

Madison Historic Preservation Commission

2005 Annual Report

Commission members: John Solu, Chairman, John Forte, Janet Foster, Dana Larsen, Alberta Marcy, Cheryl Munkel, Beth Riley, Larry Taber, Carmine Toto. Recording Secretary Laurie Hagerich.

Council Liaison: Robert Conley

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Hartley Dodge Memorial. The HPC is empowered to identify historic sites in the Borough; to recommend to the Planning Board on the Historic Preservation Element of the Borough Master Plan; to advise the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment when designated historic sites are impacted by decisions of those Boards; to participate in Technical Coordinating Committee meetings; to report on the application of the Zoning Ordinance relative to Historic Preservation; and to advise, educate and inform the community on Historic Preservation in the Borough.

In 2005, the HPC reviewed eight formal applications for subdivision of properties containing existing, historic sites, where the proposed subdivision had an impact on the quality of the historic resource. This is the single biggest threat to historic properties in Madison, and must be addressed with a concerted review of zoning and land use regulations in concert with sensitivity to preserving historic structures and their settings.

Other highlights of the year included:

Historic District Review and Recommendations:

Bottle Hill National Registry

Bottle Hill District, including James Park, was entered onto the National Register of Historic Places.

Street Light Fixtures

Obtained new resource for historic fixtures to be used for recommendations for business owners.

Sidewalk Replacement (Downtown Main Street)

Reviewed and selected pavers for downtown sidewalks.

Requested budget item for maintenance of pavers.

S. Mantone (Council liaison to MHPC) interfaced with contractor to complete project with Historic integrity in mind.

Signs & Façade

Provided an HPC representative for the Signs & Façade Commission.

Reviewed sign permit application and recommended lighting details be required for all lighted signs.

Street Signs / Ridgedale Ave.

Selected design and color for street signs in the Bottle Hill District.

Luke Miller Estate

Reviewed subdivision elements.

Reviewed Historic Easement Document:

Modified driveway location

Identified architectural inventory to be protected

Worked with Open Space Committee to create Historic Easement brochure

Created a display board of Historic Districts and Surveys for Luke Miller Public Tour

Provided comments on some of the details in the document

Bayley Ellard

Recommended the Mansion and the surrounding 1867 wall as local historic landmark.

Letter written to Mayor and Council encouraging protection of the Mansion, which is the last remaining structure of Millionaire's Alley in Madison

NJ Transit

Salvageable items inventory was reviewed for possible placement in railroad museum.

Reviewed and accepted landscape design with comments for Madison

Train Station in letter as presented by Bruce Davies Landscape Architect

Review of plans for James Park Footbridge

Designation of Historic Walls

Commission member/restoration expert advised Morris Place project.

Historic Property Survey

Identified two vendors, Farewell Mills Gatsch and Arch II, for potential survey work.

MHPC Team

Presentations & Outreach:

Rotary Club

Madison Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Advisory Committee.

Historic Preservation Week Activities

Created and published in the Madison Eagle “Madison Quiz”

Ordinance to Expand Madison Historic Preservation Commission from seven to nine members to expand the resources needed to deal with growing number of applications and reviews planed in the future.

Provided a Sign and Façade representative

Commission member attended Historic Preservation’s Commission Assistance and Mentoring program sponsored by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

Provided visual portfolio of 18th C homes in Madison and accompanying article for publication in the Madison Eagle.

Prepared by:

Members of the Historic Preservation Commission

John Solu

Chairman

Madison Historic Preservation Commission