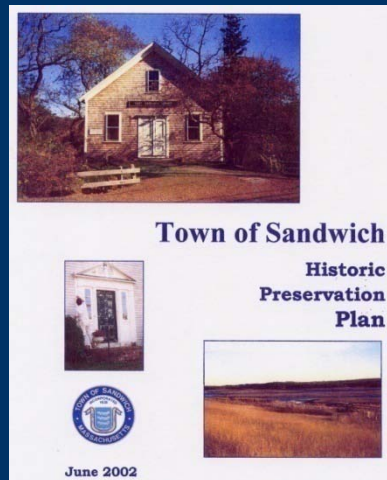


Local Historical Commissions at 50 Years

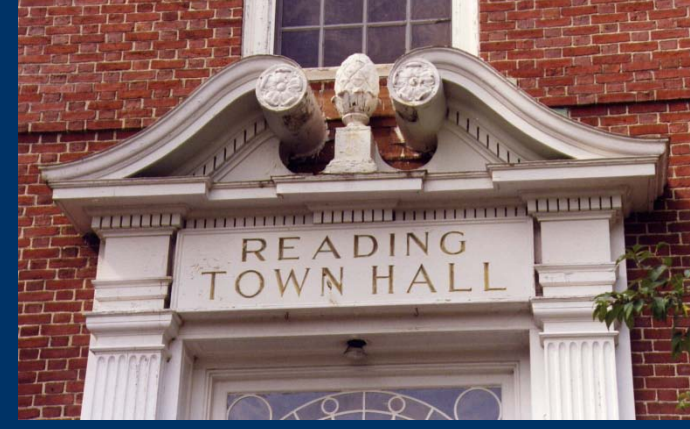




WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
CHAIRMAN, MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Massachusetts Historical Commission

- Established in 1963 to identify, evaluate and protect the significant historic and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth.
- Staff at the MHC includes architectural historians, preservation planners, planners, archaeologists and architects.



Local Government Programs at the Massachusetts Historical Commission

Assisting all 351 Cities and Towns of Massachusetts in
Community-Wide Historic Preservation Planning.

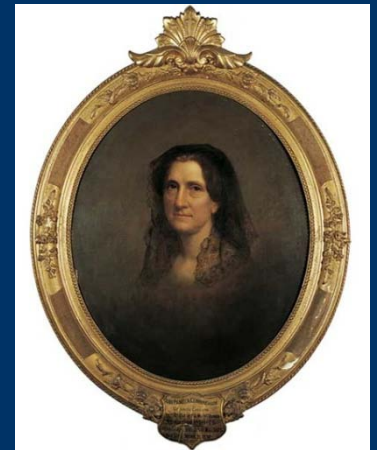
Primarily, the Local Historical Commissions.

A presentation on the History of Local Historic Preservation Efforts

1. Before Local Historical Commissions
(and I mean way, way before)
2. Historic Preservation in the 1960s
*(it wasn't all peace,
love and grooviness)*
3. How Far We Have Come
*(as well as...the more
things change, the more...)*



1. Before Local Historical Commissions



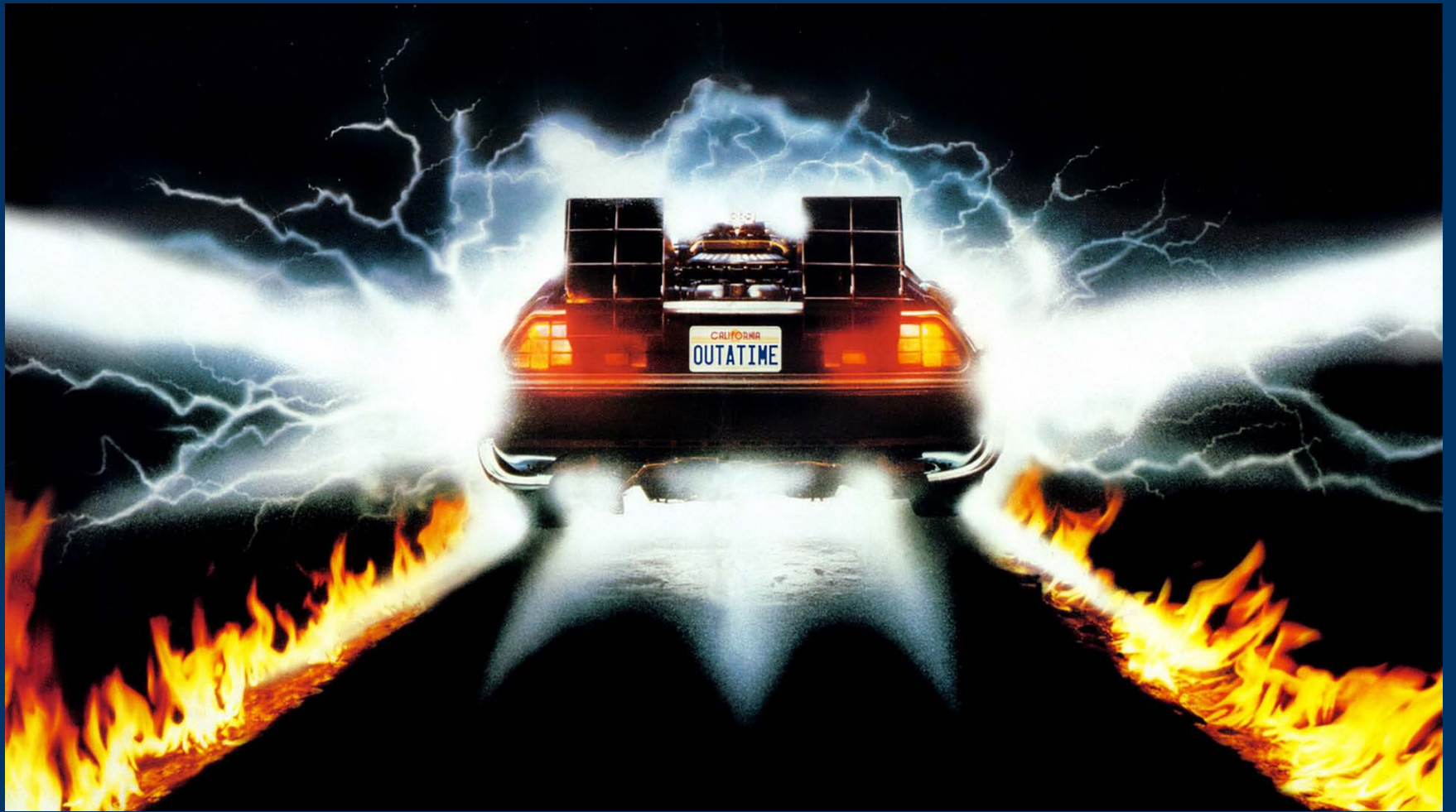


**Time
Machine**



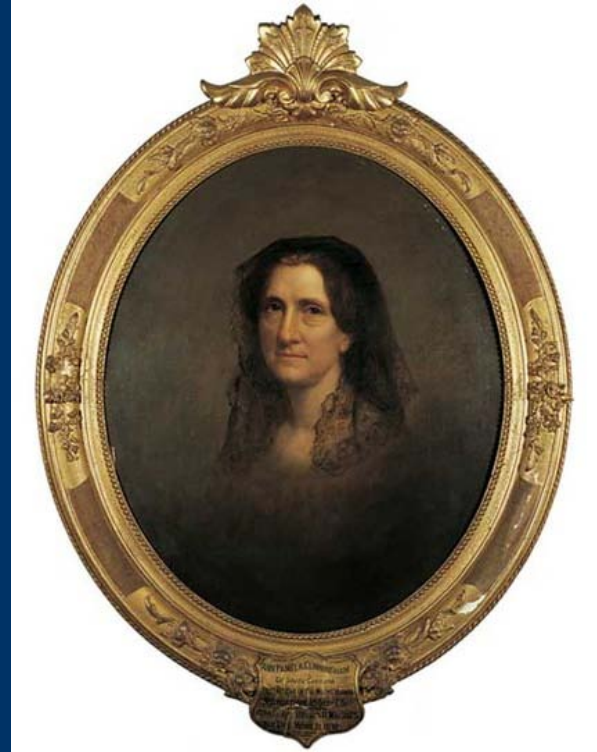
**Expertise
Flux
Capacitor**





Mid 19th Century

**Who was
the first
Historic
Preservationist?**



Was it Ann Pamela Cunningham?



A Brief History

Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, is owned and maintained by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the oldest national historic preservation organization in the United States.

Founded by Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina, the Association might never have come into existence were it not a tradition for ships to toll their bells when passing Mount Vernon. When in 1853 Miss Cunningham's mother was summoned to deck by such a bell, ringing in homage to the nation's first president, she was horrified at the sight of Washington's once grand house covered with peeling paint and overgrown weeds, its famous portico so dilapidated that it was propped up by a sailing mast. "I was painfully distressed," she later wrote to her daughter, "at the ruin and desolation of the home of Washington, and the thought passed through my



Ann Pamela Cunningham

Mount Vernon Ladies Association

**Did Historic Preservation Efforts
Really End in the Creating
Museums?**



Examples of 21st Century Historic Preservation Efforts

- **Identifying Historic Resources**
- **Education about Historic Resources**
- **Advocating for Historic Resources**
- **Historic Property Stewardship**
- **Preventative Maintenance**
- **Rehabilitation of Historic Resources**
- **Adaptive Re-use of Historic Resources**

