

Otis Center Historic District name to the National Register!  
By Diane Provenz, Co-Chair Otis Historic Commission

The Town of Otis has a new honor. How proud we are to announce that the Otis Center Historic District is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Otis joins this official list of historic places worthy of preservation. The National Register has recognized Otis' unique and irreplaceable historic resources that give a sense of time and place to our "downtown".

Sonia Morrison, my former co-chair, whose untimely passing last October, 2021, did not get to see her vision to establish an historic district come true. But wherever she is, she's smiling.

In documents the OHC found, we learned that prior OHC's in the 1980's wanted to pursue this goal so, fast forward almost 40 years and we are there! Thanks go to the former OHC members who took the time to painstakingly list 60 properties on the state's register. (MACRIS)

Thanks also to Bonnie Parsons, our Historical Preservationist without whom we would not have been able to file for this.

Photos of those homes that fall within the District can be found at [OtispreservationTrust.org](http://OtispreservationTrust.org). The district runs along Route 8 from just north of the intersection of Routes 8 and 23 to just south of the Farmington River Diner. Appropriate signage will mark these locations. Individual homes that fall within the district will be able to affix plaques if they choose. OHC will work with the property owners so that the plaques will continue to tell our history.

Most of the readers of the OO know that the OHC has been working to restore and repurpose St Paul's Episcopal Church. Because the Church falls within the historic District, it too has Historic Register recognition. Now that we have received this designation, OHC's nonprofit support group, the Otis Preservation Trust, has applied for a matching funds grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. By the time you read this, we hope to have a name for St Paul's approved by the Town and a grant award from Ma Historical as well.

There's still lots to do so we'd love to have you join either of our groups: OHC or OPT. Please leave your name and number with Lyn O'Brien at Town Hall (413-269-0100 X112).

Learn more about our goals and what we've achieved so far by going to [OtisPreservationTrust.org](http://OtisPreservationTrust.org).