

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

John King, Executive Board Chair
508-945-2493

Chatham Historical Society Welcomes New Executive Director

CHATHAM, MA – After twelve years as Associate Director of the Davis Museum at Wellesley College, Dennis McFadden will step into the Executive Director role at the Atwood House Museum on August 13, 2012.

Mr. McFadden is certainly primed to provide sound leadership for both the Museum and the Chatham Historical Society, which operate under the same roof. Originally from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, McFadden completed his undergraduate education at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, followed by a move back to the east coast where he obtained his Masters in Architecture at Columbia University. While at Columbia, McFadden also completed a year of graduate study in Art and Architectural History, assisted in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Cooper Hewitt Museum, and served as the Associate Director of the Building Records Collection at the New York City Municipal Archives.

After completing his formal education, McFadden continued to work within the art and architectural history field as an independent historic preservation consultant. Projects included the 42nd Street Development Project in New York City and the restoration of the New York State Capitol in Albany. After his consulting work for the Capitol, he was made Executive Director of the restoration project with the New York State Commission. Other career highlights include teaching architectural history at the University of Illinois and the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, working as part of the curatorial staff at the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Heinz Architectural Center at the Museum of Art. He eventually became Curator at the Heinz Center and produced a broad range of exhibitions including *Manchester: A Neighborhood Sketchbook* and *Merchant Prince and Master Builder: Edgar J. Kaufmann and Frank Lloyd Wright*.

McFadden looks forward to joining the Atwood House Museum, especially at this point in its history. He says "(The Museum) is a wonderful resource for the area. I am privileged to have the opportunity to lead an organization with such a distinguished past, along with the dedicated volunteers, broad community support, and committed board leadership that ensures its bright future."

John J. King II, Chairman of the Executive Board, says that the Chatham Historical Society is extremely pleased to welcome a professional of Dennis's stature to their organization. "He brings excellent museum management and a fresh creative perspective to the challenges of taking the Atwood House Museum to the next level," King says.

About the Atwood House Museum:

As stewards of the regions' history and culture, the Atwood House Museum – home of the Chatham Historical Society – strives to educate, inform and enlighten the public, bringing attention and enthusiasm to the Cape Cod community.

#