



2009 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The year 2009 was a very productive one for the Princeton Historical Commission (PHC). We were happy to participate in the 250th Anniversary Celebration and accomplished several objectives.

This year, we placed markers and dedicated the Russell Corner and the Expanded Princeton Center (including Meetinghouse Cemetery) National Register Districts. The dedications of these newly accepted districts were part of the 250th celebration.

The area known as "West Village" has been accepted as a National Register District. We have secured permission from a resident to place a plaque honoring West Village as a National Register District.

Last year, The PHC was awarded \$8,000 by the DCR Partnerships Matching Funds Program to prepare a nomination of Wachusett Mountain for the Nation Register of Historic Places. The nomination has been completed and sent to Massachusetts Historical Commission where it will await approval.

The Meeting House Cemetery Restoration project is in its third year. We have repaired eight broken stones and improved the gate (with special thanks to Bill Johnson, Bruce Rollins, Dick Wheeler and the Cemetery Commission).

We have continued the successful Historic House Plaque Program we began in 2007. In its current phase, we have used the services of a professional title examiner to research the more cryptic 18th and 19th century records to ensure accuracy. The cost of this assistance was borne by the homeowners whose property required such attention. No town funds were expended.

Members of the PHC wrote a book, called "Princeton: A History of its Villages". This book documents the four Districts that the PHC has placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Proceeds of the local sales of this commercially published book have benefited the PHC and no town funds were expended.

Our Goals for next year are to:

- Continue the restoration of Meeting House Cemetery.
- Install an historic marker and dedicate the newly accepted West Village National Register District.
- Begin the process of National Register nominations for The Four Corners and for the Village of Everettville.
- Develop our town website pages to make the resources we've discovered readily available to all Princeton residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman