

**History Revisited – Medway Village Historic District
by Leah J. Matuson**

Last fall, Medway Village was recognized by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as an historical area. And that was good. More recently, Medway Village was designated an historic district on the National Registry of Historic Places by the National Parks Service. And that was great!

With over 200 historic buildings, many of them residential, Medway Village Historic District represents the golden age when industrial manufacturing in Medway was in full swing.

“During the 1800s, you could find a large number of mills in the area,” says Rob Pomponio, Chairman of the Medway Historical Commission (MHC). “The Sanford Mill is the only one left today, and it’s been converted into condos, but you can still see many buildings illustrating excellent examples of period architecture.” And you’ll also find Sanford Hall (aka Medway Town Hall), a number of churches and a few businesses right around the corner.

The district is bound by Medway’s railroad bed on the north, the Charles River on the south, Oakland Street on the east, Holliston Street on the west, and then continues on Village Street to Legion Avenue.

“The historic district designation was the culmination of several years of hard work, which included the comprehensive cataloging and assessing of homes in the district,” says Pomponio. With money from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) the MHC had hired two consultants from Boston University, Claire Dempsey and Laura Kline, to take on the enormous task and oversee the submission.

So what does it mean for Medway Village to receive the National Parks Service designation as an historic district? Says Pomponio, “Within the historic district, there are a large number of people who have taken great care in preserving the classic, historic New England look,” says Pomponio. “In going for historic district status, we wanted to showcase the efforts of these people, and the dedication to their commitment to preservation.”

So next time you’re driving through Medway, take a look around. You just might see a piece of “living” history. To learn more about Medway, its history and the people who called it home, visit <http://www.townofmedway.org>, Boards and Committees, and click on Historical Commission.

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