



Edmund Fowle House - 1772

*The Historical Society of Watertown*

*Organized 1888 Incorporated 1891*

28 Marshall Street, Watertown, MA 02472-3408  
617-923-6067 [www.HistoricalSocietyOfWatertownMA.org](http://www.HistoricalSocietyOfWatertownMA.org)

# Support the Community Preservation Act

[www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org)

Property taxes traditionally fund the day-to-day operating needs of safety, health, schools, roads, maintenance, and more. Until the CPA was enacted, there was no steady funding source for preserving and improving a community's character and quality of life. The Community Preservation Act gives a community the funds needed to control its future.

We already pay directly for the CPA, and get nothing in return.

All communities contribute to the state Community Preservation fund through local real estate transactions at the Registries of Deeds, but only communities that adopt the Community Preservation Act get a share of the state money. We are paying into a fund from which we currently cannot draw.

Since its creation in 2000, CPA has been adopted by 160 Massachusetts communities. CPA has generated over \$1.6 billion in dedicated funds statewide, and helped fund the creation of 9,400 affordable homes, 1,550 outdoor recreation projects, 4,000 historic preservation projects and protected over 23,000 acres of open space.

**If we had passed the CPA back in 2005, Watertown would have raised more than \$15 million for community investments.**



Rehabilitation and reuse of the East Branch Library



Rehabilitation and reuse of the old Police Station –  
as the Town's Archives? as the Library's Makerspace?



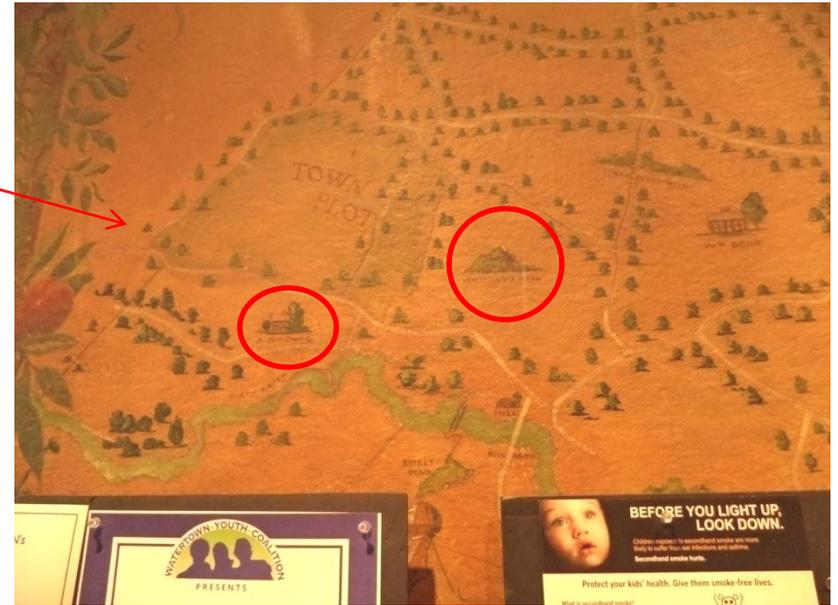
Restoration and conservation of the 1930s map murals on the walls in Town Hall's foyer, depicting Watertown in 1630 and 1930

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The Browne House and Whitney Hill (at the top of Marshall St)



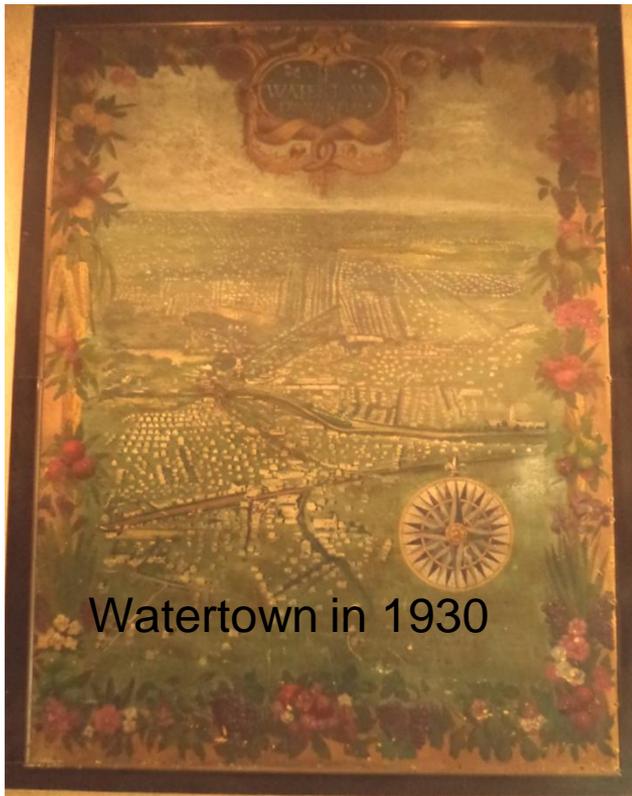
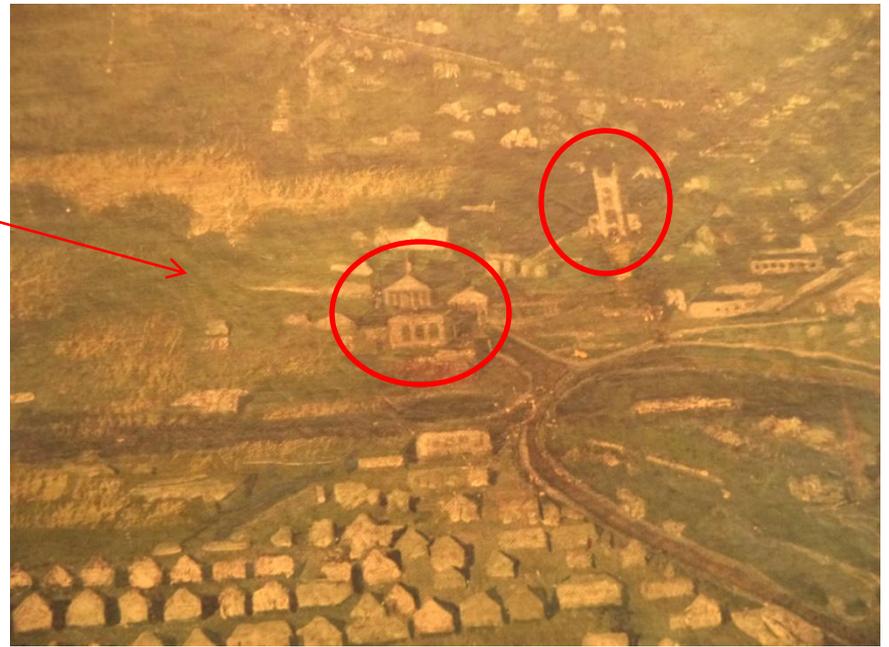
Watertown in 1630



