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Fitchburg Press Contact: Susan Navarre
director@fitchburghistoricalsociety.com
978.345.1157

Freedom's Way Contact: Linda Bowie
lbowie@freedomsway.org
978.772.3654

***The Hidden Treasures of Fitchburg Welcome Visitors
on May 16, 2015***

(Fitchburg, MA – May 13, 2015) On Saturday, May 16, 2015 the Fitchburg Historical Society is welcoming visitors to two free architectural tours at Christ Church and the House of Grace and Restoration on Main Street. These two “Hidden Treasures of Fitchburg” are being featured as Fitchburg’s participation in “Hidden Treasures Weekend” organized by the Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area and taking place on May 16 and 17, 2015. In addition, the Fitchburg Historical Society’s “Law and Justice in Fitchburg” Wallace Foundation exhibition will be open to visitors for from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visitors are invited to drop in for one of the free events, or to combine them all for a full day of historical exploration in downtown Fitchburg.

Starting at 11:30 a.m., the Rev. Bennett G. Jones, II, will offer a short tour of Christ Church, an extraordinary example of American Gothic Revival architecture. The influential and nationally-known architect for Christ Church, Richard Upjohn, was at the forefront of the Gothic Revival movement in the United States. Christ Church, is located at 569 Main Street and was consecrated in 1868. The church has magnificent stained glass windows, donated by parishioners and designed by the Tiffany Studio, White Friars Studios of London, and Connick Studios in Boston.

Then, at 2:00 p.m., Zeke Finch will lead tours of the House of Grace and Restoration, also the home of Faith United Parish, at 860 Main Street and the corner of Rollstone Street. The House of Grace and Restoration was designed by Henry M. Francis in 1896 for the Calvinistic Congregational Church and is one of the best examples of Richardsonian architecture remaining today. The building is home to a beloved stained glass rose window, as well as beautifully preserved Tiffany stained glass windows.

The new Wallace Exhibit Series display, *Law and Justice in Fitchburg*, at the Fitchburg Historical Society, features furniture from the superior courthouse and historical displays about Fitchburg’s judges, attorneys and law firms. Contemporary photos of the courthouse by Fitchburg photographer Charles Sternaimolo are also on view. The Fitchburg Historical Society is located in the historic Phoenix Building, at 781 Main Street and the exhibition will be open for visitors from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

On Saturday, May 16th and Sunday, May 17th, 2015, communities across the 994-square-mile Freedom’s Way area, home to over 750,000 people, will offer free, public programs featuring a “hidden treasure” in their town.

Towns and community organizations surrounding Fitchburg are offering fun and creative activities that enable residents of the region to explore the nature, culture and history of Freedom's Way's 45 communities. For more information, visit www.fitchburghistoricalsociety.org, www.freedomsway.org or call 978-345-1157.

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About the Fitchburg Historical Society: Founded in 1892, the Fitchburg Historical Society is an independent non-profit that was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Fitchburg. The Society hosts lectures, debates and annual events relating to the city's history.

Freedom's Way connects the people, places and communities of the Heritage Area through preservation, conservation and educational initiatives to protect and promote our shared resources and to encourage residents and visitors to explore our landscape, history and culture. The Freedom's Way Heritage Association works in partnership with the National Park Service to support the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.