



2011 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The Historical Commission continues to oversee the Meetinghouse Cemetery conservation project. This year Town Meeting voters approved a transfer of \$3,500 to continue this project, which has just concluded its sixth year. As in previous years, repair work was managed by gravestone conservator, Ta Mara Conde. The Commission also accepted Sheriff Evangelidis' offer of inmate labor through the Worcester County Community Service Program.

Due to the specialized nature of this work, the Commission hired Ms. Conde to instruct inmates during a two-day work session. The inmates worked tirelessly to clean and reset several gravestones and provided work worth approximately \$2,400.

The Historical Commission is extremely grateful to the Sheriff's Department and the inmates for this opportunity. We also thank the Princeton Fire Department for their generous loan of a water tank, which greatly facilitated the cleaning of multiple gravestones.

To date, a total of 77 gravestones have been addressed through this project. We hope to participate in the Community Service Program in the future and thank the Town for its support and thank Alexandra Fiandaca for coordinating it.

The National Historic Register nomination for Wachusett Mountain, written in 2008, met with some conflict and will not go forward. Although this is a disappointment, for DCR and for us, the Commission is undeterred in meeting its mandated mission: We will continue to raise awareness of Princeton's rich history by working toward the nomination of the Four Corners District and preparing to work on the nomination of the Everettville District.

One of our primary goals for next year is to craft a creative method to protect historic structures from demolition. We will find ways to encourage owners of historic structures to save them without infringing on any property owners rights. We recently had the opportunity to work with the owners of a nineteenth century schoolhouse to help develop the property as a comfortable home without demolishing the historic structure on the site. We are grateful to our Building Inspector, John Wilson, for facilitating this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman