



NEWBURYPORT
PRESERVATION TRUST

P. O. Box 184, Newburyport, MA 01950
www.nbptpreservationtrust.org

Linking the past with the present and future



Quarterly Newsletter of the Newburyport Preservation Trust

Summer 2019

'Small Houses – Big History' draws hundreds to Preservation Week 2019 tours & presentations

Guest speaker, house tours, walking tour, concert, youth scavenger hunt, and awards 'pack 'em in' across the city

If anyone wonders if preservation interests really have any traction in the Newburyport of today, Preservation Week 2019 – "Small Houses – Big History" – provided a clear answer, as hundreds flocked to NPT events on Friday-through-Sunday, May 17-19.

This year Preservation Week shined the spotlight on the city's smaller-footprint homes in its National Register Historic District, how they fit into the city's history, and how they contribute to neighborhood ambiance. In the current atmosphere of development pressure and profit potential, it was heartening to see healthy attendance and sincere interest in preservation of smaller homes and their neighborhoods, as the events brought friends old and new together in conversation and solidarity.

The action began on Friday evening, May 17 with keynote speaker Chris Scoville of the Boston Preservation Alliance, who presented "Beyond Brick and Mortar: Preserving a Sense of Place" at St. Anna's Chapel of St. Paul's Church.

Saturday morning, May 18, began with "Ships on State: A Nautical-Themed Family Scavenger Hunt," for elementary-aged kids and their grown-up assistant navigators.

At 11 a.m. a lively-stepping crowd large enough to block traffic marched off on a history-packed architectural tour of the North End neighborhoods that grew up around the Ocean Mills complex in the mid-19th century. Interested homeowners and passersby joined the tour in progress, and the count was close to 100 – young and old, dogs and babies – at its conclusion.

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All photos by Novak Niketic



Preservation draws crowds. Top row, left & center, is speaker Chris Scoville of the Boston Preservation Alliance. At top right, the North End walking tour took over the streets. Bottom row: Tours and receptions connected friends old & new.

NPT Preservation Awards recognize longtime stewards and new advocates

The Preservation Awards ceremony on Sunday, May 19 was the climax and closing event of NPT's 2019 Preservation Week.

Award recipients were (below, top row, l. to r.): Ann & Jeffery Stott, Amanda & David Kipp, and Patricia & Philip Hurzeler (Stewardship); Robert Himeon (Historically Sensitive Craftsman); Barbara Posnansky

(Interior Restoration); and Bethany Groff Dorau (Preservation Leadership). Below left is the crowd at the ceremony. Below right are Next Generation Preservationist awardees (l to r): Maximin Clement, Maev Taylor, Carly Schwab, Matthew Bazenas, and Jackson Byrne, with NPT board member Patricia Peknik. (Not present: Issa Garcia.) ■



All photos by Novak Niketic



Historic House Plaque Program is a boost to NPT's public profile

Consult NPT's website to learn how your house can get in the research queue for a historic house plaque

The Historic House Plaque Program of the Newburyport Preservation Trust continues to draw interest from owners of historic homes who value the rigor of its research. To date, 38 plaques – identifying the construction date, first owner, and/or builder (when known) – are mounted on

homes throughout the city's National Register Historic District.

In response to enthusiasm for the program so far, NPT plans to boost its visibility even more in the coming year via several initiatives, including sharing – both online and in print – a selection of the fascinating stories uncovered during research on individual homes.

If you are an owner/steward of a historic house in Newburyport, you can read all about the Historic House Plaque Program at <https://npt.wildapricot.org/page-1266130>. There you can learn about the research process, criteria, and fees; and easily download or print an application form. ■

Jim and Lisa Gasperoni recently mounted their new NPT Historic House Plaque on the Capt. James Clarkson House (1799) at 48 Boardman Street. (Photo by Barb Bailey)

Preservation Week 2019 ...

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Elsewhere, Window Woman of New England conducted its open house and "Sash Revival," and in the afternoon, Powder House Park & Learning Center was open for tours. That night, the Chris Walton Band played at NPT's fund-raising concert at St. Paul's Church, an event sponsored by the Institution for Savings.

On Sunday, May 19 was an interior architectural tour of three homes in the South End. On Sunday afternoon was the Preservation Awards ceremony at the Custom House Maritime Museum. (Pg. 1.)

Preservation Week is an annual event of the Newburyport Preservation Trust to celebrate the city's historic character and architectural legacy. Do you have ideas for Preservation Week 2020? Don't keep them a secret. Share them with the NPT board. Let's keep the conversation going. ■

At right: More views of a busy Preservation Week 2019. (All photos by Novak Niketic)



Deed restriction is real preservation leadership

The recent sale of a South End home revealed a commitment to preservation rarely seen in our recent period of high price tags and higher real estate profits.

The seller, determined to see the property remain a single-family home instead of being carved into two or more units, executed a deed restriction prior to putting the house on the market. This particular restriction, less convoluted than

most preservation restrictions on historic structures, allows for an in-law apartment as permitted by current zoning, but ensures the house will remain a single-family home.

It appears that for this commitment to preservation of both the structure and the neighborhood ambiance, the seller must be resigned to a slightly restricted market – and the consternation of developers and real estate professionals.

As more longtime owners of older homes consider selling, deed restriction options are a topic of further NPT investigation. ■