

NEWBURYPORT  
PRESERVATION TRUST

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

Linking the past with the present and future



## Historic\* House Buyer's Guide



Old House Identification  
Evidence of Quality & History  
What to Look For and Care For  
... and Why

\* Historic, antique, vintage, period, or "old" homes endowed with imbedded natural resources, craftsmanship, and presence!

[www.NbptPreservationTrust.org](http://www.NbptPreservationTrust.org)

## Historic\* House Buyer's Guide informs new homeowner-stewards

*Brochure aims to counter the urge to 'gut-and-replace'*

NPT's new **Historic House Buyer's Guide** is an information-packed brochure prepared especially for those exploring the purchase of an older home in Newburyport.

The **concisely presented content** includes (1) a guide to period styles; (2) how to recognize evidence of quality craftsmanship; (3) what details to look for ... and care for ... and why; (4) how preservation adds value to a home in Newburyport; and (5) NPT preservation resources and consultations.

**Conceived** by NPT member/volunteer Jack Santos and crafted to final form with NPT board input and assistance, the hope is

that this introductory brochure will help prospective owners of an older home in Newburyport understand the value of preservation and responsible stewardship.

**While the brochure** will be useful for real estate professionals and their clients, and will reach prospective homebuyers at an assortment of public locations, a handy PDF file with the same brochure content deployed on three standard-size pages – printable, downloadable, and suitable for email sharing – is available at the Historic House Buyer's Guide page at the NPT website, [www.NbptPreservationTrust.org](http://www.NbptPreservationTrust.org). ■

\* "Historic" = Antique, vintage, period, or just plain "old" homes endowed with imbedded natural resources, craftsmanship, and presence!

## Advocacy update: Long-simmering cases still demand NPT's pro-preservation stance

In the slog of preservation advocacy at public hearings before city boards, "battle fatigue" is real. For those that seek to get around the city's preservation zoning laws, stoking battle fatigue is often part of the plan, as they benefit when opposition grows weary.

It is **easy to understand** why public participation wanes in cases that drag on for months, and that some folks, rather than sit through a Zoom meeting listening to bullying lawyers and exasperated board members, would actually prefer to settle in with a pile of laundry, or book an after-hours root canal.

So far, NPT advocates remain engaged at important hearings. Here is a brief update on three cases of preservation interest:

- **Institution for Savings.** In March 2021 the city Planning Board ruled against the bank's Prospect Street expansion. The bank appealed the decision to the state Land Court, challenging the validity of the city's Downtown Overlay District pro-preservation

zoning law. On November 8 the City Council voted 6-4 to reject an out-of-court settlement.

- **The Fowle's Building.** In March 2021, Brine's restaurant, a tenant at the former Fowle's building on State Street, was denied a permit to change the windows, and appealed the decision to the city Zoning Board (ZBA), also challenging the validity of the DOD. Several public hearings later, new plans with different windows have been filed. On October 12 the appeal was continued for the fifth time to the Dec. 14 meeting of the ZBA.

- **2 Neptune Street.** In April 2021, the owner sought a special permit from the ZBA to build a too-large shed dormer on one of the city's few remaining 17th-century homes. After several public hearings and plan revisions, the case was continued for the eighth time to the Dec. 14 ZBA meeting.

**It's fair to say** that this summary report is "to be continued." ■

*"Preserving a historic home here not only respects its history, but also secures the future through its steady appreciation in value."*

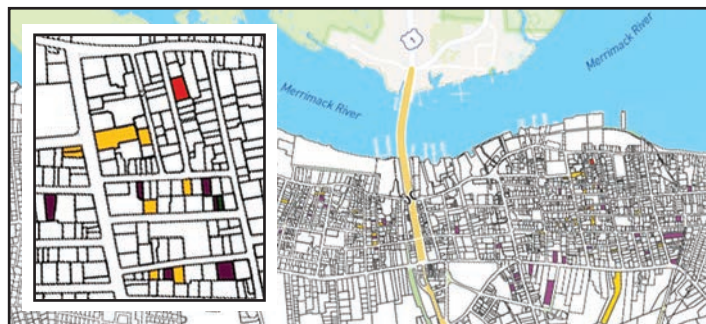
– NPT's new  
Historic House  
Buyer's Guide

## Historic House Plaque Program: A steady flow of new participants ... and a new interactive map

NPT's Historic House Plaque Program continues to gain momentum throughout the city's older neighborhoods. The number of house histories and mounted plaques is approaching 100, with more applications for NPT house research in the pipeline.