The Old Parsonage and the Old Burying Ground

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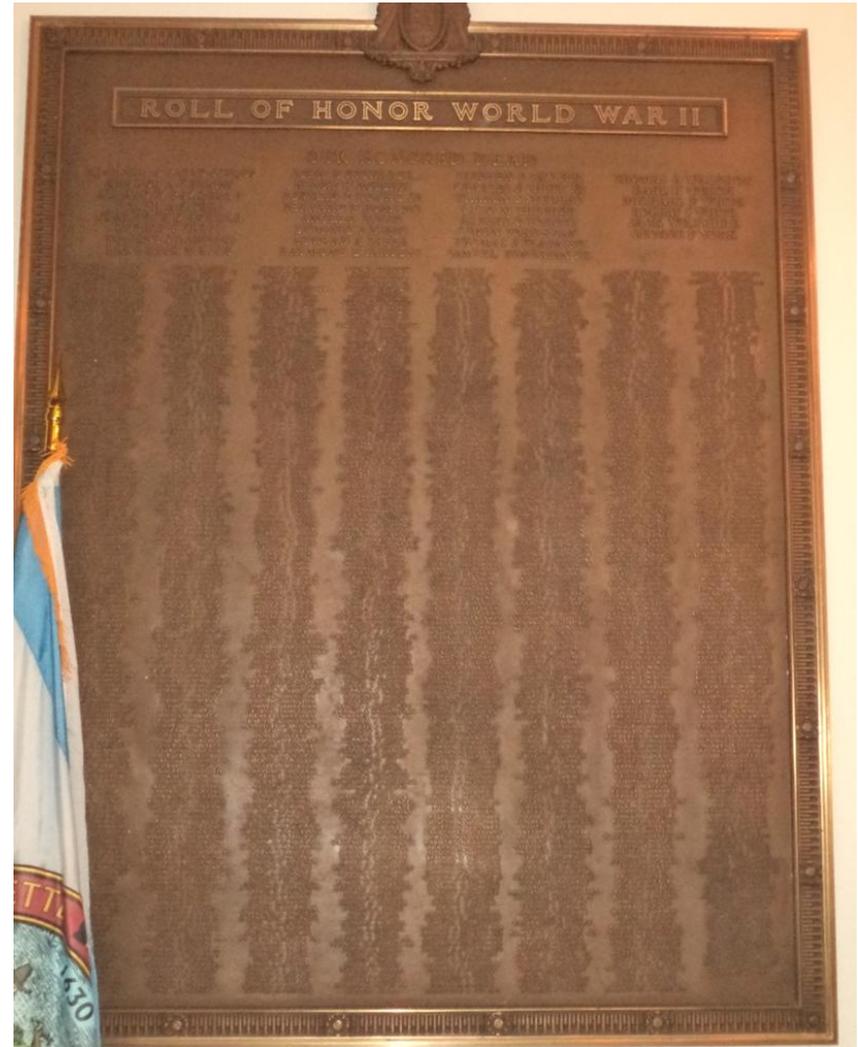
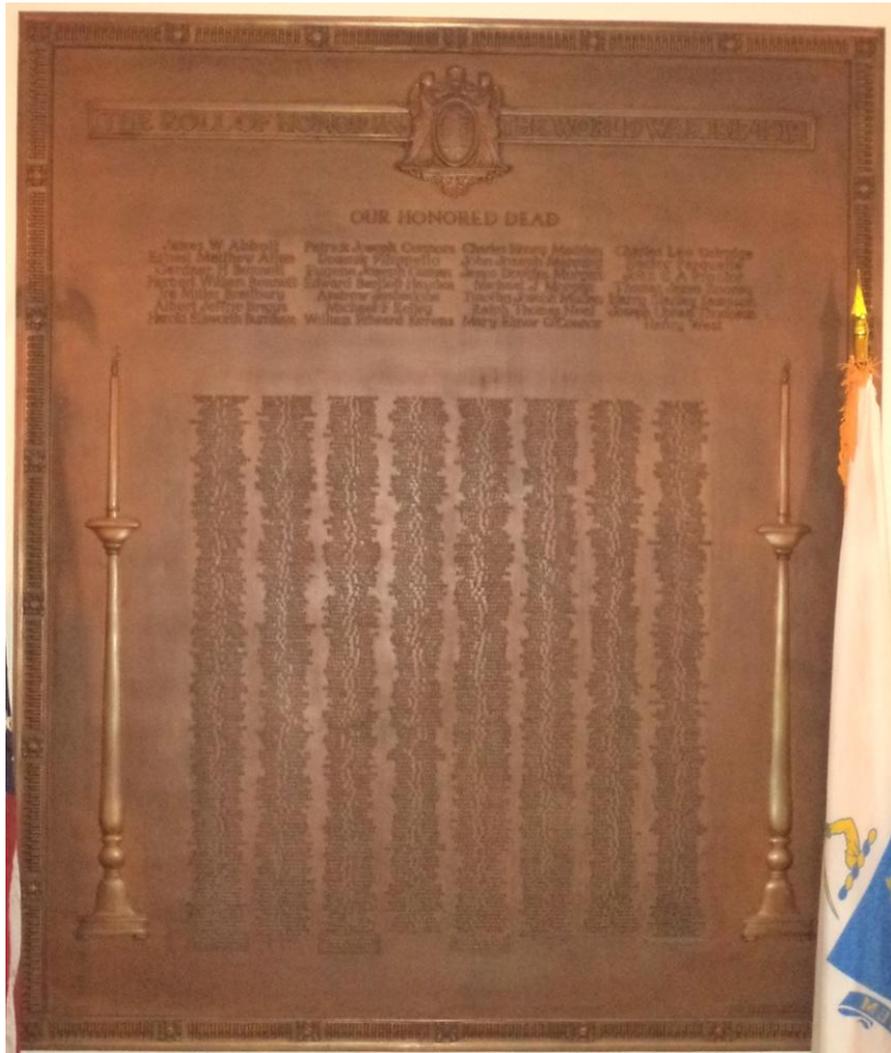
Old Town Hall, Union Market National Bank and First Parish Church



