

UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY HERITAGE AREA, Inc

ANNUAL REPORT - 2004

During 2004 we continued our efforts to develop as a regional heritage area and to achieve Federal designation as a National Heritage Area. The Board of Directors, after a successful January retreat, developed a mission statement and a functional framework to move forward. This led to a preliminary outline for developing our ultimate strategic management plan. We have also sought to increase public awareness, support and participation through mailings, meetings and presentations.

We came very close to Federal designation, as our bill passed the House of Representatives (twice) and, on the very last day and too late to count, the Senate. We appreciate the strong Congressional support that we have received as well as the written communications to Congress from many of our supporting organizations.

This year we undertook five heritage programs, all regional in nature and all working with other local heritage organizations. They are:

- 1. Publication and distribution of the regional Iron Heritage Trail brochure and sponsorship of the annual Blackberry River Iron Heritage River Walk,**
- 2. Preliminary research and drafting of the African-American Heritage Trail publication,**
- 3. Organization and publicity for our third annual October Weekend of Heritage Walks, this year featuring forty eight guided walks,**
- 4. Development and implementation of the graduate level teachers' course on "The Upper Housatonic Valley Experience",**
- 5. Coordination with the highly successful Housatonic River Summer 2004 developed by the Sheffield Art League and many other organizations.**

These projects were made possible by earlier grants from the National Park Service and contributions from individual and organizational supporters. We especially thank the following generous supporters in 2004:

**Egremont Historical Society
Friends of Beckley Furnace
Interlaken Inn
Salisbury Association
Salisbury Rotary Club**

**Rick and Kate Beatty
Ursula Cliff
Ronald Jones
Erica and Hector Prudhomme**

**Clarence Roberts
David Sims
John Sisson
Crosby Wells**

We look forward to continuing progress in 2005, as we work with our legislators and with the many organizations and individuals seeking to preserve and celebrate the cultural, natural and historical beauty of the Upper Housatonic River Valley.

Ronald D. Jones, Chairman