

**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

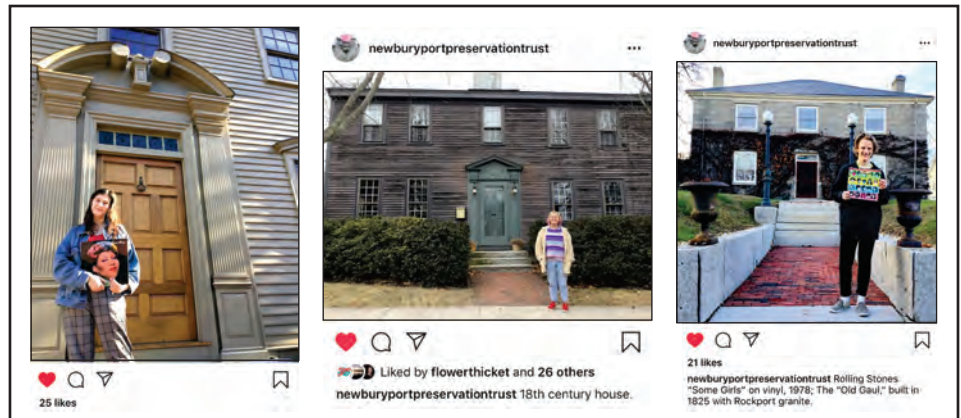
Winter 2019

Newburyport youth have preservation 'on the radar' thanks to NPT's new phone-friendly Instagram presence

The Newburyport Preservation Trust now has an Instagram page with 153 followers. Instagram is a smartphone photo-sharing app that is very popular with middle school, high school, and college kids. Users post photos of their friends, themselves, events they are attending, food, outfits, and places they love. Instagram is image-only, with minimal room for descriptive texts or comments, and is the younger generation's preferred form of social media.

The Trust is launching a campaign to draw in Newburyport's younger residents by connecting historic preservation with the next generation's commitment to sustainable environmental practices. Many young people take the "reduce, reuse, recycle" mantra to heart, and are dedicated to zero waste policies in their daily lives, buying their clothing at thrift stores, composting food waste, and renting, sharing, and donating. They have a retro sensibility and cherish used vinyl record albums and old turntables, their grandfather's watch, and antique bicycles.

We've been talking to these young people about how environmentally responsible, hip, and visionary it is to restore and preserve antique buildings, and



Above: A selection of postings to NPT's new Instagram page. Below: Some notable photos from recent postings.



they now populate our Instagram feed, sharing their enthusiasm for their hometown's architectural, historic, and cultural achievements.

To see more of our photos, download the Instagram app on your smartphone, create

an account (it's super simple and will take less than a minute), search for our account (*newburyportpreservationtrust*) and ask to follow us. And look for your house, street, or neighborhood in our photos! ■

– Patricia Peknik, NPT Board

Mark your calendar: Preservation Week 2019 is set for May 17-19

Preservation enthusiasts can mark their calendars now for Newburyport Preservation Week 2019 scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 17-19.

This year's theme is "Small Houses – Big History," as the event shines the spotlight on the numerous small-footprint, compact-area historic homes that contribute so much to the character of neighborhoods

throughout the city's National Register Historic District.

At this writing, plans include a bright-and-brisk historical/architectural walking tour; a preservation-themed scavenger hunt for kids of all ages; guest speaker Chris Scoville of the Boston Preservation Alliance; and the 2019 Preservation Awards ceremony and reception. Complete schedule and location details will be forthcoming.

Preservation Week is NPT's annual event for the community that celebrates the city's historic character and unique architectural legacy. Plan now to join us May 17-19. ■

Join us – You're invited! NPT Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 17

All members of the Newburyport Preservation Trust are invited to the 2019 Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 17, 4 p.m., at St. Anna's Chapel of St. Paul's Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport. The event includes a recap of activities and accomplishments in 2018, a look ahead at plans for the coming year, and a social reception with light refreshments. ■

NPT's Historic House Plaque Program gains increasing momentum

In recent months it has been hard not to notice: Plaques from the Newburyport Preservation Trust's Historic House Plaques Program are popping up throughout the city's National Register Historic District. An increasing stream of historic house homeowners have engaged NPT for the rigorous research at the program's core, and new plaques are mounted at a steady rate.

If you are an owner/steward of a historic house in Newburyport, you can read all about the Historic House Plaque Program at <http://www.nbptpreservationtrust.org/page-1266130>. There you can learn about the process, criteria, and fees; and print an application form.

At right is a photo montage of some of the more recently mounted historic house plaques seen around Newburyport. ■



Find a musket ball? Who do you call?

In October 2018, a student at River Valley Charter School in Newburyport dug up a dense, oxidized metal ball from the playground. Teachers immediately called NPT's Tom Kolterjahn, long the driving force in the restoration of the neighboring 1822 Powder House. The report on the school's Instagram page says he was on the

scene in five minutes. Tom and the students measured and weighed the ball as the first steps to determine its period and origin. The relic was too small for a Revolutionary War era "Brown Bess" musket, but instead was



probably used in French muskets supplied to the Continental Army, as the student-collected data matched Tom's historical documentation! ■

The 18th-century musket ball.

Alterations to historic High Street approved

"Safe Routes to Schools," the federal- and state-funded project to improve pedestrian safety on High Street between Tyng and Buick Sts., was approved by the City Council on December 10. NPT did not endorse the project, but it did secure some design improvements. NPT's position is that the planning process – with only one public hearing – afforded inadequate opportunity for public input. ■

Words not necessary

At the former Fowle's newsstand and soda fountain on State Street in Newburyport, the most recent (and former) tenant did a "superfine" job of willfully gutting the distinctive art deco period woodwork for all time. Now is it possible that the building owner will show a trace of civic responsibility and at least restore or preserve the flaking exterior sign? ■

