

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF 2006-2007 RESEARCH
Committee Members: Barbara Young, Connie Kendall, Stokes Gentry, Scott Baker

The SGHC has resurrected past historical preservation efforts and investigated new opportunities to protect and enhance the Town's limited historical assets. The committee held a public discussion on October 26, 2006 to receive residents' aspirations, concerns and suggestions for progress. Out of this forum rose a particular focus on those areas that are most prominent, most cherished and, in some cases, most vulnerable: the cemetery, the Little Red Schoolhouse, and Sunrise Tavern.

Based upon this information, the SGHC consulted with New England Preservation Collaborative to examine a variety of tools that may further the Town's historic preservation goals (this documentation is on file in the Town Offices). Presented with a wide range of potential courses of action and their associated requisite investments, the committee has formulated the following modest catalog of recommendations that are commensurate with the town's human and financial resources:

1. Recommended inclusions for Town Plan

- Identify historical resources:
 - Six structures currently listed on State Register of Historic Places: Little Red Schoolhouse, Sunrise Tavern, Higbee-Lawrence house, Isham house, Lockwood-Smith house, Lockwood-Peet house;
 - St. George Cemetery;
 - Other buildings or structures that contribute to the town's historical value.
- Promote further investigation of means to preserve, enhance and celebrate the town's historical assets.

2. Recommended inclusions for Zoning Bylaws

- Enact zoning regulations that protect historical resources:
 - Establish Historic Overlay District;
 - Determine district boundaries;
 - Draft and implement regulations that address exterior alterations and demolition of historic structures.

3. Recommended action for Little Red Schoolhouse

- Observations: The Schoolhouse is at the forefront of any historical discussion in St. George, yet lies entangled in a web of legal and monetary constraints. While the deed restricts the use of the building on its current site, the town will not be able to provide funds for its relocation in the foreseeable future. Necessary sums could eventually be generated by a philanthropic donation or town fund accumulated over many years, supplemented with grant funding. Architecturally, the Schoolhouse offers a building type of enduring design with potential to remain a prominent component of the town's architectural collection. Its size, massing and scale are ideal for it to be integrated into the village center envisioned by residents during the current Town Plan revision. The building is well-suited for adaptive reuse as it contains one main room with generous windows and light, as well as a host of accessory spaces that are able to support a primary function.
- Recommendations: Given the potential of the Schoolhouse to contribute to the town's identity and heritage, it should not be neglected and allowed to deteriorate beyond salvage. Minor repairs should be undertaken to shore up the structure and weatherproofing for a future determination. To minimize or eliminate taxpayer burden, materials may be donated and labor volunteered to perform basic repairs (painting, roofing, etc.) to extend the structure's life.

Respectfully submitted,
The St. George Historical Committee, March 2007