Watertown in 1930

Mural with large scratches and small pieces missing





Conservation/cleaning of the Veterans plaques in Town Hall



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Rehabilitation and reuse of the North Branch Library which includes a large yard in back



Salvage and mold remediation of documents and photos stored in the basement of the Commander's Mansion



Salvage and mold remediation of documents and photos stored in the basement of the Commander's Mansion

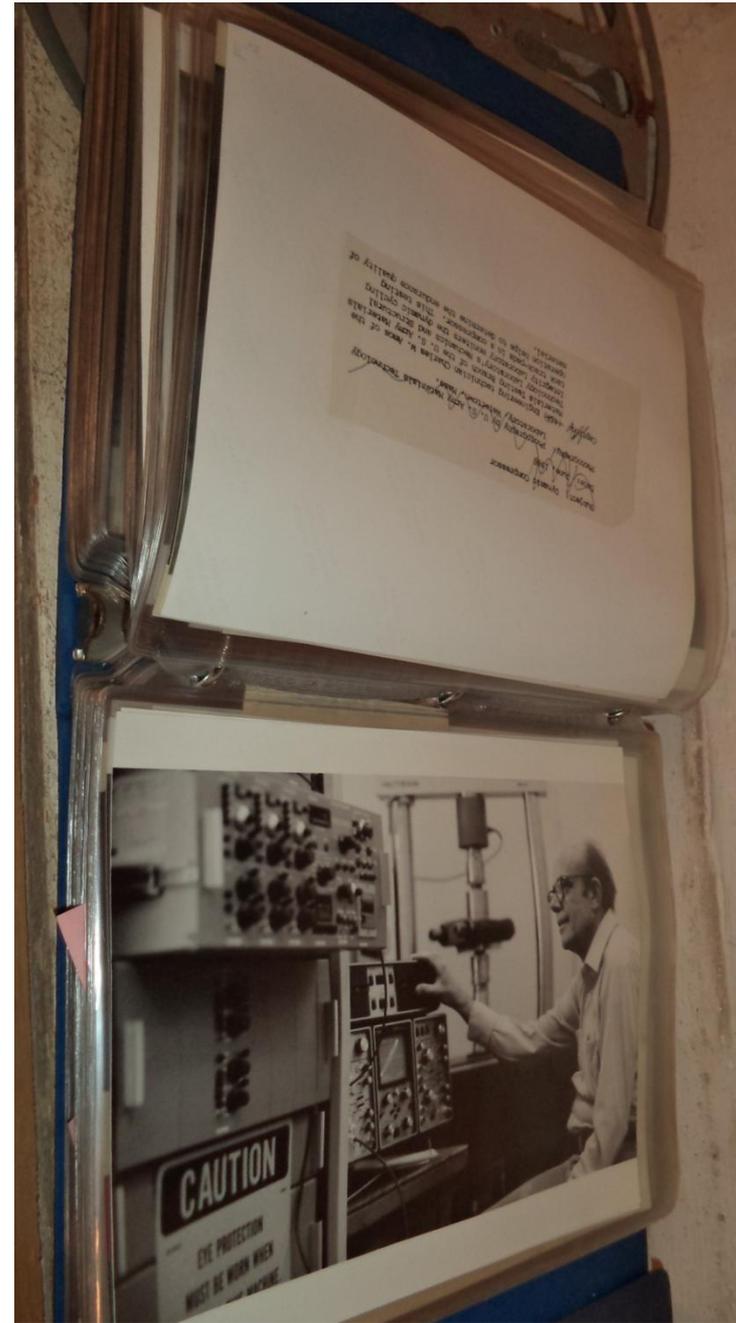


Salvage and mold remediation of artifacts and school records stored in the basement of the Commander's Mansion

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Salvage of photos, 35 mm slides and glass slides in the basement of the Mansion documenting Arsenal history



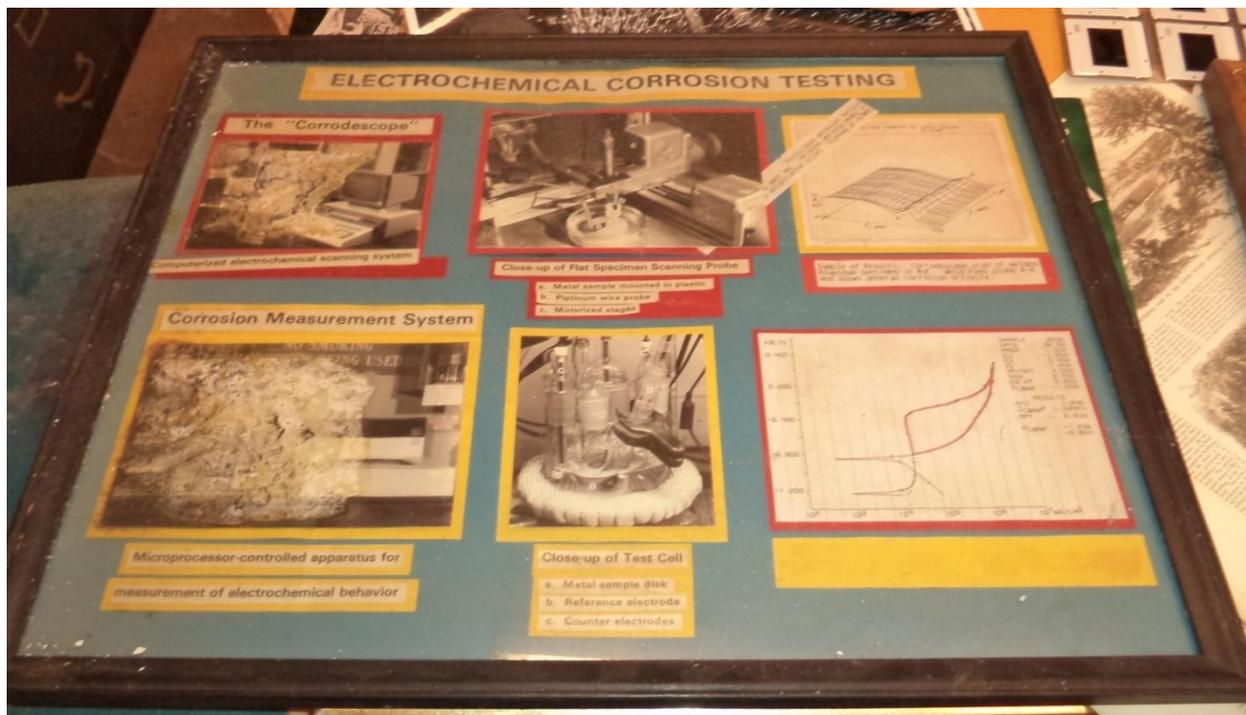
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Salvage and mold remediation of photos in the basement of the Commander's Mansion documenting Watertown Arsenal history



