

LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2004

Michael Sczerzen chaired the Historical Commission in 2004. The members were Elizabeth Colley, William A. Kilbourn, David Knott, Joy Peach, Sally Rouleau, Michael Sczerzen, and Jean Watson.

The Commission office is open every Tuesday to provide service to the public regarding historical research and genealogical information. Proceeds from research copy work were returned to the General Fund. The Historic District Study Committee appointed in 2002 had a significant number of vacancies and in the fall of 2004 four new members were appointed by the Board of Selectmen plus Sally Rouleau agreed to be the liaison member from the Historical Commission.

The Memorial School, which has been vacant, suffered significant damage when windows were vandalized, and windows had to be boarded up. The Prescott Community Building (Center School) remains vacant. The Town Green Buildings Advisory Committee submitted their study recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Significant changes to property:

The old brick store, now a duplex, on the corner of Packard and Main Street had one side of bricks (Packard Street side) collapse and restoration brickwork was accomplished.

The house at 415 Main Street, significantly damaged by a chimney fire in 2002, was refurbished and is now occupied.

The historic marker at Lane's Crossing has been repaired and the Commission is waiting for the Sewer Department and DPW to repair the landscape on the Harvard Road island at the intersection of Rt. 117 before the new stone marker is placed and the bronze marker attached.

The historic Atherton Bridge, which is on the National Register, needs to have the wooden flooring replaced as it has been deemed unsafe by Mass Highway Dept.

The Rowlandson Boulder Site on George Hill (property owned by William Kilbourn) was placed on the state list of historic places. Work continues on the inventory form B for MHC for the Trivium School on Langen Road, (Crownledge, built by Eugene V.R. Thayer, Jr., in the early 1900's), and research has begun on the Fairlawn, presently known as the White House, AUC, for submittal to MHC. The Eastwood Cemetery in Lancaster and Bolton has been recommended to MHC for consideration of National Register Status.

Accessions:

Post card of the Thayer Pond with swans

R. S. Thayer old Clinton Trust Company 1926 processed checks

Tercentenary Celebration of the Capture & Release of Mary White Rowlandson, May 2, 1976

Book, Laotuzu's Tao and Wu Wei, translation by Dwight Goddard given to Custis Farnsworth, July 1921 in exchange for gladiolus. One packing label from J.E. Farnsworth Co., Inc. Gladiolus Ranch, Lancaster, MA