**Who was
the first
Historic
Preservationist?**



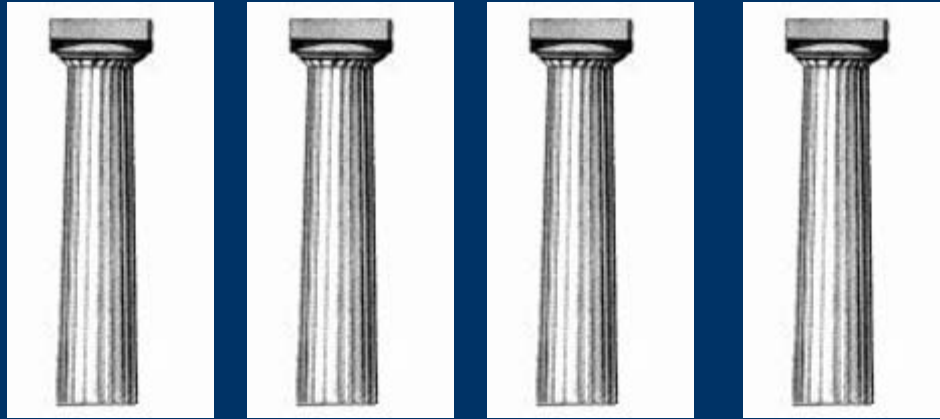


**Could it have been someone 40, 000
years ago?**



The Story of Tuthmosis and the Sphinx

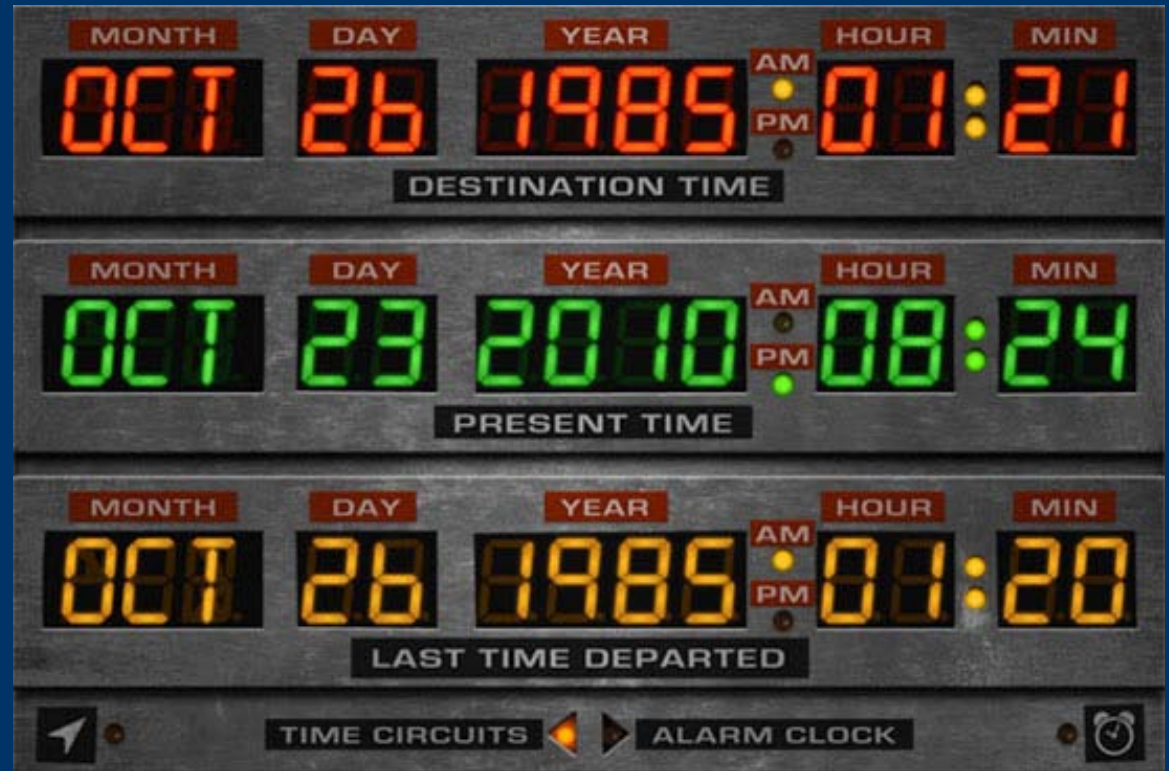
Use Your Imagination!



Pausanias and his description of the Temple of Hera

Again, Use Your Imagination!

**BACK
TO
THE FUTURE**



Time Machine

**BACK
TO MASSACHUSETTS!**

**Fairbanks
House,
Circa 1640
Dedham, MA**



**Mid 19th
Century
Stewardship**

1863

BOSTONIANS!

SAVE THE OLD JOHN HANCOCK MANSION

THERE IS TIME YET, ALTHOUGH THE WORK OF

DEMOLITION HAS COMMENCED

It is a question of some perplexity to decide how far it is wise or proper for the city government or for individuals to interfere to prevent the act of modern vandalism which demands the destruction of this precious relic; for that it is destroyed, in effect, if removed, we conceive admits of no question. Will it, or will it not, be a mitigation of the public disgrace to establish the house itself elsewhere as a perpetual monument of the proceeding.

Without wishing in the least degree to discourage the public spirit and the patriotism of those gentlemen in the City Council who are seeking at this moment to do the best thing they can for the preservation of the house, we still think it right that one preliminary appeal should be made to the present owners. They are gentlemen of wealth, they have made an honest purchase, and of course may plead that they have a right to do what they will with their own. It is with full recognition of their rights in this respect, and withal in the utmost kindness to them, that we would admonish them how dearly is purchased any good thing which costs the sacrifice of public associations so dear and so noble as those that cluster around the Hancock House.

These purchasers must at any rate be prepared to hear, during the whole of their lives and that of their remotest posterity, so long as any of them may live in the elegant modern palaces which shall supplant the ancient structure, the frequent expression of public discontent. Argument may show them blameless, but sentiment will ever condemn the proceeding in which theirs will be perhaps the most innocent, but nevertheless the most permanent part. It is not often that an opportunity is given to men of wealth to earn a title to public gratitude by an act of simple self-denial. Such an opportunity falls to the lot of the purchasers of this estate.

Published by T. D. H. P. Prichard, Boston,
June 6, 1863.

Relief by
John



John Hancock Mansion

1881

Old State House





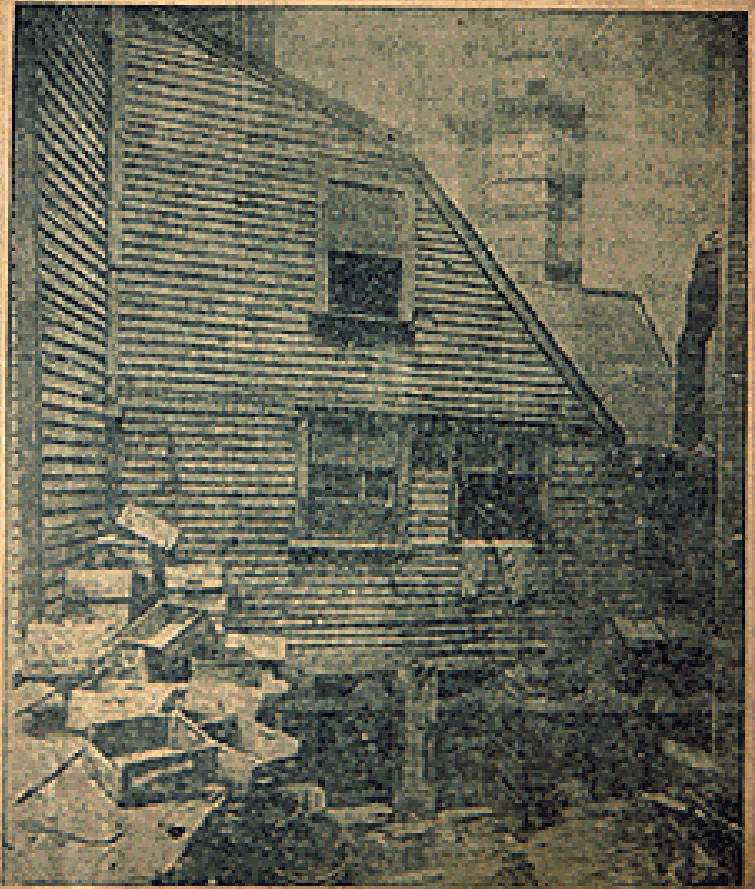
Paul Revere House

1908

BOSTON GLOBE—TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1905.

FAMOUS 225-YEAR-OLD LANDMARK THAT BOSTON SOON MAY KNOW NO MORE

Home of Paul Revere in Danger of Being Razed—
Movement Afoot to Preserve It.



THE ANCIENT PAUL REVERE HOUSE IN NORTH BOSTON—A RUIN VIEW.

Regional Non-Profit Organizations



***Society for the
Preservation of New
England Antiquities/
Historic New England
1910***



Outdoor Living History Museums



Old Sturbridge Village
1946

Historic Deerfield
1952



Local Non-Profit Organizations



WHALE

Waterfront Historic Area League

Preserving New Bedford since 1962



HBI

HISTORIC
BOSTON
INCORPORATED

Strengthening Community through Historic Preservation

Local Historic Districts



Beacon Hill

1955

Nantucket



2. Historic Preservation in the 1960s



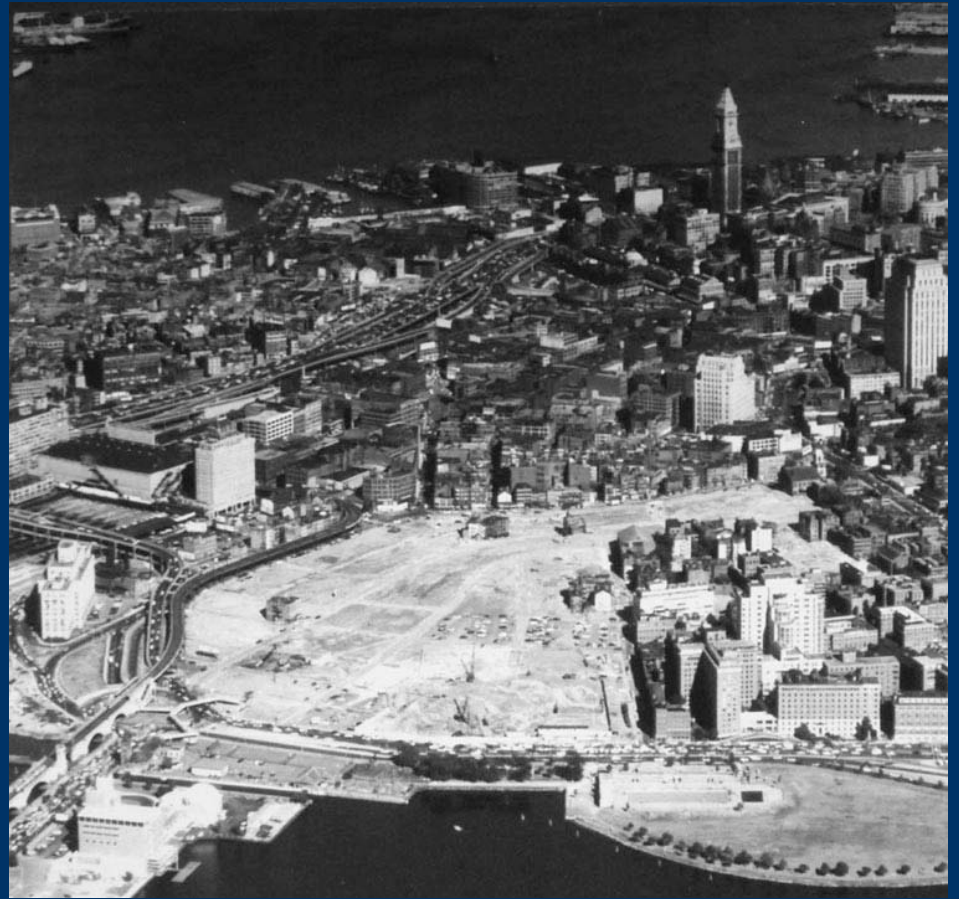
A time of great change for historic preservation in Massachusetts and the nation.

Urban Renewal



The West End of Boston in this planning document is described as an “obsolete neighborhood.”

