



**For immediate release
September 5, 2008**

**Contact: Wendy Fox
617-626-1453**

**DCR SEEKING PROPOSALS TO REHABILITATE, REUSE,
AND MAINTAIN HARLOW FARMHOUSE**

*Historic Curatorship Program accepting proposals to rehabilitate historic farmhouse
in Ellisville Harbor State Park in exchange for a long-term lease*

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is issuing a Request for Proposals for the rehabilitation, reuse, and maintenance of the Harlow Farmhouse in Ellisville Harbor State Park in Plymouth. Through DCR's Historic Curatorship Program, outside parties rehabilitate and maintain a historic property in return for credit toward a long-term lease.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Harlow Farmhouse is the third RFP to be released in the most recent round of properties. The first two were Bascom Lodge at Mt. Greylock State Reservation in Adams and the Smith Farmhouse and Barn at Borderland State Park in Easton. RFPs for two more DCR properties are expected soon: the Coachman's House complex in Maudslay State Park in Newburyport and the Lamson House in Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield.

"The Historic Curatorship Program demonstrates an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to preserving the history and culture of our park system," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Once rehabilitated, these properties are maintained and operated by the tenant, with public access to the grounds provided at various times during the year."

Established in 1994, the Historic Curatorship Program matches some of the Commonwealth's significant historic buildings with people interested in rehabilitating and maintaining the building in exchange for a long-term lease. Since the program's inception, more than \$5 million in private funds has been leveraged toward these restorations.

So far, nine properties have been rehabilitated under the program, from the mountains of Berkshire County to the urban streets of Dorchester, from the banks of the Merrimack River in Lowell to the forests of Foxboro. Current uses for the properties include single-family homes, artist lofts, a nonprofit group, and a for-profit events and overnight facility.

The Harlow House, a one-story, Neo-Colonial Cape built in 1939, is a classic example of the popular mid-century style, featuring a center chimney, 12-over-12 windows, and gabled roof dormers. An open porch offers views of the tidal marshes of Ellisville Harbor. The Harlow

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Farmhouse was built by Ernest C. Ellis on the site of a much older house that served as a stagecoach stop and a tavern during the 18th and 19th centuries. The design of the present house was intended to copy that of the earlier house, incorporating some of the original paneling. A 15-minute walk through a wooded path leads to one of Cape Cod Bay's quietest beaches, where visitors can view wildlife such as nesting plovers and harbor seals in their natural habitat.

DCR's Historic Curatorship Program is one of only a handful in the country and is among the most successful. The program requires that the reuses of these properties be compatible with the surrounding community, while enhancing the visitor's experience of the public park. Curators are chosen based on a number of criteria, including the overall quality of their proposal, their experience in restoration and historic preservation, their financial resources, and the public benefits and environmentally sustainable building practices they will incorporate. They also must provide regular public access to the property.

The Request for Proposals describes the submission requirements and provides detailed information on the property, including an assessment of its current condition and required improvements. Interested parties can submit a proposal for review by DCR. Successful proposals outline a viable reuse concept, public benefit, rehabilitation approach, and implementation schedule, and demonstrate relevant experience and sound financial qualifications for tenancy.

Responses to the RFP are due by October 17, 2008, at 5 p.m. An open house at the Smith House is tentatively scheduled for September 20, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Preregistration is required for the open house: Call 617-626-1361 or send an email to HCP.Requests@state.ma.us.

For electronic copies of the Request for Proposals, as well as more details on the Historic Curatorship Program, visit DCR's website:
www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm.

For hard copies of the documents or more information on the program, send an e-mail to HCP.Requests@state.ma.us, call 617-626-1361, or write to Historic Curatorship Program, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 7th floor, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114.

###

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and

forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.