

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

Summer 2017

Presentation of Preservation Awards in eight categories wraps up an action-packed Preservation Week 2017

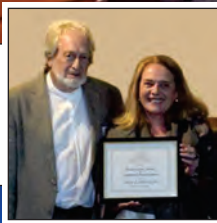
Preservation Week, the annual spring celebration of the city's historical and architectural preservation, concluded on Sunday, May 21, 2017 with the presentation of the 11th annual Preservation Awards. A standing-room-only crowd jammed the Custom House Maritime Museum to applaud award winners in eight categories.

This year's Preservation Award recipients: Kathleen Schoonmaker & Sandra Pilt (interior restoration); Craig & Karen Holt (historically sensitive addition); James & Clorinda Schiavone (adaptive reuse); Luka Celebic (preservation craftsman); Robin Pagliarulo for (preservation sensitive Realtor – new category); The Newburyport Art Association (historically sensitive community garden – new category); Jesse "Skip" Motes & Marge Motes (historical research); and Charles & Gillian Griffin (landmark preservation of Newburyport's 1825 "Old Gaol").

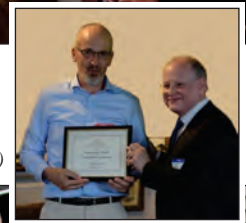
Just two days before, after considerable planning, the Griffins generously opened the granite jail (pictured at right) and its grounds as a fund-raising event for the Newburyport Preservation Trust. (See the Preservation Week recap on the next page.)

Each year since 2007, the Newburyport Preservation Trust (NPT) has celebrated preservation efforts throughout the city by recognizing individuals and organizations for their contributions to preservation. The goal is to support, promote, and showcase preservation and raise awareness of the unique historic character of our community.

In early spring, NPT solicits award nominations in several categories from its members. Then documentation on each nomination is compiled for study and evaluation. After multiple sessions of brainstorming cogitation and discussion, the NPT board of directors determines the award recipients by majority vote. So keep an eye out for preservation successes that you can nominate in spring 2018. ■



Above, NPT presenter Bronson de Stadler gets set to announce award winners in eight categories at the Custom House Maritime Museum on May 21, 2017, including (at left) Charles & Gillian Griffin, and (at right) Luka Celebic. (Photos by Novak Niketic)



Newburyport Preservation Trust assails the slant of the city's draft Master Plan . . . and revisions follow

NPT vigilance leads to rewrites before Planning Board approval

At the joint meeting on July 19 of the Newburyport Planning Board and the Newburyport City Council's Planning & Development Committee, both bodies voted to accept – with significant revisions – the draft of the city's new Master Plan. The revisions to zoning, infill, and land use verbiage were based on suggestions from the Newburyport Preservation Trust and amendments written by Ward 2 City Councilor Jared Eigerman.

The revised Master Plan, a non-binding guide to the city's long-term goals, will next be submitted to the full City Council for approval. The revisions are not yet posted on the city's website, and discussion of the plan is not yet on the City Council agenda.

The original draft plan was released in December 2016. The plan included ample pro-preservation language, but left open loopholes big enough for a bulldozer. City-wide citizen comment and NPT advocacy helped shape an improved finished product. The latest version: www.cityofnewburyport.com/master-plan-steering-committee. ■

Preservation Week 2017

Newburyporters happily go to jail for preservation

This year's Preservation Week theme, "Newburyport in the Historic American Buildings Survey," looked back at the federal program that advanced architectural preservation in the 1930s. In Newburyport, one property surveyed in 1934 was the "Old Gaol" on Auburn Street, and on May 19, 2017 the well-preserved granite structure was in the spotlight as the venue for a sold-out fund-raising event for the Newburyport Preservation Trust. Newburyporters were happy to spend "An Evening in Gaol,"



Above left, "An Evening in Gaol" inmates go free in the jail yard at the NPT fund-raiser. Above right, it was an equally fine evening earlier in the week for Open House at the Perkins Mint. (Photos by Novak Niketic)

thanks to the welcoming generosity of property owners Chuck & Gillian Griffin.

Other highlights of the week were the debut of a new book on the documentation of Newburyport architecture; two exhibitions related to the Historic American Buildings

Survey, one at the Custom House Maritime Museum and one at the Museum of Old Newbury; Open House at the Perkins Mint; Sash Revival Day with Window Woman of New England; and the presentation of the annual Preservation Awards (See page 1). ■

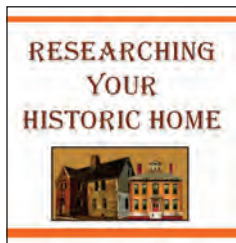
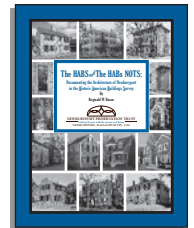
'If This House Could Talk' expands to North End for Yankee Homecoming 2017

"If This House Could Talk," the NPT-sponsored Yankee Homecoming stroll-and-read event launched in the South End last year, expanded to include North End

participants in 2017. In preparation, on June 24, house history researcher Linda Tulley and Newburyport Public Library archivist Sharon Spieldenner shared tips on research methods and resources in a well-attended program at the library. Linda Tulley's presentation is downloadable from the "news" section of the NPT website at www.NbptPreservationTrust.org. ■

A strong debut for new 'must-have' book on Newburyport architecture

Just in case you missed it, the newest "must-have" book on Newburyport architecture debuted in conjunction with Preservation Week 2017. *The HABS and the HABS NOTs: Documenting the Architecture of Newburyport in the Historic American Buildings Survey* is available via the NPT website and at local bookstores. Preview selected pages and read excerpts at www.VarietyArtsPress.com. ■



(Photo by Novak Niketic)



Oops! House history is more than deed records

NPT's Historic House Plaque program is known and valued for its thorough deed research and insistence on fact over folklore. This dedication to accuracy led NPT to revisit its own research for one program participant, which resulted in a new sign two years after the first one was installed.

In spring 2015, shortly after initial deed research was completed for the transitional Victorian house at 93 High Street, the sign was installed attributing the house to "William Moulton - 1859." When an NPT board member skimmed over the deed research in preparation for presenting a Preservation Week tour, he also checked the 1851 map of Newburyport, and knew

immediately that more research was needed outside the walls of the Registry of Deeds.

In time, house history researcher Linda Tulley and Newburyport Public Library archivist Sharon Spieldenner were engaged to get to the bottom of things. And they did, in the property tax records stored in the basement of Newburyport City Hall.

The real story, now reflected in the sign that reads "Lucy Moseley Muzzey - 1861": In 1861, Rev. Artemas B. Muzzey (1802-1892) was taxed for a "new house ... unfinished on High." One year before, Lucy Jones Moseley (1817-1891) "singlewoman," bought land and an existing building from William Moulton. Six days later, she married Rev. Muzzey, pastor of the First Religious Society. So Mr. Moulton, our well-known silversmith, steps aside for a house story about an independent woman and a new couple's vision of a home. ■



Above, property owner Stephanie Niketic, left, holds the old sign - and admires the new one based on discoveries by (l. to r.) Reg Bacon, Linda Tulley, and Sharon Spieldenner. At right, Sharon and Linda explore the City Hall basement archives. (Photos by Novak Niketic)