Salvage and mold remediation of school records and blueprints of ???  
stored in the basement of the Commander's Mansion



Salvage and mold remediation of photos in the basement of the Commander's Mansion documenting Watertown Arsenal history – a missed opportunity to educate students and the community about the history of the Arsenal and what kind of work was done there.





Town records stored in the East Branch Library –

Watertown needs a place dedicated to storage of records.

Our history dates back to 1630.

## The Historical Society of Watertown

Documents from 1894 and 1895 are being stored in the East Branch Library – we need to rescue important town records

Our history dates back to 1630.



*Undertaker.* No. 262

**PERMIT FOR BURIAL.**

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.  
Watertown, June 18 1895

Permission is hereby given for the burial of the remains of  
*John Mc. Douough*, age \_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ months,  
\_\_\_\_\_ days, who died June 17 1895, of *Primate's Burial*  
in *Watertown Catholic* Cemetery.

This Permit must accompany the body to its destination.

By direction of the Board of Health.  
*Fred E. Clapham* Clerk.

No. 262  
The transportation agent receiving the body will retain this coupon for identification if needed.

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*Undertaker.* No. 263

**PERMIT FOR BURIAL.**

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.  
Watertown, June 19 1895

Permission is hereby given for the burial of the remains of  
*Margaret Mc. Douough*, age \_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ months,  
\_\_\_\_\_ days, who died June 18 1895, of *Primate's Burial*  
in *Watertown Catholic* Cemetery.

This Permit must accompany the body to its destination.

By direction of the Board of Health.  
*Fred E. Clapham* Clerk.

No. 263  
The transportation agent receiving the body will retain this coupon for identification if needed.





Top of gravestone from 1820 broken off and has almost disappeared into the ground

Restoration and conservation of the gravestones in **1754 Common Street Cemetery**

The marble headstone on top of the tomb of Edmund Fowle (1747 – 1821) and his family is deteriorating

EDMUND,  
JOHN, JEREMIAH AND  
SAMUEL FOWLE'S  
TOMB  
Built A.D. 1803  
Closed in  
J.P. Bradlee  
1877.

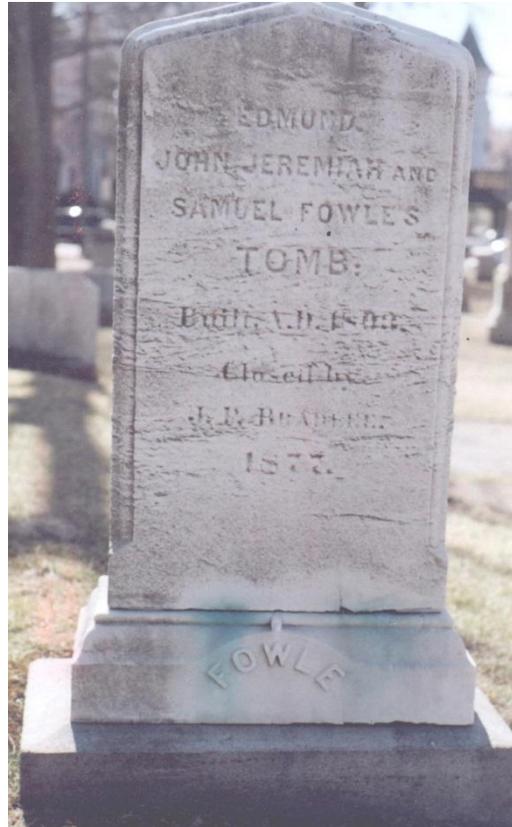


Photo taken in 2007

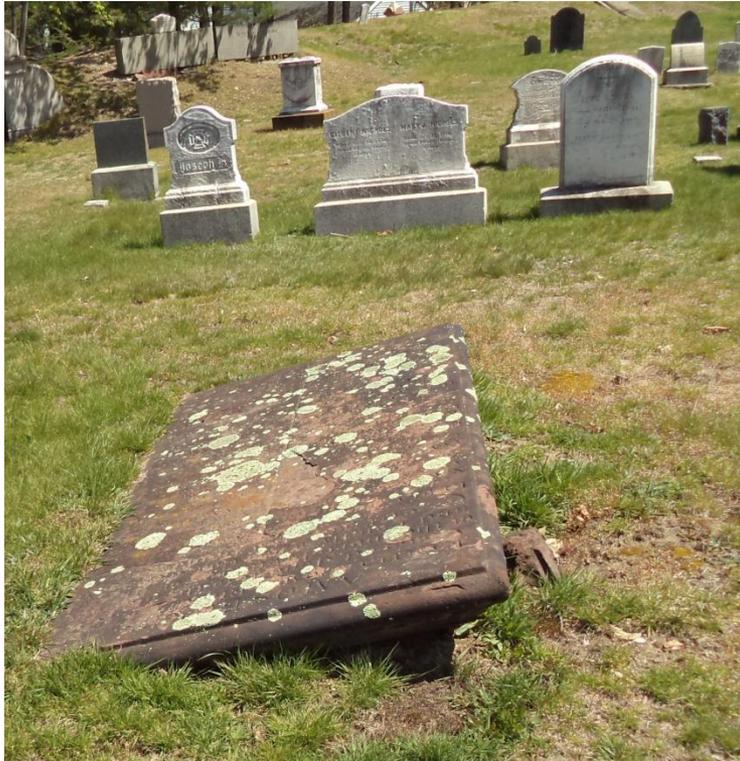


Photo taken in 2016

Restoration and conservation of the gravestones in 1754 Common Street Cemetery



Broken and leaning headstones – the leaning stones will soon fall over and be swallowed up into the ground



Tabletop grave marker  
sinking into the ground



Broken door on entrance to tomb

Restoration and conservation of gravestones in 1754 Common Street Cemetery

Samuel Barnard (1737 – 1792) One of the Watertown men who threw tea into the harbor during the Boston Tea Party. A Captain in Col. Thomas Gardner's regt. - marched his militia to Menotomy on April 19, 1775



Photos taken in 2010 and 2016 – the gravestone has incurred a considerable amount of biological growth in a short period of time

Conservation of grave markers  
in the 1754 Common Street  
Cemetery – this headstone for  
Nathaniel Pierce who died in  
1783 is laying on the ground and  
will be swallowed up a little bit at  
a time until it disappears



Helen Learned (1835 – 1866)



Restoration and conservation of gravestones in 1754 Common Street Cemetery

*The Historical Society of Watertown*

TOWN OF WATERTOWN  
 Key No. 1409 W. VETERANS' GRAVES REGISTRATION War CIVIL.....

