

The Blake House Preservation Committee

Spring-Summer, 2006

Dear Friends of the Blake House:

**We need your help to save this treasure.**

The oldest existing house in Boston, the James Blake House in Dorchester, is in need of major repairs, and we need your help to restore it properly. The Blake House is a Boston Landmark and is an important part of our historical legacy. We need to ensure that it will be standing not just for the near future but also for Dorchester's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2030 and beyond.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has awarded a grant toward the project in the amount of \$50,000. The total cost of the project is over \$200,000, and we must raise the rest of the money for Dorchester's own 17<sup>th</sup> century treasure. The Dorchester Historical Society employed preservation consultant John Goff to prepare a Historic Structures Report on the history, architecture and preservation needs of the Blake House, which was built about 1650 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Structures Report is a great accomplishment and a wonderful tool, identifying extensive and essential restoration work required to bring this ancient house into a historically accurate and weather-tight condition. The report was the cornerstone of our grant application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Every contribution is needed and valued. Will you help us by making a contribution? Would you like to honor a person who is special to you? The Committee has also formed an Adopt-a-Window campaign. Each one of the nineteen leaded diamond-pane windows needs custom preservation work at the cost of approximately \$3,000 each. Already three donors have come forward with a pledge. Could you adopt a window in memory of that special person? How about you and a group of friends?

Please take a moment to make your pledge.

Thank you,

Earl Taylor  
Dorchester Historical Society

# James Blake House Preservation Project 2006

Richardson Park, Dorchester

Please count my investment toward the preservation of Dorchester's architectural heritage.

\$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_ \$3000 \_\_\_ \$5000 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please include my name when you publish a list of donors by level of giving.

Please consider my pledge to be anonymous when you publish.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Dorchester Historical Society is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please make checks out to the Dorchester Historical Society.

Dorchester Historical Society, 195 Boston Street, Dorchester, MA 02125