Urban Renewal



**The West End of Boston
Before and After**

Transportation Planning and Highway Expansion



1956
The Federal
Aid
Highway
Act

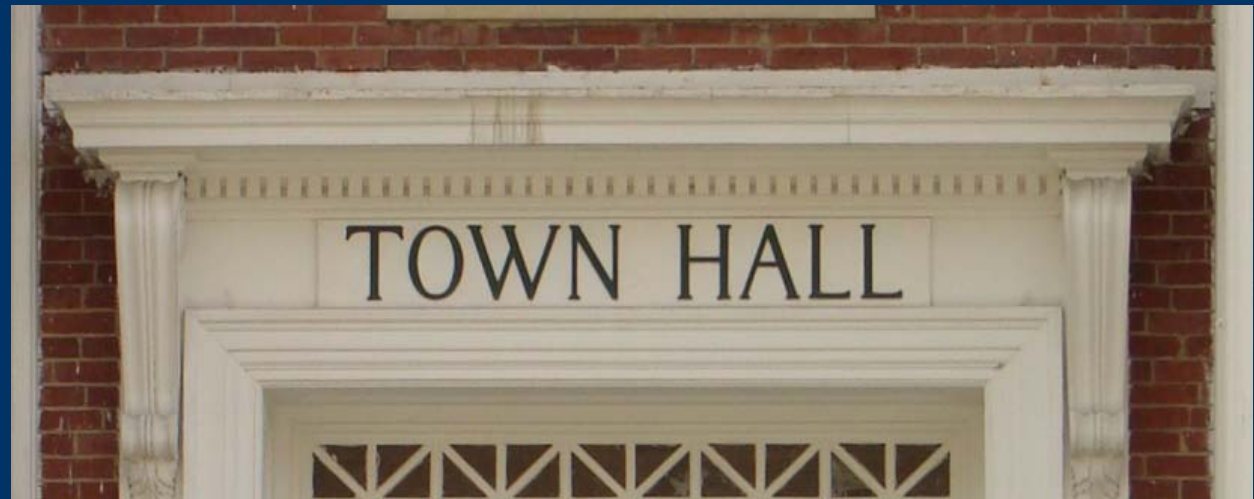
Demolition of Neighborhoods for Transportation Projects



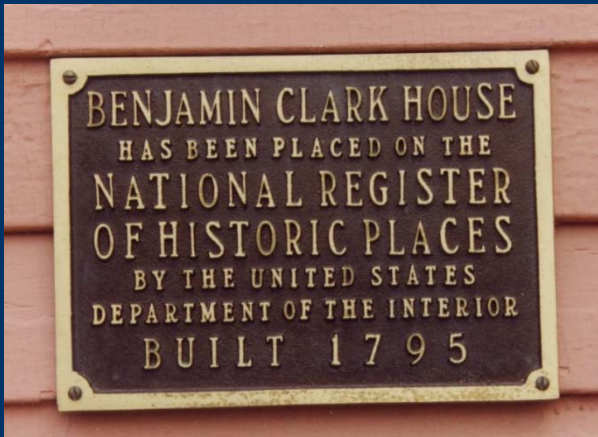
Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 8d

*The state law establishing local historical
commissions.*

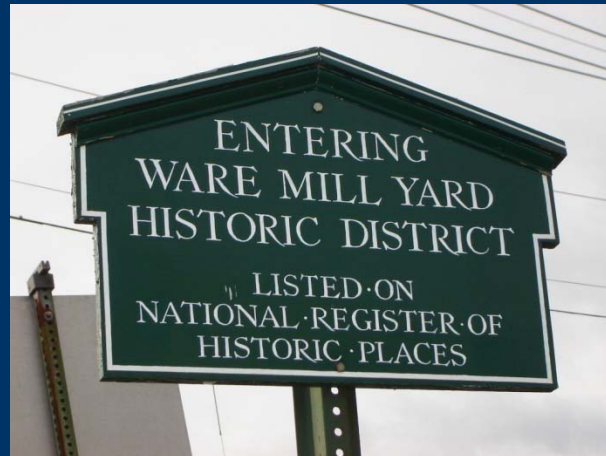
1963



National Historic Preservation Act



1966



Historic Property Survey

October 10, 1966

We have written you as President of the Eastern
Mrs. John W. White, President
Lincoln Historical Society
Old Concord Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. White, planning throughout the state.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission needs your help!

Historical buildings can be preserved only when we know they exist. There is a long, grim roster of historical structures in Massachusetts that have been destroyed through ignorance of their importance. The best defense against such unwitting destruction is a state-wide inventory.

A duty of the Massachusetts Historical Commission is to compile such an inventory, which will be used by various planning agencies, so that historical structures will get fair and just treatment. One of these agencies, the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Planning Project (EMRPP), urgently needs all the information the Massachusetts Historical Commission can provide. (By March of 1967 they must report on the historic sites in 42 towns affected by 1975 highway networks and put this information on a computer. Lincoln is one of these towns.)

Following steps are involved: Preliminary

In order to compile a complete inventory of publicly and privately owned



Highway Planning

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In order to compile a complete inventory of publicly and privately owned

Historic Property Survey

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's # 22-30 USGS Quad Medfield Area(s) Form # 345

Town Medfield

neighborhood or village

Address 256 South Street

Historic Name Cyrus D. Strang House

Present residential

Original farm

Construction late 18th cent. (?), ca. 1820-1830s

maps and atlases

Form No style, Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures attached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

dormers, entry porch on wing, porch addition (early 20C)

Condition good

Moved no yes Date likely 3rd quarter 19C


Acreage 40,011 square feet

Setting mix of historic and contemporary

residential development on town's major road to Norfolk

Recorded by Kathleen Kelly Broomer
 Organization for Medfield Historical Commission
 Date (month/year) May 1999

JUN 16 1999
 MASS. HIST. COMM



INVENTORY FORM B

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town **NORFOLK** **BEDFORD**

Street **118 WILSON ROAD** *considered for NR 4/19/76*

Name **Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead**

Present Owner **Mr. & Mrs. John T. Abbott**

Present Use **Dwelling House**

Original Use **Dwelling House (farm)**

Date **c. 1740** Style **Georgian**

Source of Date **Deeds and Wills**

Architect **unknown** *NR 11/13/76*

id Moved Altered

one Detrimental Endangered *in a modern development*

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION: High Regular None Material: Field stone w/ granite block facing

MATERIAL: Frame (Cover: Clapboard sides) Brick Stone (other) Ends *SETH A*

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

PLAN: Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Attached: Ells Stable Dependency

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony Interior: Gallery/porch

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
 Tower Cupola Gables 1 2 3 4 Balustrade Grillwork

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Ornate Simple/Complicated

Cornice: Simple/Ornate Narrow Wide Deep/Shallow Dentils/Brackets
Simple fanlight & pilasters

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: with keystone top

Windows: Spacing Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied (12/12 lights)

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured (clapboarding meets brick ends
semi-rustic plantings,

OUTBUILDINGS none LANDSCAPING lawned, old stone walls.

5. Indicate location of site on map below

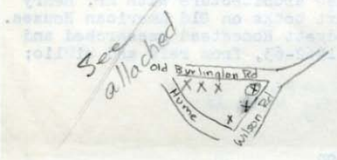
6. Footage of structure from street 10 FT
 Property has 125 feet frontage on street

Recorder John T. Abbott

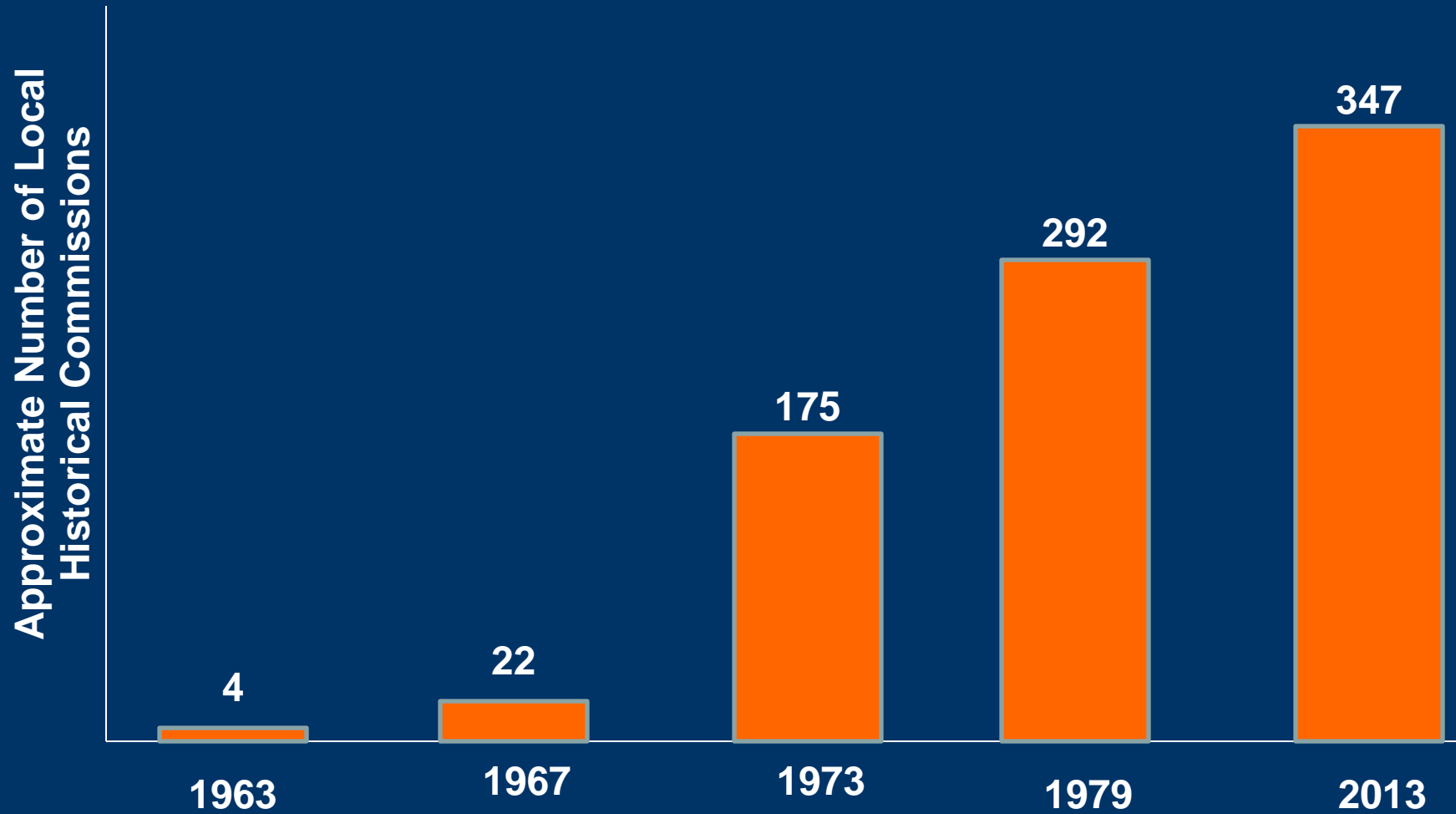
For BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 (Name of organization)
 MAR 3 1967

Photo

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form.



