



2012 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The Princeton Historical Commission (PHC) has continued to make significant progress in the multi-year effort to conserve Meetinghouse Cemetery. As in previous years, repair work was managed by gravestone conservator, Ta Mara Conde. In 2012, the Commission was fortunate to have a second opportunity to participate in the Worcester County Community Service Program. We thank Sheriff Evangelidis for making this program available to us and are happy to report that the two-day work session addressed fifteen gravestones.

We hope to invite Princeton residents to participate in a conservation workshop in 2013 and will ask to participate in the Community Service Program in the future. We are also working with the Cemetery Commission to find a long-term strategy for safe storage of the many gravestone fragments that have surfaced over the years. We offer special thanks to the Town for its support and thank Alexandra Fiandaca for coordinating this effort.

The PHC has addressed the issue of errors and inconsistencies on the “Entering Princeton” road signs. The signs are inconsistent in the use of “Incorporated” (Inc.) and “Established” (Est.). Princeton was, in fact, established in 1759 and incorporated in 1771. Members of the PHC have agreed that all signs should read “Est. 1759”. We thank Mickey Splaine for arranging to have the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division make stickers to display the accurate information “Est. 1759” on all signs.

The cast iron historical marker on Route 140 at Redemption Rock was erected by the Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission in 1930. It has become badly rusted and illegible. The PHC has delivered the sign to Worcester Technical High School, where it has been primed and repainted according to established historical quality specifications. The marker will be restored to its original location in the spring of 2013. We thank the Princeton Highway Department for removing the marker and Mickey Splaine for overseeing this important project.

The nomination of Princeton’s Four Corners District to the National Register of Historic Places is nearing completion. We hope that the process will be completed in 2013.

Members of the PHC have acknowledged Mechanics Hall as the town’s most prominent endangered historical asset that it is and reiterated our active support of the newly formed Friends of Mechanics Hall.

The PHC has begun an effort to identify and catalog items of potential historical significance now in the town vault and on the second floor of Bagg Hall. This effort will continue in 2013.

Although the PHC is no longer actively promoting our popular Historic Plaque Program, we have continued to honor requests from historical home owners and will continue to do so in the future. During the course of the year, the Historical Commission assisted several homeowners with questions about their antique homes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman