

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Harkins Attends Perry House Groundbreaking Ceremony

Stratford, Conn., -- On Thursday, Oct. 17, Mayor John A. Harkins attended a ground breaking ceremony at the historic Perry House on West Broad Street. The ceremony was held to kick-start construction on a new addition that will add both a catering kitchen and handicapped restroom facilities to the over 300 year old house. The addition is being funded by a \$225,000 state grant.

“It’s great to see this project get underway,” said Mayor Harkins. “As a state representative, I recognized the importance of the Perry House, as well as the impact its history has on our community, by securing a grant for restoration. Not only does this addition allow us to preserve our colonial heritage, it also allows for expanded functionality and use of the house as a visitors center and for tourism.”

As a state representative in 2006, Mayor Harkins secured a \$225,000 State Urban Action Grant as a means to help preserve and develop the Perry House. The grant was made available through the State Department of Community and Economic Development.

“I am glad that these funds were available, and that they were able to assist the Perry House Foundation with these improvements,” Mayor Harkins said. “Today’s groundbreaking represents another important step in the development of this site. I look forward to seeing the completed project this spring.”

Mayor Harkins was joined at the ceremony by State Sen. Kevin Kelly, State Rep. Laura Hoydick, Carole Adzima, President and Executive Director of the Perry House Board of Directors, other officials, and supporters of the project.

“This project has been a great collaboration of so many people over so many years, and it is terrific to finally get to the point of our ground-breaking today,” said Rep. Hoydick. “Stratford has a rich history steeped in our colonial past, and the restoration and expansion at Perry House will preserve it for generations to come.”

The Perry House was built in the late 17th century, and it has endured centuries of change. The house was acquired by the Town of Stratford in 1981, and has undergone several renovations over the past ten years. Past renovations have been funded by Community Development Block Grant Funds, a Historic Restoration Grant, and municipal capital funds.

The new addition is expected to be completed by the spring of 2014.