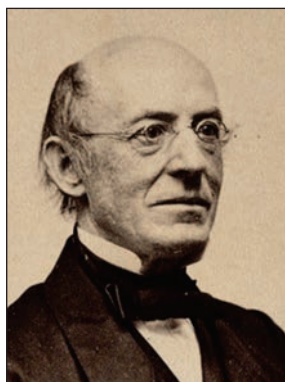
Thanks to new NPT board member Brendan Banovic, visitors to the NPT website can now scroll, scale, sort, and read plaque text while exploring a custom-crafted interactive map of properties in the plaque program. The link to the map is found on the Historic House Plaque Program page at [www.NbptPreservationTrust.org](http://www.NbptPreservationTrust.org).

If you are an owner of a historic house in Newburyport and are interested in a plaque for your home, details and an application form are downloadable and printable at [www.NbptPreservationTrust.org](http://www.NbptPreservationTrust.org). ■



## Annual William Lloyd Garrison Lecture

### 'The Gospel According to Garrison: Anti-Racism and the American Truth' in-person & live-streaming Dec. 10



**William Lloyd Garrison**  
(1805-1879) – Newburyport native,  
journalist, abolitionist, and editor/  
publisher of *The Liberator* from  
1831 to 1865.

The Newburyport Preservation Trust once again sponsors the annual William Lloyd Garrison Lecture – live in-person this year – at 7 p.m. December 10, 2021 at Old South Church, 29 Federal Street in Newburyport. The lecture will also be simulcast live on Youtube via <http://lecture.porthistory.com>.

Beginning last year with a lecture by Harriet Tubman scholar Kate Clifford Larson sponsored by NPT's Next Generation Preservationists, this year's lecture celebrates Garrison's legacy with "The Gospel According to William Lloyd Garrison: Anti-Racism and the

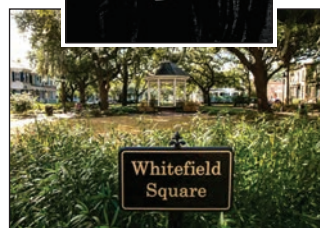
American Truth," presented by Edward Carson, Dean of Multicultural Education at The Governor's Academy in Newbury, Mass. Carson will discuss Garrison's relevance in the 21st-century.

This year's lecture is made possible through the support of the Newburyport Preservation Trust, The Newburyport *Daily News*, Old South Presbyterian Church, and a grant from the Massachusetts Humanities Bridge Street fund. Presenting partners include The Museum of Old Newbury and Amesbury's Imagine Studios. ■



**Edward Carson**, Dean of Multicultural Education at The Governor's Academy in Newbury, Mass., presents the 2021 William Lloyd Garrison Lecture on Dec. 10.

## Massachusetts Preservation Conference addresses multiple topics ... including a historic character of local note



The 2021 Massachusetts Preservation Conference was held September 23-24, with two keynote speakers and 15 informative sessions presented in real-time online, ranging from theoretical to practical and from policy to project management.

Rousing to your editor was that Rev. George Whitefield (1714-1770), the famed preacher with ties to Newburyport, appeared front-and-center in the opening keynote presentation by landscape architect, Harvard professor, and Frederick Law Olmsted scholar Sara Zewde, entitled "Ecologies of Memory." Her opening topic was about one of the attractive city squares in Savannah, Georgia, named after the ardently pro-slavery minister. It turns out that Whitefield Square was built on a longtime burial site for African-American slaves. In this and other case studies, Zewde urged attendees to look deeper than the built environment in their preservation efforts – at neglected sites of indigenous, Black, or other marginalized communities with a "forgotten" or intentionally recast history. ■

## Words not necessary

A fall scene  
on Winter Street.

