusetts, encompassing over 2500 contributing structures from Joppa in the

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Preservation Awards go to homeowners, planners, historians, craftsmen, & developers

Preservation awards in a several categories were presented to 10 recipients Sunday afternoon, May 17, 2015 at the concluding event of the Newburyport Preservation Trust's annual Preservation Week. The standing-room-only award ceremony and reception was held at the Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport.

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Preservation Award recipients for 2015 are (l. to r.) Keith Dodge, Linda Tulley, Linda Smiley, Mark Wojcicki, Patricia Henault, Paul Henault, Brad Kutcher, Dorothy Fairweather, Howard Fairweather, and William Hickey.

Preservation Week 2015

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South End to Atkinson Common in the North End – was established in 1984 by the U.S. Department of the Interior to recognize the national significance of the city’s architecture, grand and modest, from the late 17th century to the early 20th century.

That the *local* celebratory fanfare and installation came over 30 years after the *national* recognition was downplayed, as preservation advocates and allies among local and state officials looked toward the future with the hope that the signs will encourage preservation awareness.

The initiative for the signs began with Newburyport Preservation Trust member Jerry Mullins, and proceeded with the support of NPT, financing by members Howard and Dorothy Fairweather, and Community Preservation Act funds.

Since 2007, Preservation Week has celebrated Newburyport’s range of period architecture through tours, programs, and education sessions. This year included a presentation by Window Woman of New Hampshire, an exhibit on the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) of Newburyport’s restored Powder House, and historical and architectural tours at multiple sites. Mark your calendar now for mid-May 2016. ■

House tours spotlight NPT’s new Historic House Plaque Program

At right are the first three homes researched by the NPT Historic House Plaque Program. During Preservation Week, guides presented exterior tours based on the research. For more details about the program, visit www.NbptPreservationTrust.org.



Clockwise from top left: 37 Temple Street, 93 High Street, and 77 Prospect Street.



NPT presents 10 Preservation awards

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This year awards were presented to recipients in the following categories:

- Historically Sensitive Planner/Consultant - Nicholas Cracknell, Amesbury, Mass.
- Stewardship - William Hickey (1 Parsons St.)
- Stewardship - Howard & Dorothy Fairweather (4 Parsons Street)

- Historic Landscape Restoration - Belleville Improvement Society (Atkinson Common)
- Preservation Research - Linda Tulley
- Preservation Leadership - Linda Smiley
- Historically Sensitive Contractor/Builder - Brad Kutcher (386 High Street)
- Historically Sensitive Contractor/Builder - Mark Wojcicki (386 High Street)
- Exterior Restoration - Paul & Patricia Henault (owners) (7 Marlboro Street)
- Exterior Restoration - Dodge & Dodge General Contractors (contractors) (7 Marlboro Street) ■



Above is a city-approved “one-structure”(!) multi-unit development on Lime Street that has prompted proposed zoning amendments.

‘Addition’ points out zoning loopholes

An incongruous addition has prompted efforts by the Newburyport City Council to close loopholes in the city zoning ordinance.

The renovation and new development at 77 Lime Street has brought into question what constitutes “a building.” The photo at left shows what appears to be two separate buildings in two styles on one lot. They are joined only by what is indicated in plans as

a narrow “storage connector.” Yet our city zoning board interpreted the entire mass to be “one structure” and permitted the plan.

On May 11, Ward 2 Councillor Jared Eigerman introduced a zoning amendment to clarify that, as regards multi-family structures, “a building” should mean no fewer than two rooms of habitable space share a common wall, floor, or ceiling, with no fewer than two rooms in the other dwelling unit in the same building.

The amendment is now in the council’s Planning & Development subcommittee. ■

It’s game time!

(...with apologies to *Where’s Waldo*.)

Can you find the missing original c. 1800 chimneys in the “new-and-improved” alteration at far right?

Can you find the same chimneys that the developers, when presenting their plans before the Newburyport Historical Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals – promised to save?

ORIGINAL c. 1800 BRICK CHIMNEYS



Hint: At the far right of the photo, you’ll see – drum-roll here – a dumpster.

Bonus points: Can you find the Stop Work Order? Can you find *any* Stop Work Order?

