

NEWBURYPORT  
PRESERVATION TRUST

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

Linking the past with the present and future



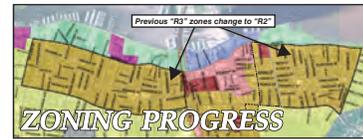
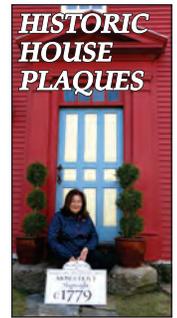
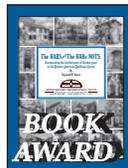
Quarterly Newsletter of the Newburyport Preservation Trust

Winter 2018

# Preservation awareness advances in 2017; education & advocacy efforts continue in 2018

The year just completed was a busy one for the Newburyport Preservation Trust (NPT). In 2017, the ongoing education and advocacy efforts by the all-volunteer organization helped elevate preservation awareness among city residents and leadership. In turn, this led to significant improvements to city zoning laws and zoning enforcement that better protect historic neighborhoods. In 2018, education, advocacy ... and vigilance ... continue. Here is a recap of 2017 highlights:

- **Newburyport Master Plan.** NPT consulted with the city to smooth the rough edges of the new Master Plan to be more preservation-friendly.
- **New zoning enforcement officer.** For years NPT advocated for a city zoning enforcement officer to work independent of the building department. Hired part-time in June 2017, the new zoning enforcement officer began full-time in January 2018.
- **The "1690 House"** (former Towle shop). All year NPT has contested the developer's failure to meet its preservation agreements.
- **Preservation Week 2017, "Newburyport in the Historic American Buildings Survey."** The feature event was "An Evening in Gaol," at the privately-owned 1825 granite jail.
- **The HABS and the HABS NOTS:** *Documenting the Architecture of Newburyport in the Historic American Buildings Survey.* This book received the 2017 IPNE Book Award for Informational Nonfiction.
- **Preservation-friendly rezoning.** In October, the Newburyport City Council passed two zoning amendments to redistrict much of the North End and South End from R-3 ("multi-family") to R-2 ("two-family"). In November, the city council passed the High Street Residential Districts Ordinance.
- **Bartlet Mall Day.** NPT's historical interpretations were a part of this October 2017 event celebrating the venerable green space at the center of Newburyport. ■



## Don't miss this NPT program Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.: '1970s Revisited: Would You Buy This House?'

The Newburyport Preservation Trust (NPT) presents an instructive look back in time with "1970s Revisited: Would You Buy This House?" on Feb. 15 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Custom House Maritime Museum, 25 Water St., Newburyport. The presentation is free and open to the public. Seating for the free public program is limited. Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

The latest in the Trust's series of informative preservation sessions, this program takes an in-depth "warts and all" look at a homeowner's 1970s effort to make a livable home in a run-down c. 1750 Newburyport house – without ruining its character or charm. That intrepid 1970s homeowner is the session's presenter, local architect and current NPT co-president, Linda Miller.

The presentation recounts a process replete with good and bad design decisions, ignorance of correct restoration techniques, a huge learning curve, with many lessons learned and many new skills acquired, and some neighbors who thought she was out of her mind. Photos documenting the project afford a peek at the styles of the 1970s, some that are now

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"1970s Revisited: Would You Buy This House?" NPT co-president Linda Miller shares her experiences on Thursday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m., in a free program at the Custom House Maritime Museum.



## NPT Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 18, 4 p.m. at 'Ocean Mills Bldg. 2'

The NPT Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 18, 4 p.m., at the Courtyard (Ocean Mills "Mill No. 2" building) is the perfect excuse to come out of hibernation. Park at the Cushing Park lot (at Kent & Washington Sts.), then look for the NPT sign and greeter at the Kent St. driveway to the "courtyard" of the former mill complex.

A brief business meeting and report on 2017 activities will be complemented by food, conviviality, and refreshments.

Attendees can also join a brief guided tour of the 1880 mill building, which was developed into condominiums in 1996. ■

# 'Newburyport Parks: Past, Present, & Future' is the theme for Preservation Week, May 16-20, 2018

Mark your calendar now for presentations, tours, events, and the annual NPT Preservation Awards

"Newburyport Parks: Past, Present, & Future" is the theme for Preservation Week 2018, just three months away on May 16-20. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss any of the programs, presentations, tours, and special events throughout the city's parks, old and new.

Events are in the planning stages right now. In fact, if you are an NPT member and a friend or volunteer at a city park, we welcome your ideas. The firm schedule of park events will be posted on the Newburyport Preservation Trust website, [www.nbptpreservationtrust.org](http://www.nbptpreservationtrust.org), as soon as it becomes available. The annual NPT Preservation Awards ceremony will be on Sunday, May 20, once again at the Custom House Maritime Museum on Water Street in Newburyport.

For more than a decade, NPT's annual Preservation Week has been the signature event for the all-volunteer membership

At right is an early 20th-century postcard view of Atkinson Common, looking towards High Street.

Below is an early 20th-century postcard view of the Bartlet Mall Frog Pond and the Charles Bulfinch-designed courthouse.

At lower right is an early 20th-century postcard view looking northwest through the allee of trees past the courthouse.



organization. Every spring, the Newburyport Preservation Trust adopts a different preservation-relevant theme, and presents a varied program of illustrated

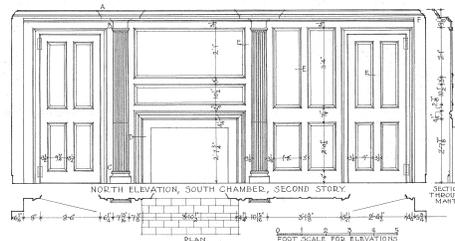
lectures, architectural tours, social events, and a closing reception in conjunction with the annual Preservation Awards.

Mark your calendar now for May 16-20! ■

## Documenting Historic Structures: How the Pros Did It in the Historic American Buildings Survey

On Thursday, March 15, 2018, 6 p.m. at the Custom House Maritime Museum, NPT presents another in its series of preservation education programs, "Documenting Historic Structures: How the Pros Did It in the

Historic American Buildings Survey," by R.W. Bacon, author of *The HABS and the HABS NOTS: Documenting the Architecture of Newburyport in the Historic American Buildings Survey*. The program is free, but limited seating is available. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. ■



## '1970s Revisited: Would You Buy This House?'

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desirably "retro," and some that are now quite humorous.

Program presenter Linda Miller graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (B.A., architecture) in 1971 and from the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology in 1975 (M.A., architecture). She moved to Newburyport in 1975, appreciating the city's historic architecture, and worked for many years in the architectural field before forming her own firm specializing in the restoration and remodeling of older buildings. She founded the Newburyport Preservation Trust in 2004 to raise awareness of the unique yet perishable heritage of the community's residential and commercial structures. ■

## Would you like to do more for preservation?

Because you are a member of the Newburyport Preservation Trust, we know you care about your home, your neighborhood, and your city. Would you like to do more in support of our city's singular sense of place? If so, let us know, as we always seek to broaden our network of board members and volunteers. You don't have to make a career out of it, and we won't put you in chains. That's a promise. Email us at [npt@nbptpreservationtrust.org](mailto:npt@nbptpreservationtrust.org).

The Newburyport Preservation Trust (NPT) is a non-profit membership organization that brings together people who value the preservation of Newburyport's period architecture, neighborhood ambiance, heritage landscapes, and authentic historic character. NPT educates, informs, and advocates through its programs, projects, publications, and presence. ■