

LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2005

Michael Sczerzen chaired the Historical Commission in 2005. 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 has made significant progress and is working with the Town Planner for the Master Plan for presentation to the Town at the Annual Meeting in 2006. Sally Rouleau is the liaison member from the Historical Commission on the HDSC.

The old Hose House in South Lancaster, c. 1888, has suffered interior damage due to roofing done five years ago. The Fire Department and Town Planner have presented a capital plan project for consideration by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

The Commission thanks the individuals and organizations that have adopted a town historic marker and have maintained the markers with attractive plantings during the four seasons.

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

Significant changes to property:

The old Inn c. 1810 once known as Fisher's Inn and in the early 1900's known as the Fairbanks Inn is being dismantled by Dan Shield of Spencer (18th & 19th Century Recycling company). It will be reassembled in an eastern Ohio town where the buyer is rebuilding a fire-ravaged neighborhood with buildings that capture the movement of people from East to the West in terms of architecture. Steven Glover of Westminster will build a new four-unit condominium to resemble the old inn on the property.

The historic marker at Lane's Crossing at the intersection of Harvard Road and Rt. 117 (Seven Bridge Road) damaged by vandals has been repaired. The Commission is waiting further word on the status of the intersection from the Sewer Department and DPW about repair of the landscape, before a new stone 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. There is hope that the DPW will put this bridge and the Ponakin Bridge on their Capital Plan for repairs.

The site of the Industrial School for Girls, off Old Common Road on the location used by the RFK School has expanded its facilities by adding new dormitories and classrooms.

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 another Thayer mansion, 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, but considerable work by a professional consultant is needed to inventory the stones and markers before submission.

Accessions:

Busts of Milton and Shakespeare originally displayed in the Lancaster High School

Lancaster High School Yearbooks, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959

Photo of B&W Gas Station – owners Glenn Bowen & Frederick Willruth

VCR Interview with Herbert Hosmer

Book, On Gossamer Wings, Franklin Perkins, Jr.