



2005 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The Dedication of East Princeton Village as a National Register Historic District was held on September 10, 2005. This event was the first of its kind for the Princeton Historical Commission and for the town. It was a beautiful fall day with a turnout of well over fifty people who helped to make the dedication one that will be remembered by former residents, as well as, those living in the village. Attending the dedication was our State Representative, Lew Evangelidis, Phillip Bergen, from Massachusetts Historical Commission, Joe O'Brien, Selectman, Dennis Rindone, Town Administrator, and Susan Ceccacci, the historical writer who wrote the nomination. The Commission purchased an 18x24 bronze plaque commemorating the historic events which took place in the village, with the settlement, circa 1781, until 1910, when the last chair factory burned. The plaque was placed at the intersection of Main Street and Gleason Road. Permanent wooden signs indicating the entrance into the East Princeton Village Historic District were placed on Route 140 at each end of the district. The Commission wishes to thank Glen Lyons and the highway department for their help in purchasing and placing these signs.

The people attending the dedication enjoyed a reception at the home of Mark and Alex Fiandaca, and were able to visit Mechanics Hall as well. The Mechanics Hall Study Committee hosted an open house at Mechanics Hall for several hours after the dedication. Clayton Hubbard and Betty Lawson were there to give tours of the building and to share their memories of the events that took place in Mechanics Hall.

The residents of East Princeton Village had the opportunity to place 5"x7" bronze markers on their homes. The Princeton Historical Commission ordered the markers which signified that the property was listed on the National Register of historic places. Ten people purchased the bronze markers.

On December 14, 2005, Massachusetts Historical Commission accepted two new National Register Historic Districts. They were Princeton Center Expansion and Russell Corner. Princeton Center Expansion includes 67 buildings with the district made up of Allen Hill Road, Gregory Hill Road, to the intersection of Route 31 and 62, Hubbardston Road, to the former Princeton Market, and Boylston Ave. to the Princeton Center. Prior to the acceptance, the Commission had a public meeting in November to explain the nominations and to answer any questions. Russell Corner National Register Historic District includes 13 properties and is comprised of the area surrounding the Princeton Land Trust property on Sterling Road, Gregory Hill Road, Merriam Road, and Bullock Lane.

In December, Massachusetts Historical Commission determined that the 38 inventory forms for West Village, the area surrounding the intersection of Hubbardston Road, Radford Road, and Allen Hill Road qualified as an historic district. This qualification means now the inventory forms are complete the commission can begin the process of placing this area on the national register. We are currently in the process of hiring an historic writer to write the nomination. It is our goal to have this completed by 2009 in time for the town's 250th anniversary.

The Commission accepted the resignations of Jocelyn Morrison, co-chair, Kathy Downing, and Jessica Hart. We thank them for their dedication while serving on the commission. Jocelyn joined the commission in the mid 1990's and served faithfully as a member and lately as a co-chairperson for all those years.

The Commission welcomes, Sheila Dubman, Alex Fiandaca, and Joe Lee. All of these people have joined recently and we look forward to working together. Paula Leary, Phyllis Booth, (alternate) and I are the other members of the commission.

The Commission's on going fundraising project is the sale of postcards of the acrylic painting "Croquet on the Common – 1865" by Vern Hall. They are for sale at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Anderson, chairperson