1. Name of deceased Learned Helen A.  
(Surname) (First) (Middle)

2. Name of Cemetery Common St. Place Watertown, Mass.  
(City or Town)

Grave No. 435 Location Sec. N  
(Section, path, lot, etc.)

Date of Burial in this Cemetery unknown Grave No. on Blue Print sec N

3. Marker placed On grave By whom BAR post 81  
(Organization)

4. Were remains buried elsewhere? ? Date .....

Place .....

5. Branch of Service .....

6. Born 1835 unknown Died 6-6-1866 unknown  
(Place and Date) (Place and Date)

7. Cause of death .....

8. Was deceased member of Veteran Organization? unknown  
(Post, camp, garrison, etc. Location)

9. Name and address of next of kin unknown  
(Name, relationship, address)

10. Undertaker unknown  
(Name and address)

REMARKS: (over) Graves Registration Officer.

Family upright marble  
(Private, family, Government)

11. Type of stone marking grave ..... yes  
(Private, family, Government)

12. Is Government stone permitted in this Cemetery? ..... none  
(Bronze, granite, marble, upright, flat)

13. Type of Government stone ..... none

14. Name and address of organization making this report OP-165-1-14-284  
WPA #22704, Watertown, Mass.

15. If deceased received any decorations, medals, citation, etc. Note: .....

16. Date of enlistment ..... unknown

17. Date of discharge ..... unknown

Information on head stone:  
 Helen A. Learned died June 6, 1866 aged 31 yrs  
 Erected by the gratitude of the Colored people of  
 Baltimore in whose service she laid down her life.  
*Civil War Nurse*

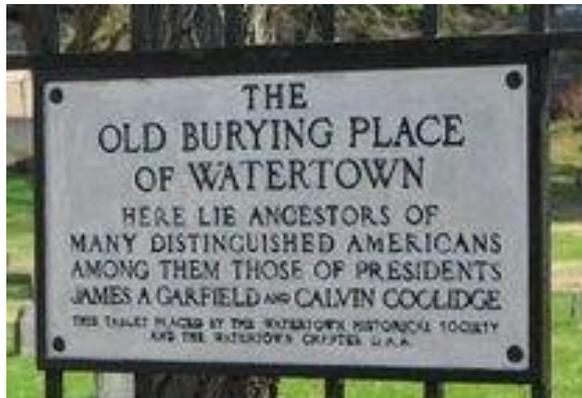
Information on head stone:  
 Helen A. Learned died June 6, 1866 age 31 yrs.  
 Erected by the gratitude of the Colored people of  
 Baltimore in whose service she laid down her life.



Map of Common Street Cemetery hanging on the wall of the Ridgelawn Cemetery office building – one of a kind !



Interpretive signage for the Cannon at Victory Field



Conservation of grave markers in the **1642 Old Burying Ground** – this tabletop monument for early minister Henry Gibbs is sinking into the ground



Conservation of grave markers in the Old Burying Ground – William Shearer, died 1763, brick and stone tabletop, this is the only surviving original tabletop gravemarker



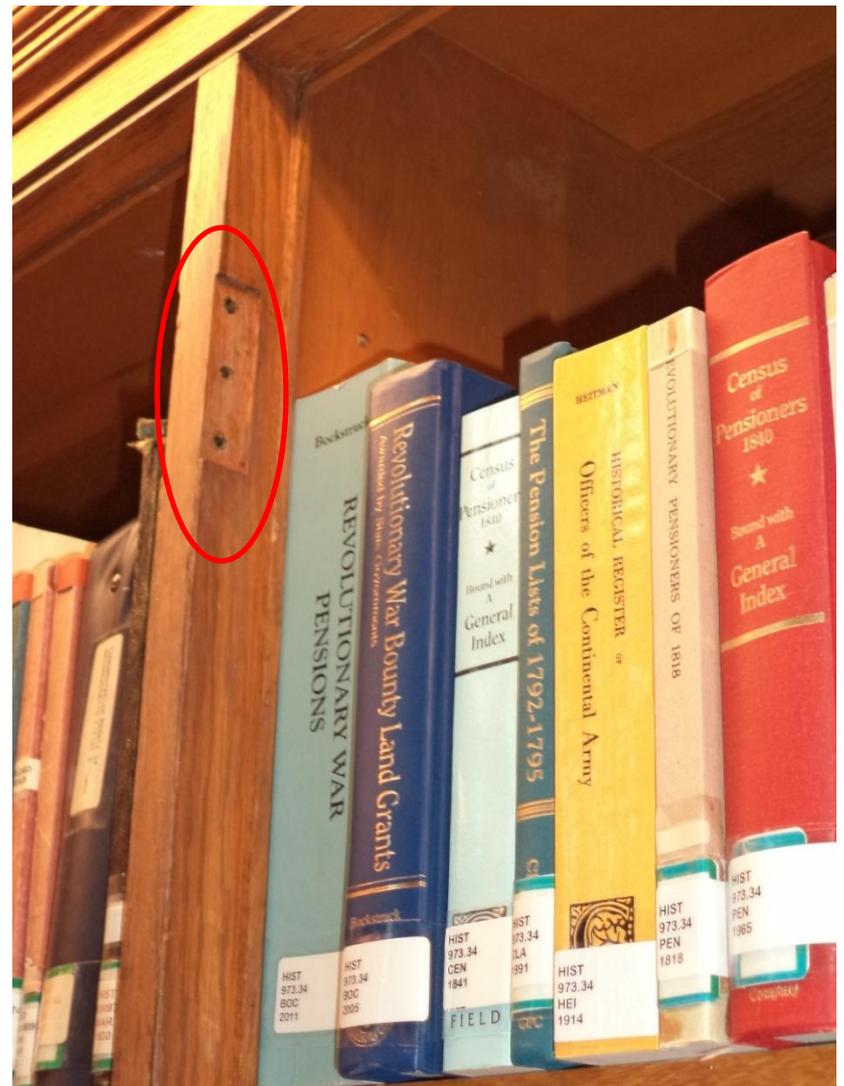
Old Burying Ground – Sarah Hammond, 1688, broken slate headstone, one piece is present