Number of Local Historical Commissions Statewide



Who was the first local historical commission on Cape Cod?



TOWN OF HARWICH

Office of Selectmen • Assessors • Boards of Health and Public Welfare

Milton H. Welt • Douglas Rockwood • Ralph U. Brett

HARWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

December 14, 1964

Anne R. Wardwell, Adm. Assistant
Massachusetts Historical Commission
State House
Boston 83, Mass.

Dear Miss Wardwell:

Thank you for your letter of November 23, 1964.

The Harwich Historical Commission was authorized by vote of the Town under Article 56 of the 1964 Annual Town Meeting.

The members appointed by the Selectmen are as follows:

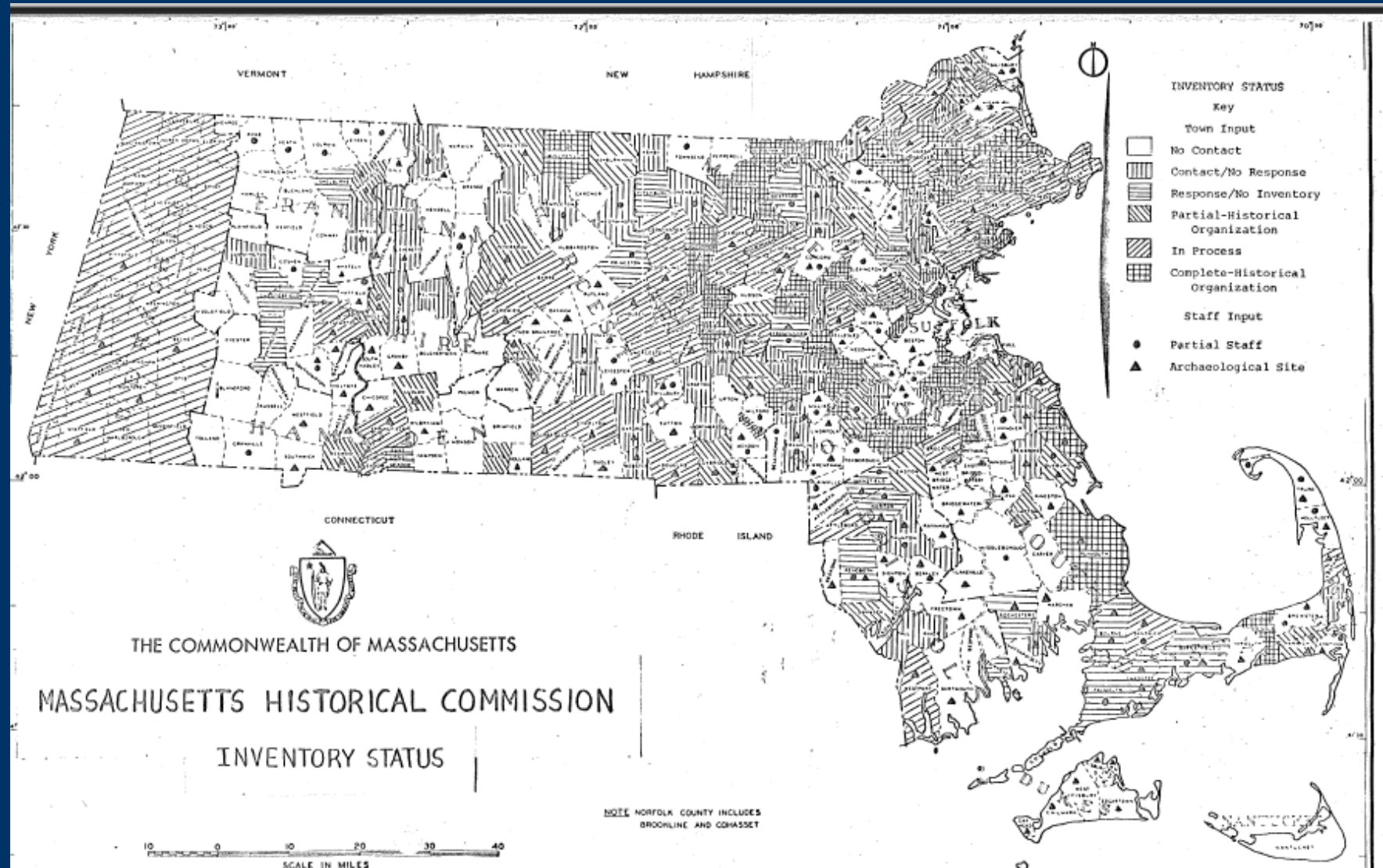
Helen R. Drake, Forest Street, Harwich - Term expires
1967
Alan T. Hunt, Main Street, Harwich Port - Term expires
1967
Mildred P. Paine, Parallel St., Harwich - Term expires
1968
Ralph W. Cashen, Pleasant Bay Rd., East Harwich - Term
Expires 1968
Archilus H. Cahoon, Pleasant Lake Ave., Pleasant Lake
Term expires 1965
Annie M. Nickerson, Main St., Harwich Port, Term Expires
1965
Mary D. Hentz, Willow St., West Harwich, Term expires
1965

Respectfully yours,

Milton H. Welt
Douglas Rockwood
Ralph U. Brett

**3. How Far We
Have Come
Since Local
Historical
Commissions
Were Created.**

Historic Property Survey



Inventory Status - 1973

Historic Property Survey

There are now well over 150,000 records within the MHC files.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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neighborhood or village)

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Common Name Cyrus D. Strang House

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Source(s) maps and atlases

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dormers, entry porch on wing, porch addition (early 20C)

Condition good

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Acreage 40,011 square feet

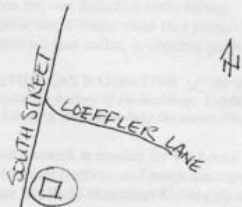
Setting mix of historic and contemporary

Notes residential development on town's major road to Norfolk



Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Kathleen Kelly Broomer

Organization for Medfield Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

JUN 16 1999

MASS. HIST. COMM

Historic Property Survey

Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan 2011–2015



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

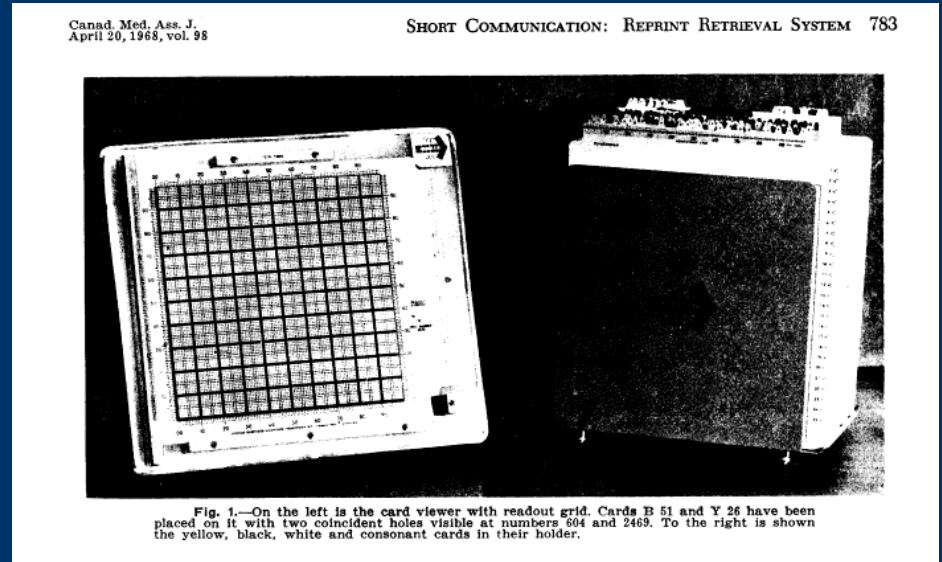
February 14, 2011

According to the State Historic Preservation Plan 2011-2015, over 5000 inventory forms were added to the statewide historic properties inventory just from 2006 to 2010.

Computer Databases for Historic Property Survey

MHC Memo from 1965

Optical Co-incidence Retrieval System



“Cards are superimposed over each other, and light is shone through them. The points where light passes through refer you to the information that you desire.”

Computer Databases

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System MACRIS

MHC Home | MACRIS Home [Login](#)

Search by Location

MACRIS last updated on 3/29/2013
[Scanned forms and photos now available for selected towns!](#)

To begin your search, double click on the name of each town or city you want to include from the box labeled "Massachusetts Towns" (or highlight the town and click the 'Add to list' button). Your selection(s) will appear in the box on the right. To search the entire database, select "(All Towns)."

To remove a town from your selection list, double click on its name in the box labeled "Your Selections" (or highlight the name and click "Remove from list").

If you are searching on only one town, you can further narrow your search by selecting a particular neighborhood, street and/or street number.

When you've finished your selections by location, click "Next" to continue.

To start over, click "New Search."

Massachusetts Towns

Towns listed in green have some scanned forms available.

- Hancock
- Hanover
- Hanson
- Hardwick
- Harvard
- Harwich
- Hatfield
- Haverhill
- Hawley
- Heath

Your Selection(s)

Optional:

Village/Neighborhood:

Street No.:

StreetName:

MHC ID:

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) now online and available to anyone in the world through the web.

Computer Database Available Online


























Boston.com - Boston, ...

