

**SALEM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008**

*The Salem Historical Commission is a volunteer board of Salem residents appointed by the Mayor. The Commission's mission is to provide regulatory design review within Salem's four designated local historic districts. The Commission also provides community-wide historic preservation planning assistance by promoting historic preservation awareness and by commenting on projects that may impact historic resources.*

**Certificates Issued**

During the year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, the Salem Historical Commission met regularly 22 times and had one site visit during which a quorum was present. In its capacity as Historic District Commission for 4 local districts, the Commission received 128 applications and filed a total of 135 certificates including:

- 56 Certificates of Appropriateness;
- 2 Certificates of Hardship;
- 69 Certificates of Non-Applicability;
- 4 Waivers of the Demolition Delay Ordinance; and
- 4 Denials:
  - 3 for Certificate of Appropriateness, and
  - 1 for Waiver of the Demolition Delay Ordinance.

Certificates issued are provided to the owner of the property, the City Clerk and the Building Inspector and are kept on file in the Department of Planning and Community Development according to address. A list of all Certificates issued can be found in the Certified Local Government Annual Report, which is on file at the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Minutes of all meetings are also available at the Department of Planning and Community Development and, beginning July 1, 2006, on-line on the City's website [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com).

**Commission Members**

The Commission is regularly comprised of seven (7) regular members and two (2) alternate members. There were no new appointments during the report period. As of June 30, 2008, there are one full member and one alternate member vacancies.

**Workshops/Seminars**

Hannah Diozzi attended the following:

- Underground engineering lecture, James Lambrechts PE, Professor of Engineering at Wentworth Institute, sponsored by Boston by Foot, May 2008
- Rose Kennedy Greenway Tour, sponsored by Boston by Foot, May, 2008

Doug Desrocher attended a lecture at the Peabody Essex Museum on the history of courthouses in Fall, 2007.

Jessica Herbert attended the following:

- Boston Society of Architects, lecture, Justice and Architecture, Boston Mass. April 2008
- Carlyle House, Alexandria, VA: Lecture on Uncovering Buried Historical Artifacts: "Trash to Treasure in Colonial Virginia", May, 2008
- Lecture on "Preservation & Restoration of Herbert House" at Herbert House Museum, ca. 1805, Hampton, Virginia, June, 2008

David Hart attended the following:

- Tour of recent restorations with Boston Society of Architects Historic Resources Committee, Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth NH, September 2007
- Association for Preservation Technology, four day conference, mortar workshop, lectures, field visits, Puerto Rico, November 2007
- Boston Society of Architects, Build Boston tradeshow, November 2007
- Old house clinic, Historic New England, Salem Mass., February 2008
- Association for Preservation Technology, College of Fellows conference, Williamsburg Virginia, March 2008
- Concrete and Cast Stone Symposium, MIT, March 2008
- Vernacular Architecture Conference, Sturbridge Mass, April 2008
- Boston Society of Architects, lecture, Justice and Architecture, Boston Mass. April 2008
- American Institute of Architects National Convention, Boston Mass., May 2008
- Boston Society of Architects Historic Resources Committee, monthly meetings, Boston Mass.

### **Survey & Planning Grant Projects**

Currently underway is a Neighborhood Architectural Conservation District study for which the City of Salem received a \$18,000 funding award from the FY07 Survey and Planning Grant program.

### **Grant Awards**

The City of Salem was awarded a \$52,000 Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant for improvements to the Salem Public Library.

The City of Salem was awarded a \$50,000 Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant for the Witch House roof and chimney restoration and accessibility improvements.

The City of Salem was awarded a \$4,000 Essex Heritage Partnership grant for the Witch House roof and chimney restoration and accessibility improvements.

## **Other Activities**

The Commission provided letters of support for:

- City of Salem application for Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund for the Witch House;
- Salem Jail Complex – Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit application

The Commission provide comment letters for:

- North Street Reconstruction – Extra Work Order
- J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center – Memorandum of Agreement, Draft 4
- J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center – Memorandum of Agreement, Draft 5
- J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center – 30% Submission
- MetroPCS NewEngland – Telecommunications facility installation at 320 Lafayette Street
- J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center – 90% Submission for relocation of Baptist Church

Ms. Herbert, Mr. Hart and Ms. Guy served on the working group for the Neighborhood Architectural Conservation District study.

The Joseph Fenno House (Women's Friend Society on Hawthorne Blvd) nomination was considered on June 11, 2008 at Massachusetts Historical Commission and was voted eligible for listing on the National Register by the State Review Board and is being submitted to Washington for final review.

The Commission amended the policy for abutters notices to include that, at a minimum, notices be sent to abutters, abutters to abutters, people across the street and their abutters, regardless of whether they are within the district, and any larger area as the Clerk of the Commission may deem appropriate.

This report was completed by Jane A. Guy on behalf of the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Salem Historical Commission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane A. Guy  
Assistant Community Development Director  
Clerk of the Salem Historical Commission