AllianceViews: A New Year and Opportunities to Begin Again

We all approach the New Year in our own way. Some of us take the formal New Year's resolution route, promising to visit the gym more often or to throttle back the Starbucks habit. Others are more casual, simply pinning up a new calendar and literally turning a new page.

However you look at it, January is an opportunity for a fresh start, another part of life's many cycles in which the end and the beginning meet. This year I resolve to use 2013 to change the way historic preservation is perceived.... ok, a lofty goal, but one attainable if you look at all the high-profile development being leveraged by preservation in Boston.

There's more! Continue reading Greg's blog post by clicking here.

Advocacy Update: Allston Village Milestone

Wedged between Commonwealth and Brighton Avenues in Allston, Harvard Avenue is crowded with small shops and bustling with students. But near the entrance to a used furniture store on the eastern side is an often over-looked reminder of the street's historic past - a 3-foot high boulder inscribed "BOSTON 6 MILES 1729 PD." This slate milestone is one of a series that marked the distance to the city center, alerting the weary traveler that his journey to the heart of Boston was nearly done. As part of the "Upper Road," one of the four ancient roads leading to the colonial capital, Harvard Avenue connected the city to Cambridge and led on to...
of the Boston Preservation Alliance.

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Hartford and New Haven through Springfield. The initials "PD" refer to Paul Dudley, the civic-minded justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court who erected the stone.

In July, 2011, a truck sheared the milestone off its base. One of 99 surviving mile markers across the Commonwealth, jurisdiction over this historic resource was complicated by the multiple state and city agencies and departments responsible for its oversight. As the result of persistent advocacy on the part of the Alliance, the stone has finally been moved to a safer location, secured on its original foundation, and protected from further injury by two sturdy bollards. Furthermore, MassDOT is planning to assess the condition of all the National Register-listed milestone markers along the Old Boston Post Road, a far-reaching outcome of a small but significant project.

Special Event: The Hayden Building Sneak Peek

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2013
Where: Hayden Building, 681 Washington Street
Time: 5:30pm

Be the first to see the nearly completed rehabilitation of architect H.H. Richardson's last surviving commercial building in Boston, the Hayden Building.

Commissioned by Historic Boston, Incorporated to undertake a comprehensive rehabilitation of the structure, CUBE design + research will lead a tour of the building and discuss their fresh design approach for this National Register building and their imaginative strategies for transforming and preserving the past. For a preview of CUBE's work, click here.

This event is free for members of the Alliance and $10 for non-members. Space is limited. Please register by January 18th to reserve your spot.

Non-members may register securely via Eventbrite. For more information, please email Christine Piontek or call 617.367.2458.

Organizational Member Spotlight: North Bennet Street School

Located in Boston's North End, North Bennet Street School (NBSS) offers...
Organizational Member Events

Looking for fun ways to explore, celebrate, or learn more about Boston's history and architecture?

The Boston Preservation Alliance website calendar is where you can find events from our organizational members all in one place. Check it out today!

intensive, hands-on training in traditional trades and fine craftsmanship, helping students to achieve meaningful lives and livelihoods. The school offers full-time, professional programs in bookbinding, cabinet and furniture making, carpentry, jewelry making and repair, locksmithing, piano technology, preservation carpentry, and violin making and repair. Full-time programs range from nine months to three years. In addition, the school offers more than 70 workshops and short-term courses each year through our continuing education department.

For many years, the school has been hampered by the limitations of its facilities. The availability of two adjacent buildings, with a total of 60,000 square feet of industrial space in Boston's North End, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build the expanded facility NBSS has long needed while retaining its historic ties to Boston's North End neighborhood. The facility will provide code-compliant and energy-efficient spaces for the school's training programs and will, for the first time in decades, allow the entire school to be together under one roof and provide expanded public programs.

The school has embarked upon a $15 million capital campaign to purchase, renovate and move to the new facility on North Street by September 2013. More than half of funds needed have been raised and construction has begun on the new building.