Below are the results of your search, using the following search criteria:

Town(s): Harwich

Resource Type(s): Building

For more information about this page and how to use it, [click here](#)

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year			
HRW.424		10 Island Pond Rd	Harwich	1900			
HRW.350		Kelley St	Harwich	1920			
HRW.391		448 Kelley St	Harwich				
HRW.390		498 Kelley St	Harwich				
HRW.425		63 Kendrick Rd	Harwich				
HRW.423		260 Lothrop Ave	Harwich	1850			
HRW.312		Lower County Rd	Harwich	1800			
HRW.354	Pine Brook Lodge	Lower County Rd	Harwich	1880			
HRW.355		Lower County Rd	Harwich	1800			
HRW.356		Lower County Rd	Harwich	1920			
HRW.357		Lower County Rd	Harwich	1920			
HRW.358		288 Lower County Rd	Harwich	1700			
HRW.293		Main St	Harwich	1800			
HRW.294		Main St	Harwich	1800			
HRW.295		Main St	Harwich	1880			

Page 8 of 34

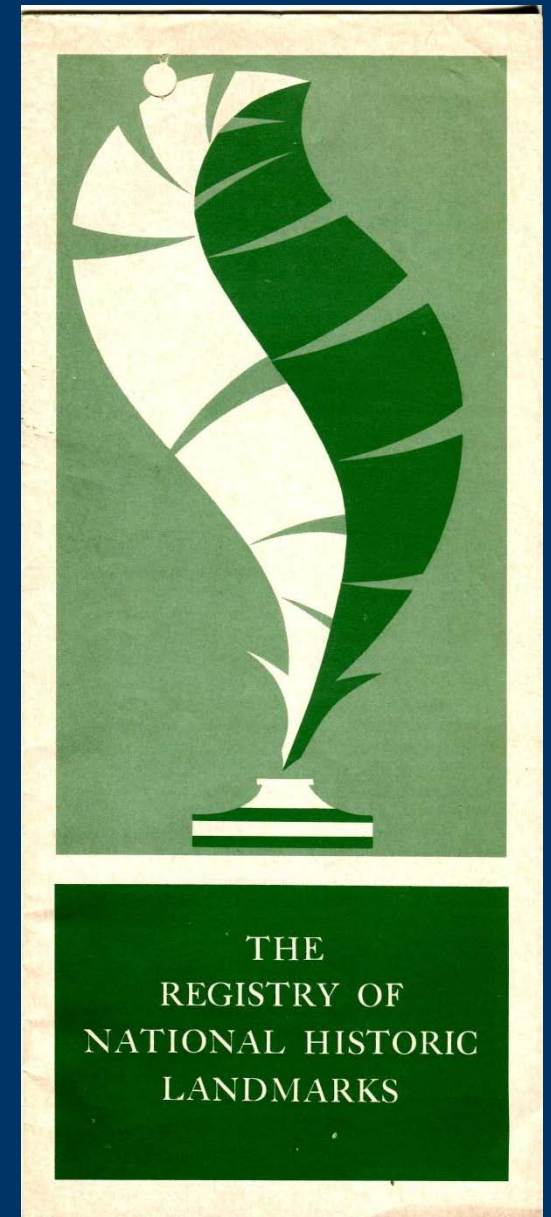
Previous 15

Next 15

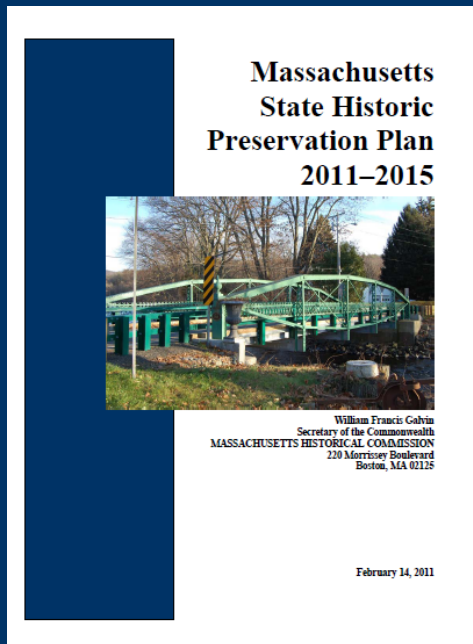
502 Properties Found

National Register of Historic Places

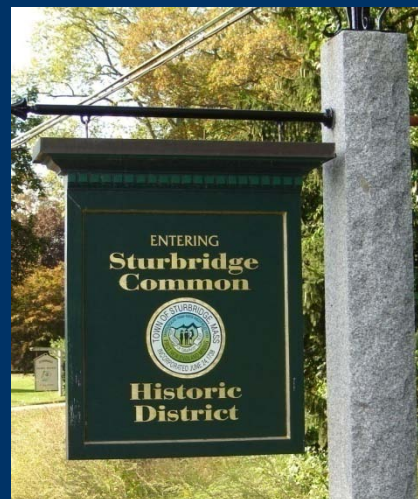
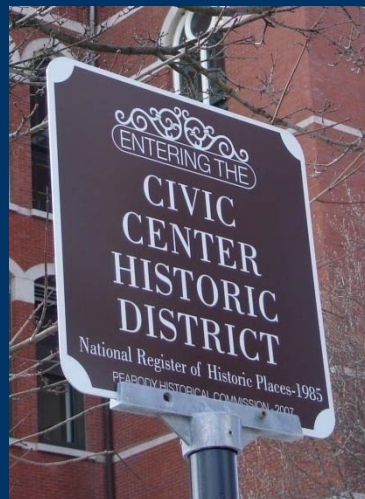
In 1963, there was no such thing as the National Register of Historic Places.



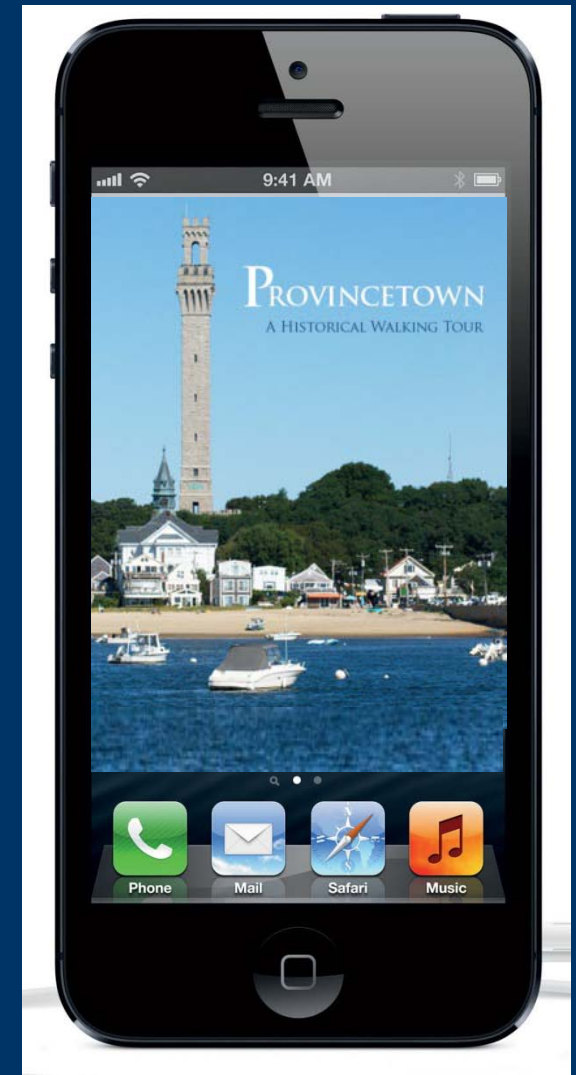
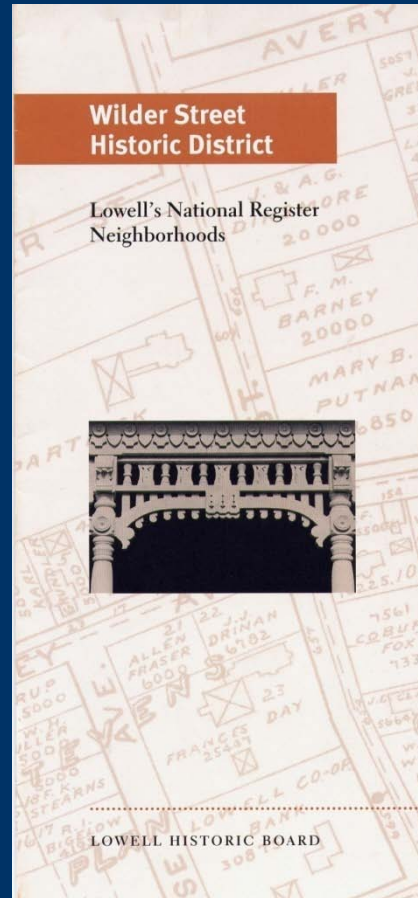
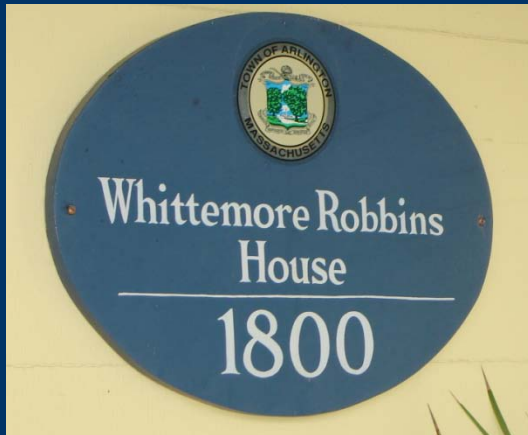
National Register of Historic Places



At the end of 2010, Massachusetts remained a national leader in the National Register program, with more than 3,800 listings since the start of the program in 1966, including close to 1,700 National Register Historic Districts and approximately 77,000 contributing resources.



Tools for Education

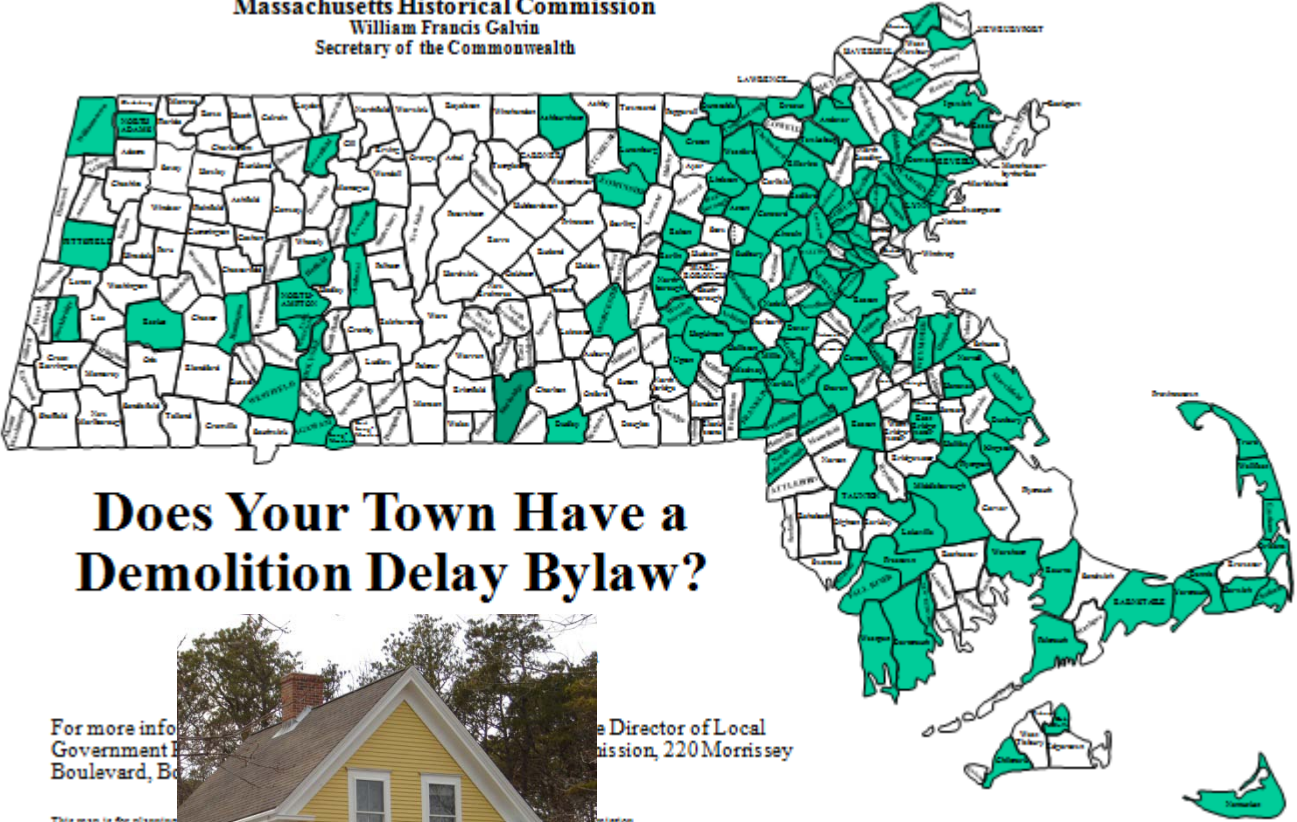


Tools for Advocacy



Historic Preservation Bylaws and Ordinances

Massachusetts Historical Commission
William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth



Does Your Town Have a Demolition Delay Bylaw?

