



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 2022

# Preservation Week is back – in person

## The Mills of Newburyport

*The Dream That Ran Out of Steam*

From 19th-Century Speculation ... to 21st-Century Preservation

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY  
May 20-21-22, 2022

A story of  
Technology & Innovation  
Entrepreneurial Spirit  
Immigrant Opportunity  
Mill Neighborhoods  
Economic Change  
Reclamation & Adaptation



One indoor event for essential context.  
All other events outdoors.

For complete schedule, visit [www.NbptPreservationTrust.org](http://www.NbptPreservationTrust.org)

## City Council votes to send bank expansion plan back to the Planning Board for reconsideration

On April 11 the Newburyport City Council voted 7-4 to remand the settlement agreement between the city and the Institution for Savings back to the Planning Board for new public hearings on the bank's expansion plans on Prospect Street.

In November 2021, the previously-seated City Council voted to reject the settlement to resolve the bank's Land Court challenge of a prior Planning Board decision. In March 2021 the Planning Board denied the bank's elephantine expansion plans in the historic residential neighborhood.

The bank's Land Court challenge of the Planning Board ruling includes a challenge

of the validity of the city's pro-preservation zoning laws unanimously enacted in 2014.

At this writing, the new Planning Board hearings – on the same oversized plan as previously denied – are not yet scheduled. ■



*This year's focus:  
Our industrial history  
and the adaptation of  
old mills for new uses*

Preservation Week, NPT's annual public celebration of the city's architectural history and preservation, is back this year in-person after a two-year pandemic time-out.

Preservation Week 2022 is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 20-22, and includes the return of a Friday in-person reception and keynote illustrated lecture at the Custom House Maritime Museum, two guided walking tours, and background context for two self-guided tours.

This year's theme, "The Mills of Newburyport: The Dream That Ran Out of Steam," turns the spotlight on the city's industrial history, from the mid-19th-century hopes of textile mill profits, through a century of economic and technological change, to the more recent adaptation of the city's old mill buildings for new uses.

The complete Preservation Week schedule is downloadable and printable at the NPT website. [Click here to go direct to the 2022 Preservation Week schedule.](#)

Central to this year's Preservation Week is the illustrated lecture on Friday evening, May 20, that "connects the dots" of the city's industrial history and provides the context for Saturday's guided walking tours and self-guided explorations. **Advance online registration is required.** The Friday event, comprised of the reception (7 p.m.) and illustrated lecture (7:30 p.m.), is free to the public, but advance online registration is required so as not to exceed seating capacity. **Secure your free seats – quickly, easily, and pain-free via Eventbrite, click here: [millsofnewburyport.eventbrite.com](http://millsofnewburyport.eventbrite.com).**

The keynote presenter is historian and museum professional R.W. Bacon, who in his early career as a journalist covered the

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James Steam Mill in 1890

## Preservation Week shines the spotlight on the city's old-but-robust mill buildings

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1960s decline of inner-city industry in Rust Belt cities. More recently he is the author of *The HABS and the HABS Notes: Documenting the Architecture of Newburyport in the Historic American Buildings Survey*; and the book on research methodology used at more than 50 colleges worldwide, *The Micro-Historian's Guide to Research, Evidence, & Conclusions*.

**Two guided outdoor walking tours** (with a brief peek of interiors possible!) are scheduled for Saturday, May 21. At 11 a.m. is the tour of the former Ocean Mills (1846) at Kent and Monroe Sts., presented by NPT board members Rita Mihalek and Bronson de Stadler. At 2 p.m. is a tour of the former Globe Steam Mill (1845) site on Federal Street, now the site of the Tannery

Marketplace. This tour is presented by NPT founder and co-president Linda Miller.

**Two additional self-guided tours** are informed by background from the Friday evening presentation. Preservation Week explorers can refer to informative handouts with maps to navigate a public sidewalk tour of the Towle Building (Merrimac Arms, 1866) on Merrimac Street, and the James Steam Mill (1843) on Charles Street.

**To 'blow off steam'** at the closing of Preservation Week, NPT is opening the restored 1822 Powder House for guided tours with co-president Tom Kolterjahn on Sunday, May 22, 1-to-3 p.m. The Powder House is at Godfrey's Hill, 57 Low Street.

**Hope to see you at Preservation Week!** ■

## Architectural tour of Temple Ahavas Achim at 125th Anniversary Open House May 15

**Temple Ahavas Achim**, which celebrates its 125th anniversary as a congregation this year, will offer a guided architectural tour of its historic home on Washington Street, which was originally built as a Methodist Episcopal meeting house in 1865. The guided tour is part of the 125th Anniversary Open House on Sunday, May 15, 4-6 p.m., at 53½ Washington Street, Newburyport.

**The Open House event** includes a slideshow of photos, a timeline of Newburyport's Jewish community dating back to 1896, and a display of memorabilia. Admission is free to the public. ■



Above is a 1906 view of the Methodist Episcopal Meeting House built in 1865 in the Italianate Victorian style. At right is a contemporary view of Temple Ahavas Achim, which was purchased by the congregation in 1933.



## Passion? Vision? Energy? The NPT board needs YOU!

The Newburyport Preservation Trust has openings for new board members. The Trust is a non-profit organization that brings together people from Newburyport and beyond who value the preservation of the city's period architecture, neighborhood ambiance, heritage landscapes, and authentic historic character.

**We are seeking** new board members who are passionate about preservation of the architecture, neighborhoods, and ambiance of our beloved city. Board members meet monthly to review advocacy goals, program initiatives, membership and budget management, and plans for the future.

**If you are interested** in applying to be a part of this important mission, please contact co-presidents Linda Miller at [lmiller20@comcast.net](mailto:lmiller20@comcast.net) or Tom Kolterjahn at [tkolterjahn@gmail.com](mailto:tkolterjahn@gmail.com). ■

## NPT board receives Asset Builder Award

**Ten present and former board members** of the Newburyport Preservation Trust were among the recipients of the 2022 Asset Builder Awards from the city's Department of Youth Services (NYS). The presentation was on March 23 at the city's Senior Center.

The NPT board was nominated for the award by a former intern with NPT's Next Generation Preservationists program, Maximin Clement, now a student at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill.

**The Asset Builder Awards** – with recipients nominated by community members, then chosen by NYS staff – seek to acknowledge those who support young people through their work or character. ■



Pictured at the 2022 Asset Builders award ceremony are (l. to r.) Andrea Egmont of Newburyport Youth Services, Patricia Peknik, nominator/presenter Maximin Clement, Brendan Banovic, Linda Miller, Stephanie Niketic, Tom Kolterjahn, Bronson de Stadler, and Rita Mihalek. (Not present: Reg Bacon, Patrick McCormack, and Tom Bailey.)