

Preservation Circuit Riders: How to Maximize Your Collaboration

Our Preservation Circuit Riders are part-time so it may take a few days before they are able to get back in touch with you. In order to maximize your interaction with them, there are some things you can do BEFORE calling or sending them an email. Having this information cuts down on the amount of questions they will ask you and research that may need to be done and will help them (and you) hit the ground running!

1.) Individual Property or Historic Resource

Before reaching out to a CR about an individual property or historic resource it is extremely helpful to have the following:

- Property/resource address
- Basic information about the owner
 - Is it privately/publicly owned, is the owner engaged, or aware of concerns and/or preservation, etc.?
- Is there an inventory form in the MHC MACRIS searchable database or at your local Historical Commission?
 - MHC MACRIS: <http://mhc-macris.net/>
- Is the property/resource in a National Register or Local Historic District?
 - These designations are usually noted in MACRIS.
 - National Register of Historic Places:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm>
- Is your local Historical Commission aware of the situation?
 - Local Historic Commission contact information can typically be found on your town's website

2.) Broader Preservation Issue or Challenge

Before reaching out to a CR about a broader preservation issue or challenge it is helpful to understand:

- Is the local Historical Commission aware of the issue or challenge?
- Have you visited the Historical Commission's website to familiarize yourself with the Commission's work, who serves on the Commission, what resources they might have online, etc.?
 - Local Historic Commissions usually have pages on a town's official website, typically including information such as Commission meeting agendas and minutes, lists of Commission members, etc.
- Are there any other local organizations interested in preservation?
 - Think outside the box--this can include organizations that may not have preservation as a primary mission but do work or have goals that overlap or can coalesce with yours.

- If so, are they aware of the issue/situation already and are involved, or should they be notified?
- Is the Massachusetts Historical Commission aware or involved or should they be notified?
 - The Massachusetts Historical Commission's website: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcidx.htm>
 - It is important to note that MHC is a regulatory agency does not engage in advocacy. That falls to local individuals and organizations, and groups like Preservation Massachusetts and our partners across the state.

More Resources & Information

- Visit Preservation Massachusetts' Action Center: <https://www.preservationmass.org/action-center>
 - Specifically look at our "7 Steps to a Successful Project" and our "Roadmap to HP Success", both available in our Action Center, among many other resources.
- Look through our Preservation Conversations, featuring over 15 hours of educational content and presentations : <https://www.preservationmass.org/preservation-conversations>
 - Specifically watch Episode 3, "*Growing Grassroots Advocacy...*" and Episode 4, "*Threatened Historic Resources: What to Do?*"
- Sign up for the Massachusetts Historic Preservation List Serve – an email list serve connecting hundreds of preservationists and others from across the state and a great place to ask questions and get feedback and referrals. <http://mailman.cs.umb.edu/listinfo/masshistpres>