For more info
Government H
Boulevard, Bo



Director of Local
Commission, 220 Morrissey

PRESERVATION THROUGH BYLAWS AND ORDINANCES



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chair, Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125
www.scc.state.ma.us/mhc
mh@state.ma.us / 617.725.3470

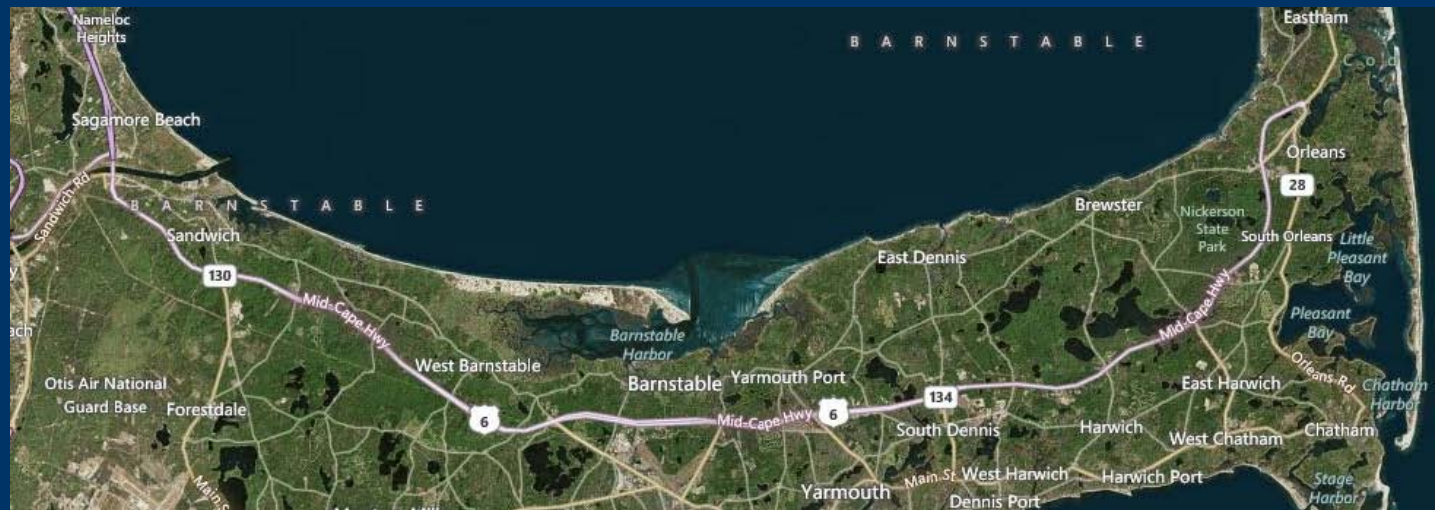
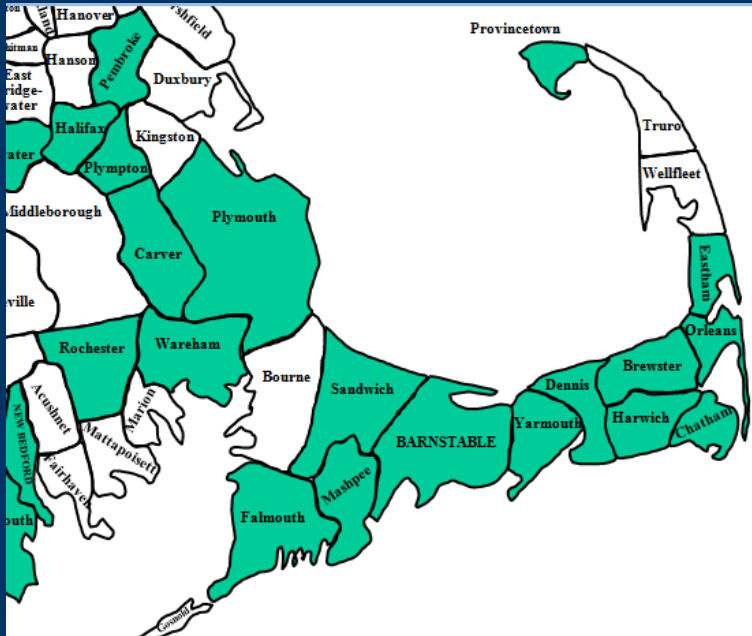


Demolition Delay Bylaws began around 1980.

Historic Preservation Bylaws and Ordinances

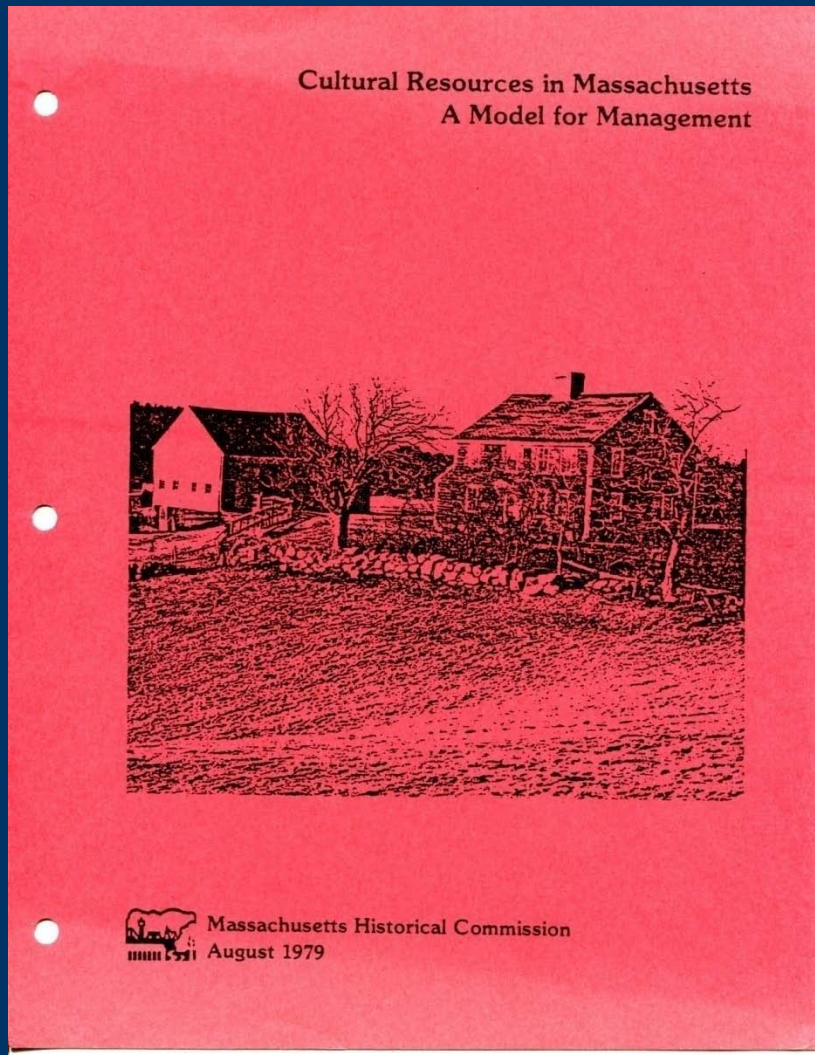
Local Historic Districts

Old Kings Highway Historic District



Statewide Local Commission Association

The Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, 1979



“The effectiveness of the [local] historical commissions as a group in influencing public policy suffers from the lack of a statewide association.”

Statewide Local Commission Association

The Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, 2011-2015

Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan 2011-2015



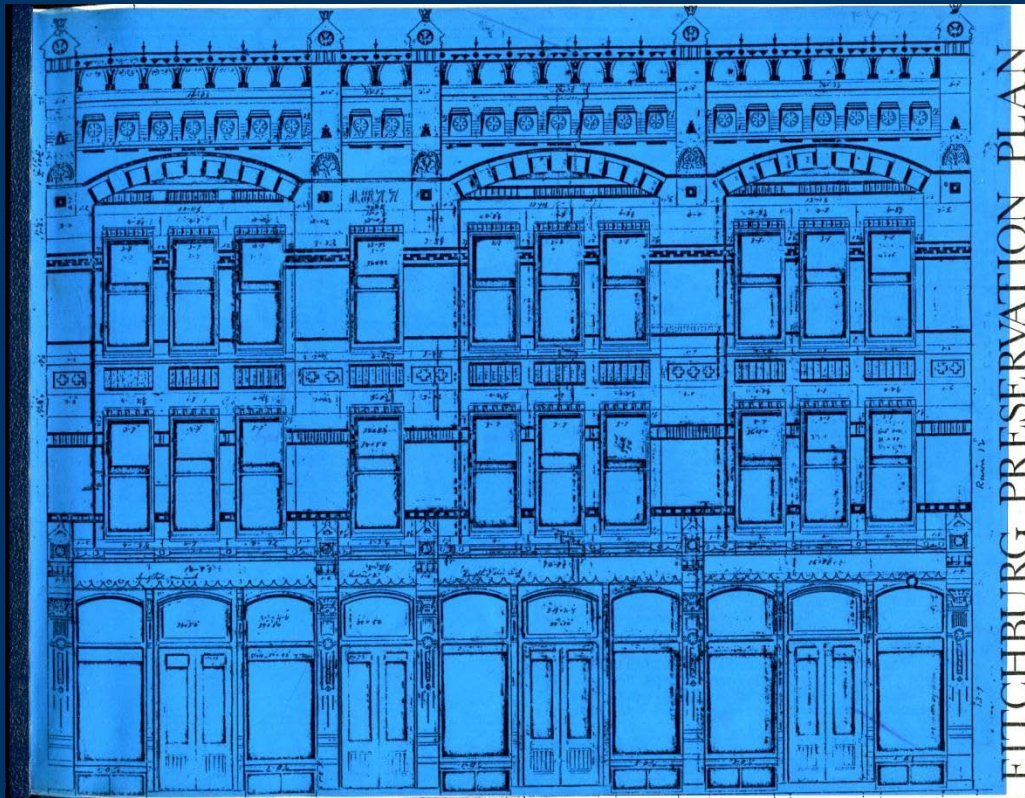
William Francis Gavin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

February 14, 2011

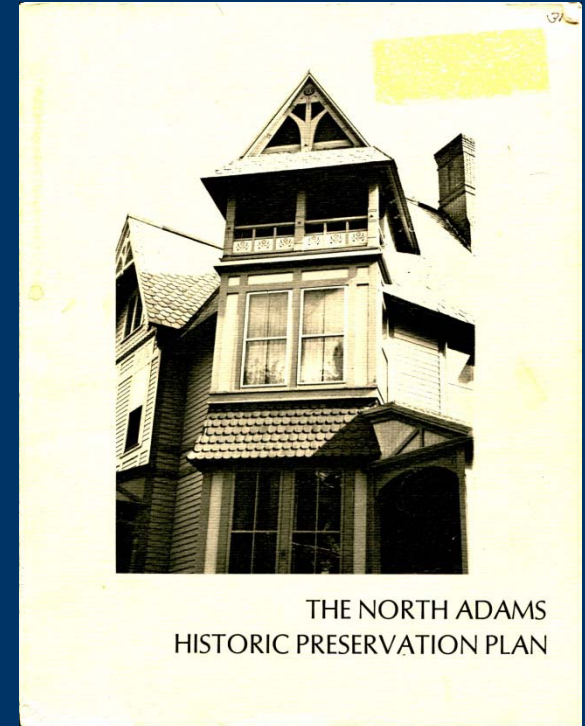
Even though there are nearly 3000 members that make up the commissions, they are not well represented.