Double headstone of David Coolidge, 1788, and Dorothy Coolidge, 1815, slate, piece sheared off



Installation of cabinet doors with locks for primary source material and irreplaceable manuscripts in the Local History Room of the Library



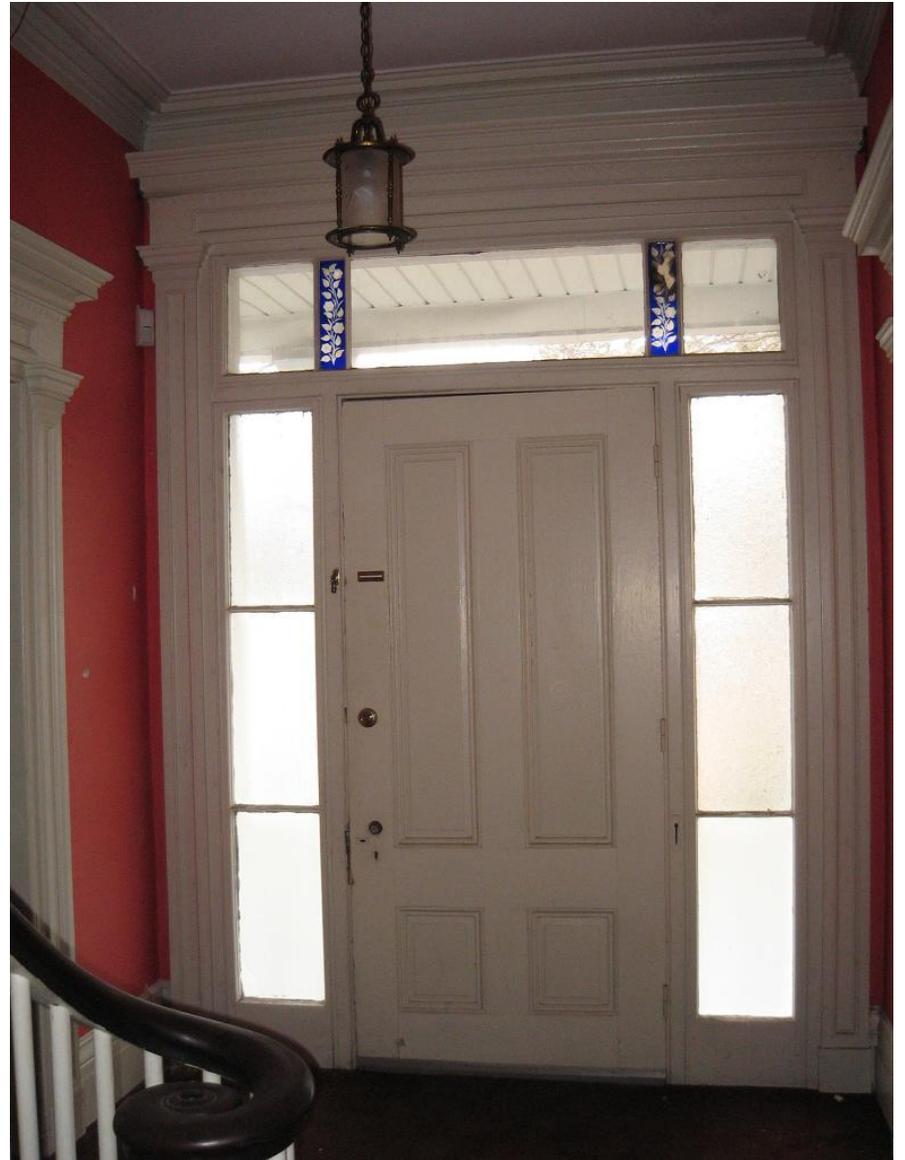
Installation of cabinet doors with locks for primary source material and irreplaceable manuscripts in the Local History Room of the Library

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Restoration and reuse of the  
1851 Shick House on Grove  
Street

*The Historical Society of Watertown*



“An Aristocrat in Overalls”

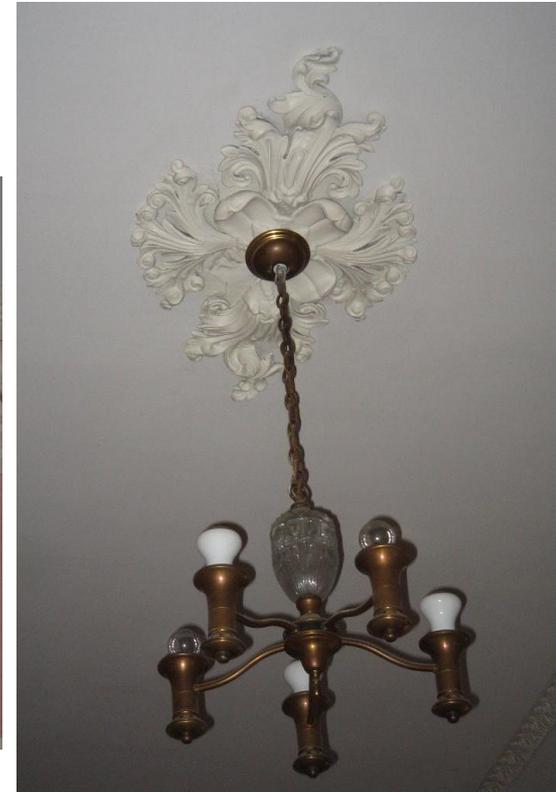
*The Historical Society of Watertown*



“An Aristocrat in Overalls”



