



**THE WELLESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

## *Bring Our History Home*

For several years now there has been a sign reading “Future Home of the Wellesley Historical Society” on the front lawn at 323 Washington Street. The longer the sign has been there, the more frequently we have been asked “So when is the Future going to happen?”

Here is our story.

Over the last 20 years the Society has transformed from its amateur origins to a professional local history resource, and the collections documenting Wellesley History have continued to grow. During this time, it became apparent that the Society was going to quickly outgrow its current location at 229 Washington Street. After an extensive search for facilities which would allow the Society to continue to thrive and grow, we bought 323 Washington St. in December 2012.

We secured a mortgage, and began a quiet phase of fundraising immediately. While the building is in great shape for a residential home, the process of transforming it into a home for the Society has been a long one. There have been challenges both foreseen (transforming a residential home into exhibit space, collection storage, and office space) and unforeseen (zoning and permitting issues, accessibility compliance, and taking a residential building off the town’s property tax roll). Since December 2012, we have made significant progress in overcoming these challenges, and have raised over 1 million dollars for our work on 323 Washington Street.

Our successes thus far include:

- Completed architectural planning
- Completed stage 1 renovations: accessibility improvements, lighting, IT infrastructure, and painting
- Working with Wellesley’s Board of Selectmen and Historic District Commission to seek a Single Building Historic Designation
- Partial paydown of mortgage

We are now ready to publicly launch our Capital Campaign to raise the remaining \$1.5 million needed to complete the project and realize the goal of having the space to collect, preserve, and share Wellesley’s history for many years to come.

For more information about the Society’s Capital Campaign and to get involved please visit:  
<http://www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org/capital>.

Thank you!