Recommendation:
Establish a statewide association of local historical and historic district commissions.

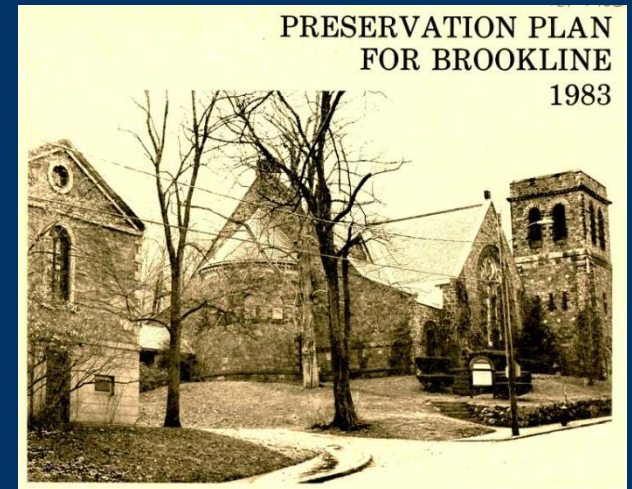
Local Historic Preservation Plans



**Fitchburg Historic
Preservation Plan from
1978.**

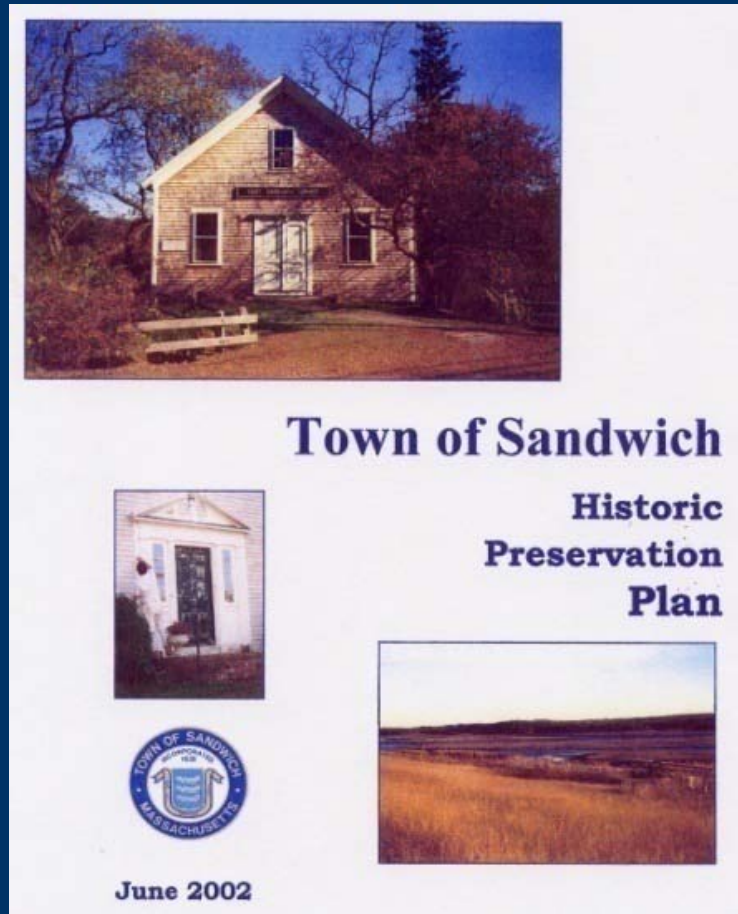


**THE NORTH ADAMS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN**

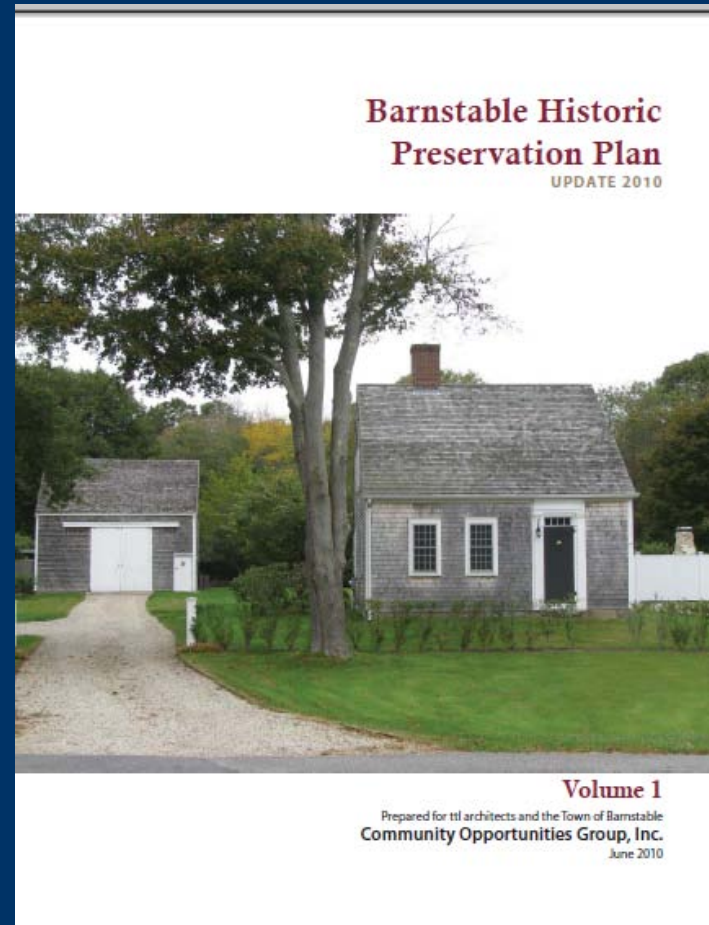


**PRESERVATION PLAN
FOR BROOKLINE
1983**

Local Historic Preservation Plans



**Sandwich
2002**



**Barnstable
2010**

Local Commission Training Manuals

on Planning

Mr. Chester W. Walker
Upton Historical Society
West Main Street
West Upton, Mass.
01587

Dear Mr. Walker

Thank you for your letter to the Upton Historical Society.

Since I am not sure how to answer your question, though I can suggest you ask him about the history? Enclosed is a copy of the 1965. On page 10, you will find what a Town may do through the Historical Commission.

I would be glad to help you in any way I might lead your efforts or might also publish them.

And above all, you are instructed to co-ordinate the



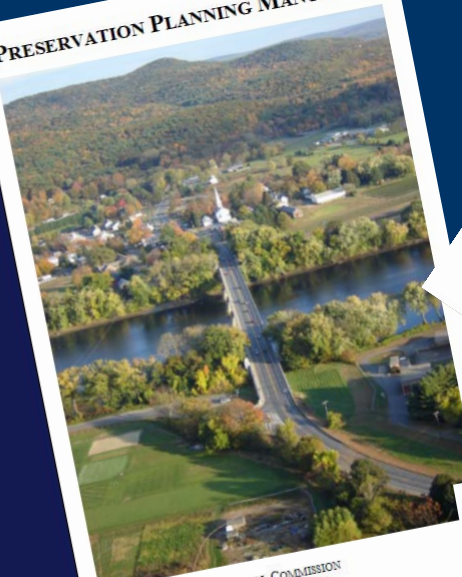
In preparation is a publication of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, of suggestions for local Historical Commissions. When it comes out, we shall send you copies.

Yours sincerely,


Richard W. Hale Jr.
Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Local Commission Training Manuals

PRESERVATION PLANNING MANUAL



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chair, Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc
mhc@sec.state.ma.us / 617-727-8470

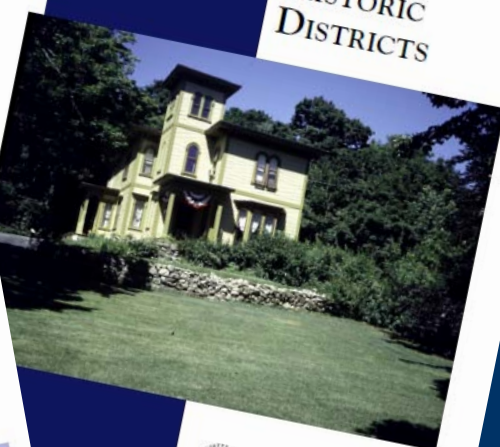


Local Historical Commissions in Massachusetts


DVD
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Massachusetts Historical Commission
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ESTABLISHING LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS




MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth



PRESERVATION THROUGH BYLAWS AND ORDINANCES



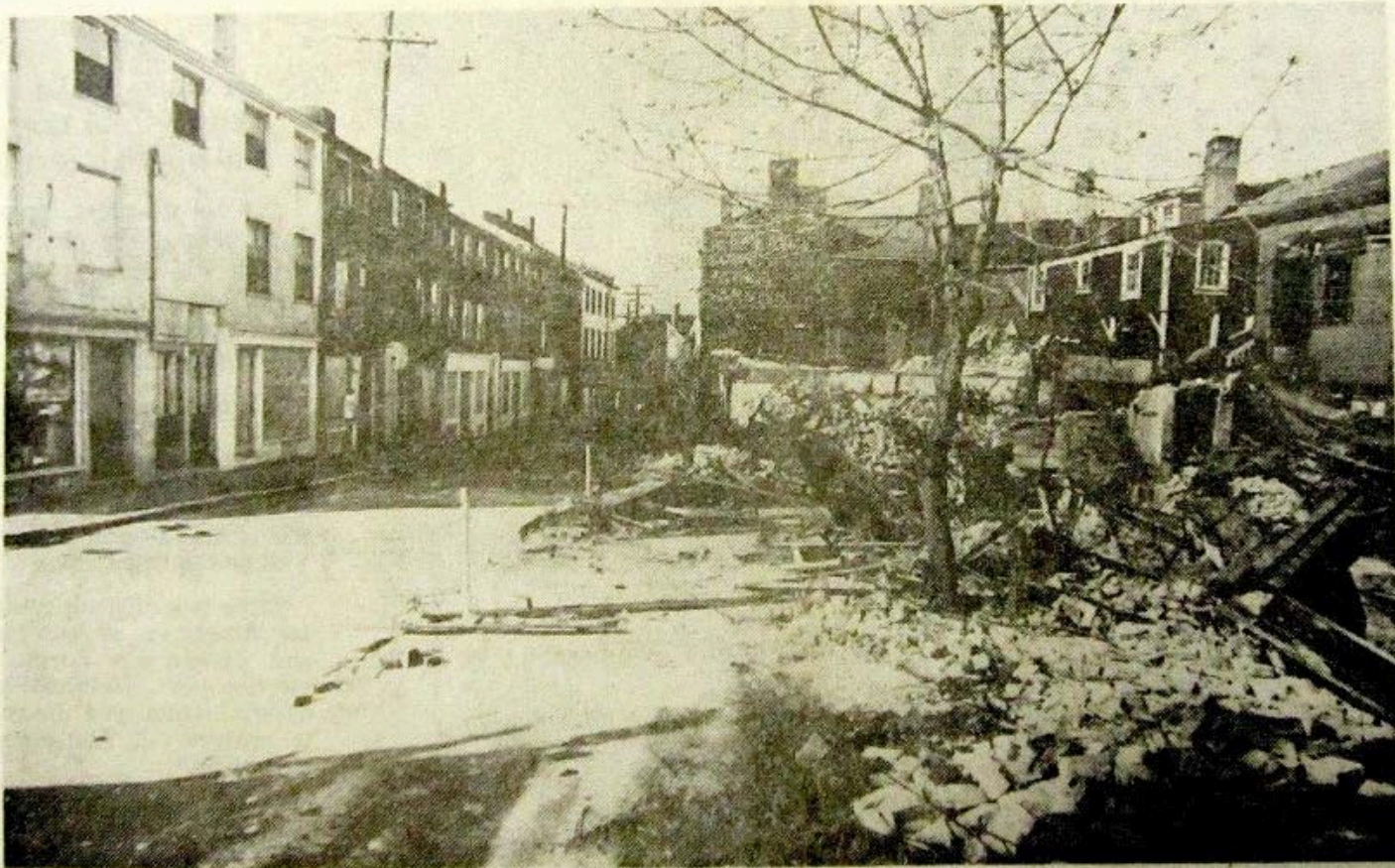
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Urban Renewal in Newburyport, MA

Walls Come Tumbling Down

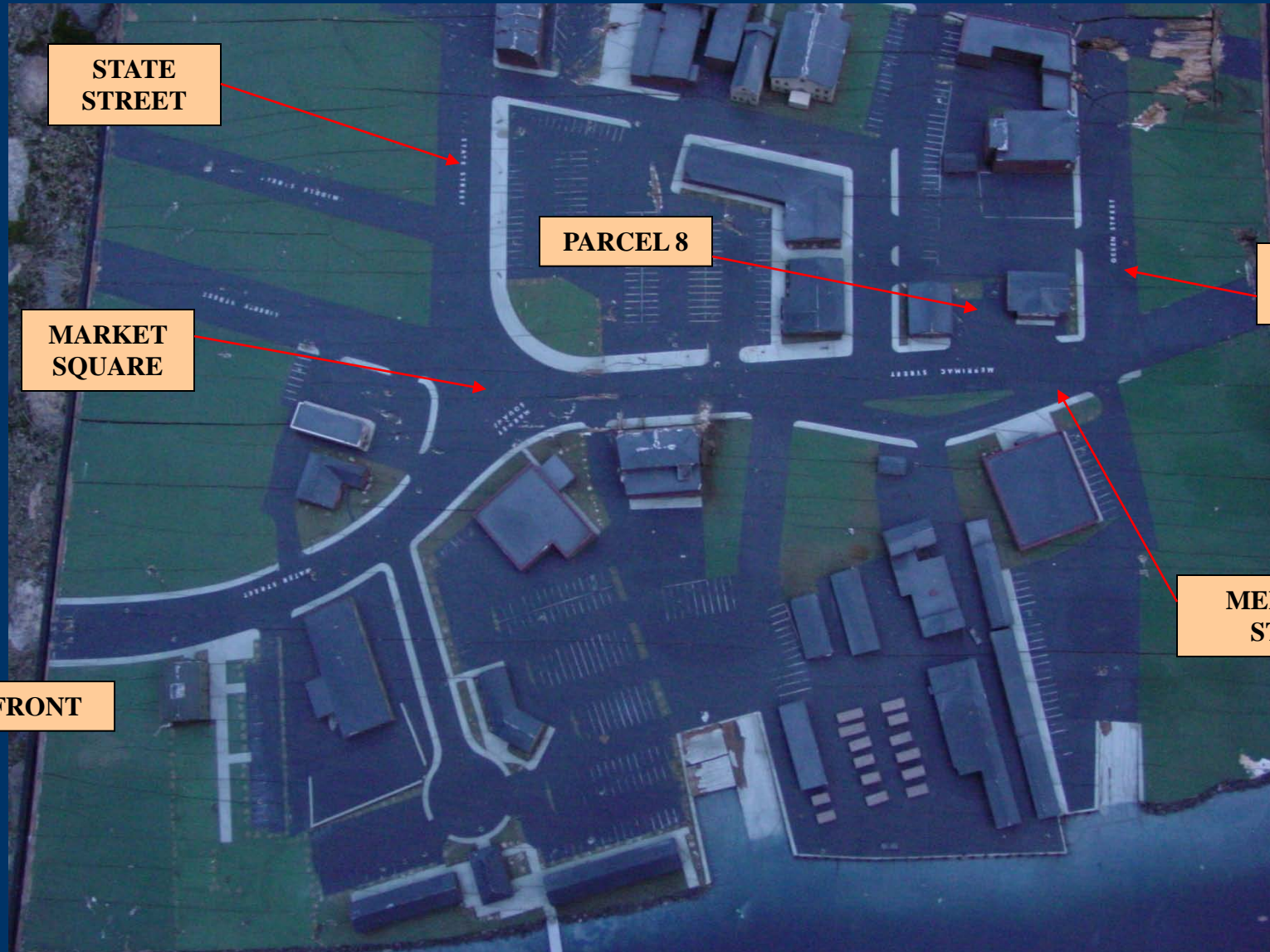
Newburyport Renewal Opens New Vistas and Controversy



RUBBLE OF demolished brick buildings on Inn st., Newburyport, in view looking toward Market sq. and the waterfront. Many of the structures were

built soon after great fire of 1811 wiped out much of the center of city. (Globe Photos by Phil Preston)

Newburyport, Massachusetts Urban Renewal Model



**STATE
STREET**

PARCEL 8

**GREEN
STREET**

**MARKET
SQUARE**

**MERRIMAC
STREET**

WATERFRONT

Newburyport, Massachusetts Today



Newburyport, Massachusetts Today



While the loss of historic resources continues on...

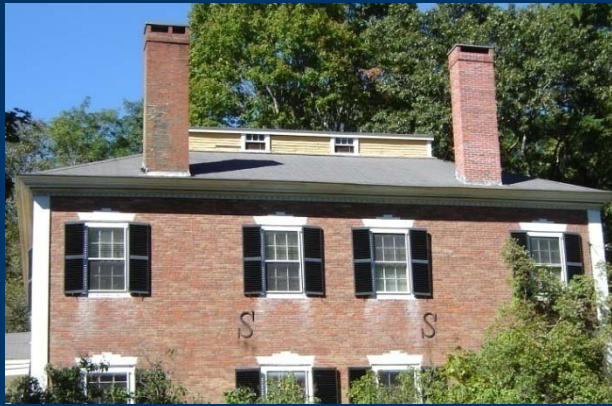


*Tappan House
Newbury, MA*

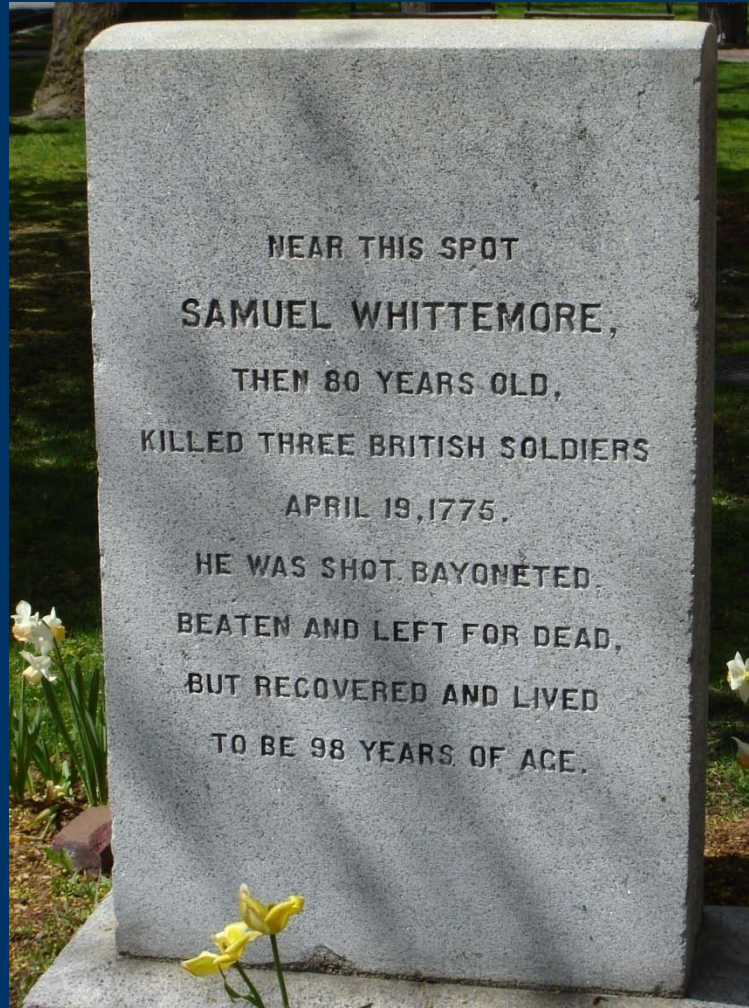
Demolished in March, 2012

Newbury doesn't have a demolition delay bylaw.

Imagine what our state would be like without the dedication of local historical commissions



A Thought for the Day



**Thank you,
local historical
commissions,
for all your hard
work!**

50 Years!