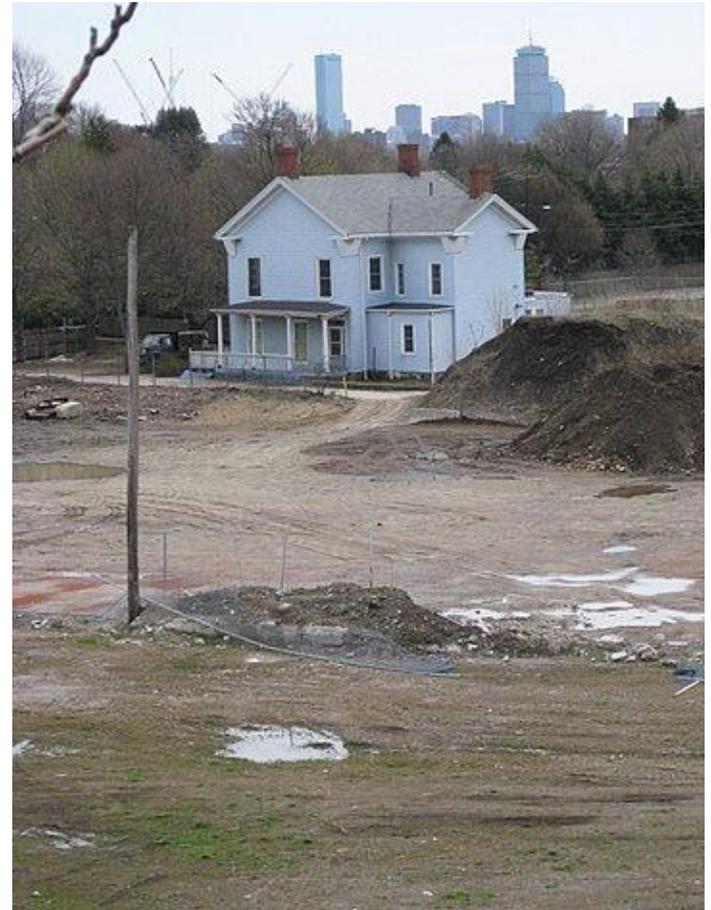
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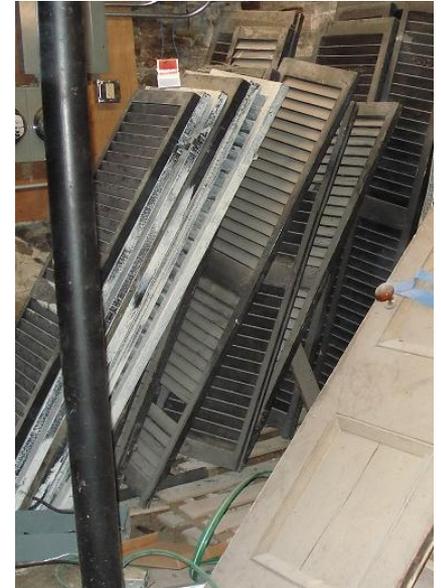


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Restoration and reuse of the  
1850s Shick House



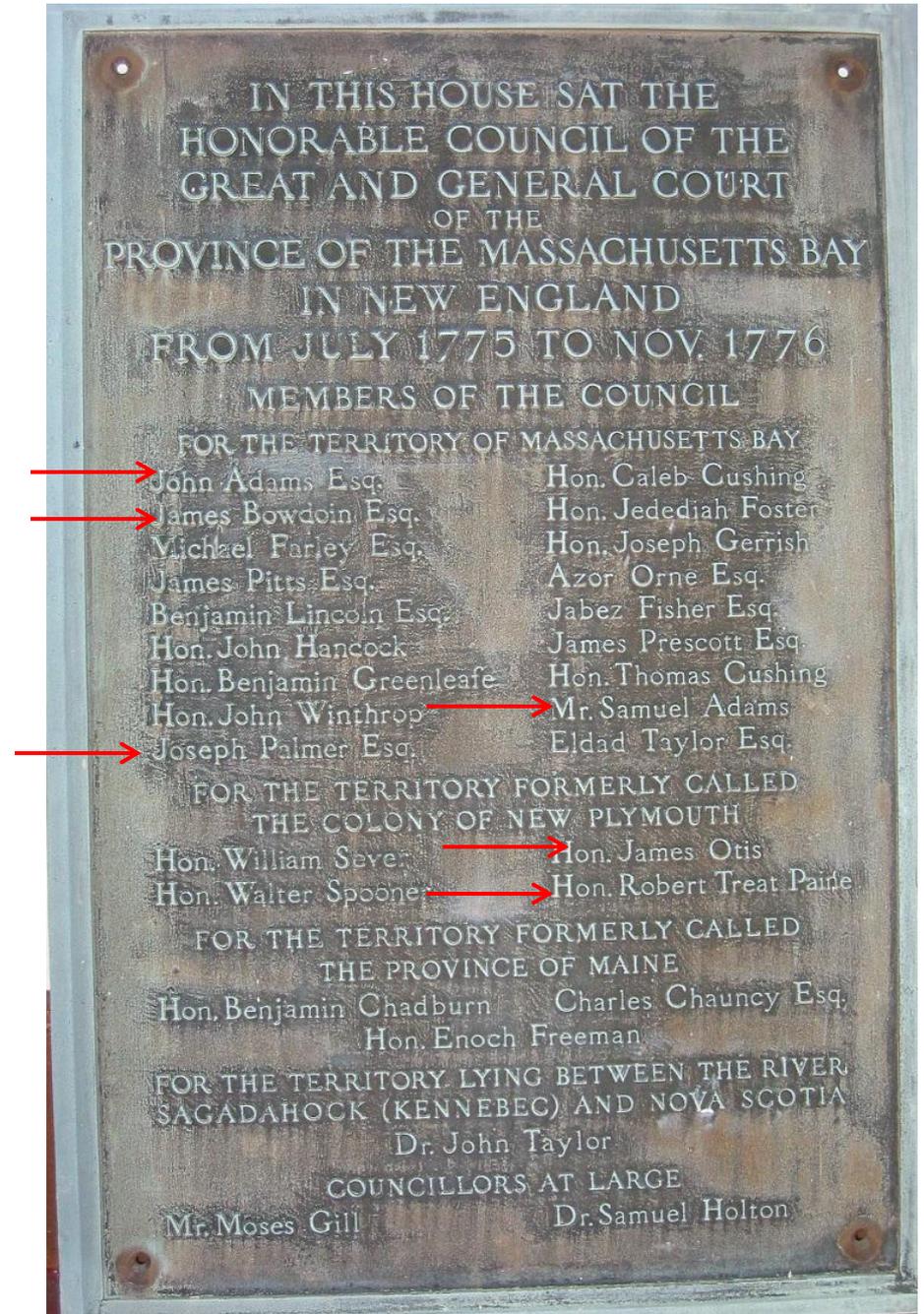


Restoration and installation of the 1870s Charles Brigham shutters for the Edmund Fowle House

Mounting of the Executive Council bronze plaque into a boulder to be installed on the front lawn of the Edmund Fowle House.

