

# 1999 Westford Historical Commission Annual Report

The Westford Historical Commission has had a very active year continuing to fulfill its charter: preserving, protecting and developing the historical and archeological assets of the town.

## **Membership**

**The 1999 Annual Town Meeting approved two alternate members to the WHC. Stacey Perron and Phil Gilbert were appointed to the positions. Marea Crocker Joncas, was appointed to replace Madonna McKenzie.**

**Website.** We established a Westford Historical Commission web site at <http://westford.mec.edu/govt/historic/index.htm> that lets our residents have quick access to preservation bylaws and information about our work. This was organized by our new 1st Vice Chair, Bob Oliphant, working with the Town of Westford Web Page Committee Chairman, Tony Janeczek, and Jim Lacey of that committee who implemented the web site for us.

- National Register – Westford Center Historic District
- National Register – Graniteville Historic District
- Demolition Delay Bylaw
- Scenic Roads Bylaw
- WHC Annual Reports – 1997, 1998
- Link to Westford Museum Web site
- Names & phone numbers of WHC members and alternates

**National Register of Historic Places.** We have completed our nomination for placing the Graniteville Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, held a public meeting at the United Methodist Church in Graniteville, and submitted this nomination to Betsey Friedberg, Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), in July 1999. We will hear back from the State in the Spring 2000.

We have begun preparing the nomination for Forge Village Historic District to the National Register, and our target date to file this nomination is March 30, 2000.

Jane Hinckley of our commission has developed and implemented a sign program for identifying historic houses within the town and for marking the boundaries of the Westford Center Historic District, which was placed on the National Register last year.

. Started preparing a nomination to place Forge Village Historic District on the national Register of Historic Places.

. Hired Sanford Johnson to draft the nomination

**Demolition Delay Bylaw.** Under our Demolition Delay Bylaw passed by vote of Town Meeting in 1998, we have processed four demolition permits resulting in opportunity for us to accurately

research and record the historic properties prior to demolition. We are currently working with a property owner to save a house built c. 1790 located at 316 Littleton Road.

- Demolition Delay Bylaw – various properties considered
- Nardone/Read farmhouse at 316 Littleton Road (arson house)
- House, barns and garage at 26 Carlisle Road (toured: awaiting owner request)
- 1924 house at 142 Littleton Road built by Fred Burnham (took pictures)
- House on Main Street near Chamberlain corner (approved demolition)
- Old blue house on Tyngsboro Road (approved demolition)
- 1920s stone tower at 49 Acton Road (recommended preservation)

***Walking Tour Guidebook for Westford Center.*** Bob Oliphant is preparing a Walking Tour Guidebook for Westford Center Historic District, based largely on our nomination of Westford Center for the National Register of Historic Places. The guidebook will provide information on the historic aspects of the structures and sites within Westford Center and will describe their architectural significance. We plan to use old photographs of some of the buildings to illustrate their original design intent.

#### ***Grants.***

- Submitted a Documentary Heritage Grant application to the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) with the JV Fletcher Library & Town Clerk to perform a Westford Historical Records Survey and sponsor records preservation seminars and received \$6600 in grant funds
- Submitted draft of a secondary Documentary Heritage Grant application to index records at the museum and Library but did not submit final nomination

#### ***Westford Knight***

- Initiated preservation study for the “Westford Knight” stone engraving
- o Worked through Massachusetts Historical Society,
- o Prepared a Statement of Work for preservation survey, and obtained the services of retired Massachusetts State Geologist, Joe Sinnott of Worcester, to perform the study.

#### ***Massachusetts Historical Commission***

Summarized preservation bylaws/ordinances in Westford and municipality preservation in Westford for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The information will appear in the next issue of the MHC’s *Preservation Planning Manual*.

#### ***Westford Common***

***Restored original deed*** to the Westford Common and displayed at the Westford Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Tebbetts, Chair

Bob Oliphant, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Jane Hinckley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Marea Joncas, Secretary

Sally Benedict, Treasurer

Roland Pendlebury

Bette Hook

Alternates:

Stacy Perron

Phil Gilbert