

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. What is the difference between the Historical Commission and the Historical Society?

A. The Historical Commission is a municipal body appointed by the Select Board to assist with the stewardship of historic buildings and landscapes within the town, as well as town records. The Historical Society is a private organization of volunteers that collects papers and artifacts related to the town's history. These documents are displayed in the Historical Room on the second floor of the Goodwin Memorial Library, which is open by appointment only (call 587-2623).

Q. How can I find out whether the town (or state) historical commission has information on my house?

A. The state inventory, the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), is available on-line at <http://mhc-macris.net/>. Check to see if your house appears to have been inventoried. Inventory forms are then available for consultation at the Goodwin Memorial Library, and at Town Hall.

Q. What kind of information might the inventory reveal?

A. The inventory forms list the date of construction and builder, if known, as well as the materials used in construction, and the architectural style. Brief sketches of the building's history are included as well.

Q. Whom should I contact for help with genealogical queries?

A. The Historical Commission does not maintain files of a genealogical nature. For queries about family genealogy, manuscript collections or artifacts, please contact the Hadley Historical Society at (413) 587-2623 or P.O. Box 174, Hadley MA 01035.

Q. I am interested in serving on the Historical Commission. What do I need to know?

A. As of December 2009, the Historical Commission has openings for one full member and one alternate. Members agree to participate fully in the work of the Commission, attending the monthly meetings as well as the talks and events the Commission holds, accepting administrative duties and offices in turn, and generally participating in the Commission's workload. If you are interested in filling one of these seats, please contact one of the Commission co-chairs; we would love to hear from you!