An Introduction to Our Work

Jeffrey Gonyea, Preservation Circuit Rider
Eastern Mass Historical Commission Coalition, January 31, 2023
ABOUT PRESERVATION MASSACHUSETTS

Founded in 1985 in Boston
Statewide non-profit preservation advocacy and education organization
2 full time, 3 part time staff and volunteer Board of Directors
Erin Kelly became President & Executive Director after the retirement of Jim Igoe in the Fall of 2022.

We work collaboratively to support local, state, and regional partners through a variety of programs and initiatives.

Private non-profit organization - NO state or federal funding for our work.
WHAT WE DO

Preservation Massachusetts advocates for historic preservation and seeks to educate and empower people to identify, productively use, and preserve the historic resources that are important to them and their community.
Partnerships

Partnerships make preservation possible.

PM knows the value of collaboration, and we work with individuals, organizations, networks, and agencies across the state, region, and country to achieve common goals.

- The Western Massachusetts Historic Commissions Coalition
- The Central Massachusetts Historic Commissions Coalition
- The Eastern Massachusetts Historic Commissions Coalition
- The National Preservation Partners Network
- The Massachusetts History Alliance
Legislative Policy Initiatives

PM works with local, state and national organizations to promote good preservation policy while continually educating our elected officials in Massachusetts and Washington DC about the impact and benefits of preservation...

...including work to support the Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the Federal Historic Tax Credit—powerful tools that support both preservation and economic development.
Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources Program

Since 1993, this core advocacy program has identified and worked to support the preservation of endangered historic resources across the Commonwealth. Individuals, organizations, and communities nominate threatened resources that are important to them, and a panel of preservation experts reviews the nominations and develops the list.
Designation as an MER brings no formal regulatory role or control to a site or situation, but it often serves as a catalyst for action.

Preservation Mass staff makes listed resources priority projects...

...bringing staff expertise, technical assistance, and our various networks to the table to support the preservation of these properties.
Advocacy

Annual Preservation Awards

Since 1988, PM has celebrated the individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to preserving the Commonwealth’s historic resources.

This event is also the major annual fundraiser for the organization.
Under the guidance of Program & Advocacy Manager, Joe Ritter, PM works to educate communities about the value of preservation in many ways:

**Delivering Presentations** on topics such as Preservation Planning, Benefits of HP, Reuse of Municipal Buildings, and more.

**Sponsoring Workshops**: How to Restore Historic Windows, etc.
EDUCATION

Preservation Conversations

Virtual meetings where participants can learn from PM's professional staff and guest contributors on a variety of preservation topics and (most importantly) ask questions directly; Conversations are archived on the PM website and YouTube channel.
Cruising the Commonwealth

A series of meetings across the state in 2017 and 2022 where we heard directly from local partners, organizations, and individuals about issues, needs, thoughts, challenges, successes, and ideas for the future related to historic preservation.

Issues identified in these meetings and through a survey become Preservation Priorities for further exploration and work by PM and other preservation partners.
EMPOWERMENT

Preservation Circuit Rider Program

Provides “in the field” technical assistance.

Delivers expertise, guidance, and other resources to help local advocates with preservation priorities, issues, and projects in their communities.

Stacia Caplanson covers Western & Central Mass.
EMPOWERMENT

Project Related Resources on the Preservation Action Center page of preservationmass.org

Practical advice and resources for project planning, examples of model projects, list of funding sources, and other critical tools to help plan and execute successful preservation projects.
Since 2005, Preservation Mass has maintained a Preservation Directory of many individual consultants and firms who specialize in preservation-related fields.
Massachusetts Historic Preservation Matching Grants

Since 2020, Preservation Massachusetts has worked in partnership with The 1772 Foundation on this source of grant funding for historic buildings in Massachusetts.

The Historic Preservation Matching Grant Program is a 1:1 matching grant of up to $10,000 for exterior work on historic properties owned or leased by non-profit organizations.
PM is one of the founding organizations of the statewide Community Preservation Coalition that worked to enact the Community Preservation Act legislation in 2000.

CPA is one of the most powerful preservation tools used by 194 communities (as of 2022) to fund important, high-quality preservation projects in their town or city (6,700 HP projects funded to date!).

PM continues to sit on CPC steering committee.
WE ARE HERE TO HELP!
THANK YOU!!

Preservation Massachusetts

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