

First ACS National Historic Chemical Landmark in MA- Edwin Land and Instant photography Aug. 13, 2015



The American Chemical Society (ACS grants) Landmark (NHCL) status to seminal achievements in the history of the chemical sciences and provides a record of their contributions to chemistry and society in the U.S.

(<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/landmarks.html>). Vivian Walworth of the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (NESACS) applied for NHCL status for Edwin Land and his laboratory. NESACS received notification of its status as a National Historic Chemical Landmark for Edwin Land's Research Lab at 28 Osborn Street **in December 2014**. This would be the first NHCL in Massachusetts . We asked to have the dedication at the ACS National meeting in Boston in August and to have the new ACS President, Diane Grob Schultz, speak at the event.

A NHCL committee was been formed with Jack Driscoll as the chair. The members were: Vivian Walworth, Jennifer Maclachlan, Mort Hoffman, Dorothy Phillips, Tom Gilbert, (NESACS), Michael Filosa (Editor of the Nucleus). Kathy Lee (NESACS Chair), Keith Lindblom (ACS), Debbie Douglas (MIT Museum), Charles. Sullivan (Cambridge Historic Commission), Ken Williams (MIT), Eric Thorgeson (Polaroid Retirees Association).

The dedication was held on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015 just before the ACS meeting had started and at a time when all of the members of the ACS Boards of Directors were present in Boston so that they were able to attend the dedication. T

The dedication of the plaque was be held at 4:30 PM at the MIT Museum (265 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA) on **August 13, 2015**. Opening remarks were made be by Diane Schmidt, President of the ACS, world's largest scientific organization with 162,000 members worldwide.

Our NESACS NHCL Committee organized the speakers for the dedication as indicated below. We did invite Governor Baker but he was unable to make the dedication. He did, however, provide us with the proclamation shown below.

Speaker

Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt
Dr. Catherine Lee
Dennis Benzan
Victor MacElthey
Dr. Michael Filosa

Dr. John Durant

Organization

President of the ACS
Chairperson of NESACS
Vice Mayor of the City of Cambridge
Edwin Land's Biographer
Former Polaroid Mgr. Science & Technology
at Polaroid
Director of the MIT Museum

The photos below show the introduction by the ACS President, the large crowd (>150 people) and some instant photography photos by Impossible (<https://www.the-impossible-project.com/>) with their version of Polaroid film.



Audience



ACS President



Audience



Proclamation from MA Governor Baker

After the last speaker, John Durant, unveiled the NHCL “Edwin Land and Instant Photography plaque”. The plaque will be installed at the site of Edwin Land’s Laboratory on 28 Osborn Street in Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA.



Jack Driscoll & Jennifer Maclachlan with NHCL Plaque

The commemorative plaque is installed at Edwin Land’s former Polaroid Corporation Laboratory at 28 Osborn Street, Cambridge, reads

From his workplace in this building, Edwin H. Land (1909–1991) led the Polaroid Corporation in its development of the first instant photography system. This novel technology, demonstrated in 1947, produced photographs by means of a complex sequence of chemical reactions contained within the film unit. Land directed numerous improvements to the original one-step, sepia-toned film until Polaroid introduced a truly integral instant color photography system in 1972. The immediacy of the Polaroid system revolutionized the industry, and instant photography grew rapidly as a popular and artistic medium. Land, an innovative scientist and businessman, earned 535 patents in the course of conducting and directing research at Polaroid.

After the speakers, there was a reception for ACS and NESACS members as well as Polaroid Retirees. The MIT Museum had a large number of Polaroid artifacts on display. Sponsors of the event are the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Northeastern Section of the ACS, and the MIT Museum. The MIT Museum also has a significant collection of Polaroid artifacts (>10,000

donated by the new Polaroid Corp.) in their warehouse that will be on display when the Museum moves to a new location in Kendall Sq.

Other events included a dedication of a plaque to Edwin Land by Polaroid retirees at the MIT Museum (265 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA) on **Aug. 14, 2015** at 4:30 PM. A reception for Polaroid Retirees, MIT personnel, and Cambridge Residents will follow. ACS and NESACS members are also welcome. Sponsors of the event were Polaroid Corp. and the MIT Museum. The background information on the ACS NHCL is available from the following link <http://goo.gl/sksxV5> . This landmark for "Edwin Land and Instant Photography" is the first NHCL in Massachusetts.

Add by Mike Filosa & Vivian--- Writeup on the event on Aug. 14, 2015

The 250th ACS National meeting was held in Boston, MA on Aug.16-20 2015 <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/boston---fall-2015.html> . We presented a symposium on Edwin Land's achievements in instant photography, polarized filters and color in the History of Chemistry Div. on **Sunday Aug. 16, 2015** from 2:00-4 PM (papers and a panel discussion).

Edwin Land and Instant Photography: Massachusetts' First National Historic Chemical Landmark. Symposium, Sunday Aug 16, 2015 ACS National Meeting, Boston, MA

Organizers: Jack Driscoll, Vivian Walworth, Mike Filosa & Jennifer Maclachlan

Sponsored by HIST and Cosponsored by PRES

Coffee Break Sponsored by the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society-during the Land Symposium

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Room 50 (Exhibition Level)

Time: 2:00-4:30 PM

2:00 -2:10 Introduction- Jack Driscoll- First National Historic Chemical Landmark in MA

2:10-2:25 Judy Giordan: R & D at Polaroid- Spectra - the Last Great Polaroid Film Product

2:25-2:40 Larry Friedman: Secrets of the Polaroid Negative: Manufacturing and Analytics in New Bedford

2:40-2:55 Chris Hollinsed : Development of Chemical Manufacturing Procedures at Polaroid

2:55-3:10 Michael Filosa- The Evolution of Color Chemistry at Polaroid and ZINK Imaging - Edwin Land's Legacy Today

3:10-3:25 John Warner: What Else Evolved from Polaroid? Green Chemistry

3:25-4:00 Panel discussion and Question



Symposium Speakers

A poster on Edwin Land and the NHCL was presented by Jack Driscoll and Jennifer Maclachlan (NESACS Public Relations Committee on **August 19, 2015** at 6PM in the Sci Mix History of Chemistry poster session.

Abstract

A link for the poster is:

Dr. Jack Driscoll
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Nov. 28, 2015

and

Jennifer Maclachlan
NESACS, NHCL Committee Member