

# Preservation News

## *Today's Historical Swampscott*

### Interpretive Signage for Visitors

The Historical Commission has funded design and development of interpretive signage for four of Swampscott's historic sites: the Fish House, Town Hall, Andrews Chapel and Cemetery, and the Olmsted Historic District. The four signs will display period photos and histories of the key buildings and landmarks in town. The signs will include QR scan codes, readable by a visitor's mobile device, and linking them to more narrative history posted on the town website. The Commission hopes to have these four signs set up at the landmark spots in the next few months. As budget allows, we plan to select additional historic buildings and landmarks for interpretive signage in the future. (Note: Swampscott also received a matching grant for the interpretive signage from the Essex National Partnership Grant Program.)

### Historic Preservation Awards

Last year's preservation awards were distributed belatedly in 2021 using safe distancing practices, rather than presenting homeowners with their awards at a Select Board meeting. The Commission awarded 2 preservation awards to homeowners, and one to The Church of the Holy Name, for preserving and maintaining the historic character of their properties in their renovation projects. James and Denine Olsen show their award in front of their home at 22 Banks Road.



## Old Police Station: Town Historic Archive

Swampscott allocated \$190,000 for repairs to the Burrill Street building (former police station) at the November 2020 special town meeting. The space will be used to house the town-wide historic archive collection from the Historical Commission, Historical Society, and the Swampscott Public Library. The Select Board approved use by the three organizations to access and use the second floor of the building for ongoing archival work. The project plan was identified following assessment by an archive consultant who was funded by a grant from the Mass Board of Library Commissioners. The historic archive implementation will include storage repository of town artifacts, digitization of photos and documents, and ultimately, museum style display for residents. The town organizations hope to obtain funds for some of the project implementation from further grants.

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- ♦ Kim Barry, Newsletter Editor
- ♦ Spring 2021

To support the Commission and its programs, please send your donation to the town hall, designated as a gift for the Historical Commission.



"22 Banks Terrace is an example of a vernacular Dutch Colonial Revival due to its gambrel roof, multi-paned double hung windows, shed dormer and full-length porch. A gambrel roof has two flat surfaces on each side of the ridge of the roof, each at a different pitch. The Gambrel Roof became common in Colonial America, particularly in rural New York around 1750. This new shape became common throughout the English colonies as a means of increasing both roof span and useful attic space. At 22 Banks Terrace there is a continuous dormer across the front. This dormer would never be part of an original Dutch colonial house but is typical of the revival styles."

For this year's award program, we are evaluating homeowners' submissions we received by our March 31 deadline. Their property projects are under review, and the Commission will choose this year's award winners, and announce to the participants later this year. Please follow our Commission Facebook page for details.

## *Researching Your Swampscott Home's History*

Ryan Judkins of the Historical Commission presented a discussion on how to research the history of your home for Swampscott residents via Zoom meeting. It was a huge success and 67 attendees dialed in to hear the presentation detail how to use Salem Deeds research, the Public Library archives, and other resources to find more information about the history of one's home and its previous occupants. We also had some attendees from nearby towns who signed up via our Facebook page or Facebook Group. Follow us for future event info.