The bronze plaque lists members of the Executive Council who met in the Fowle House during the first year-and-a-half of the Revolutionary War, including:

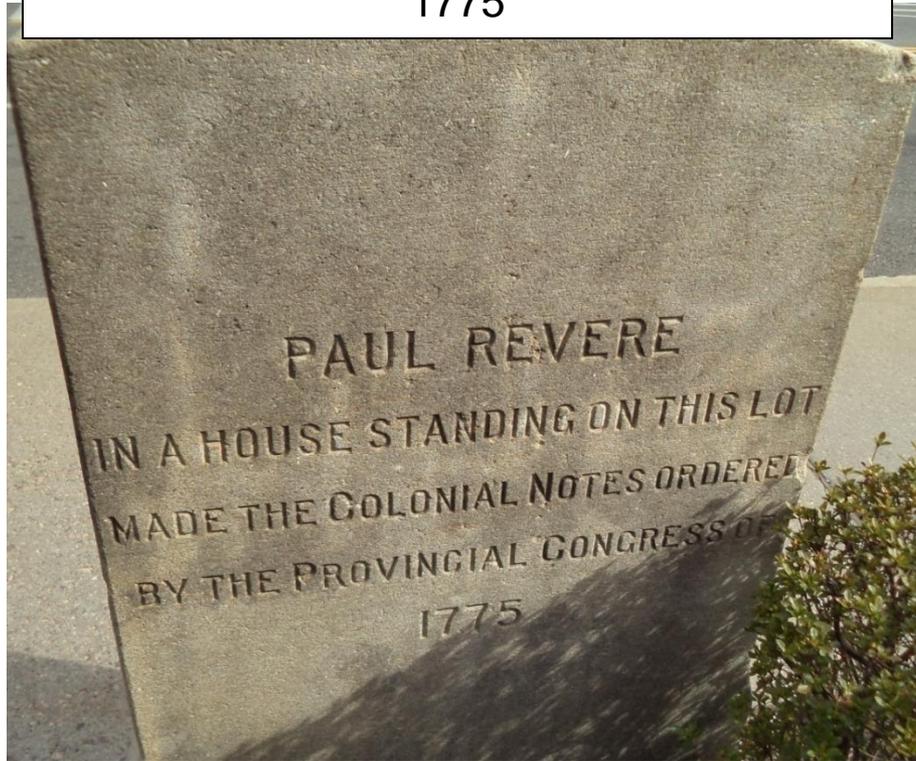
John Adams,  
Sam Adams,  
Joseph Palmer,  
James Otis Sr.,  
James Bowdoin and  
Robert Treat Paine



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Paul Revere marker, facing backwards, is unreadable and inconspicuous – interpretive signage needed with photo of Cook House

PAUL REVERE  
IN A HOUSE STANDING ON THIS LOT  
MADE THE COLONIAL NOTES ORDERED  
BY THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS  
1775

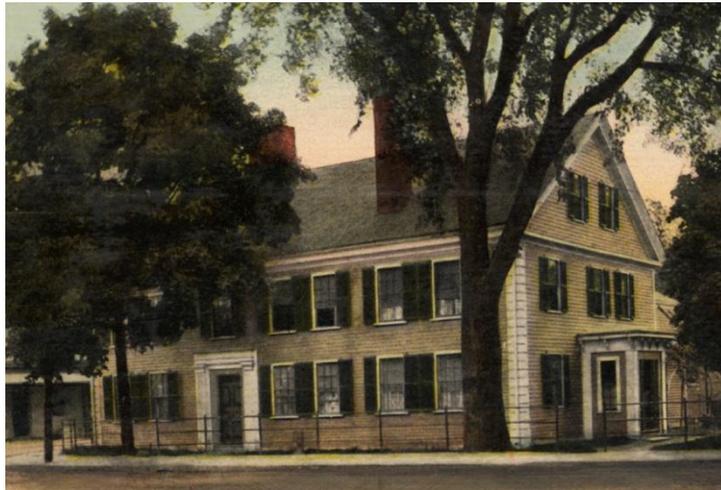


SITE OF THE  
PAUL REVERE HOUSE





Coolidge Tavern marker, lost in a corner of the bus yard, is hidden and inconspicuous – interpretive signage needed with photo of the Tavern or better placement of marker



**THE COOLIDGE TAVERN**  
Famous for its hospitality during the American Revolution. Stood on this spot. Here many leaders of the Patriot cause, including George Washington, John and Samuel Adams found lodging and refreshment. The Great and General Court met here briefly in the winter of 1775-1776.

## *The Historical Society of Watertown*



Interpretive signage along the Charles River walking path and the bicycle rail trail regarding historic sites and events – Perkins School, Bachrach Photography, Stanley Steamer factory, Hood Rubber, Hollingsworth & Whitney, Lenox Family Farm, etc

## **Town Council Approves Nearly \$10 Million in Building Projects, Equipment**

March 28, 2016

Watertown will spend nearly \$10 million on projects to improve parks, streets, schools and vehicles in the Capital Improvement Plan approved by the Town Council last week.

### **Building improvement projects include:**

- Administration Building Improvements, \$852,000
- Library Improvements (Slate Roof and other renovations), \$325,000
- Three Fire Station Improvements, \$500,000
- Skating Rink (Scoreboard and Exit Doors), \$34,000
- Library Improvements, \$100,000
- Improvements to the Filippello Park Grove Street entrance, \$600,000
- Improvements to the Casey Park baseball area (public meeting must be held first), \$950,000

### **There are also some school projects:**

- Lowell School carpet installation, \$122,000
- Replacement of Middle School science laboratory equipment, \$75,000
- Hosmer School preschool plaza and walkway, \$145,000

**CPA funding could be used for Historic Preservation/Open Space projects freeing up town funds for other budget line items like schools or roads**

*The Historical Society of Watertown*



**IS THIS THE WATERTOWN WE WANT ??**