

Blanchard assumes museum presidency

By Gordon B. Seavey

With plans shaping gradually for a "grand opening" of the town's first museum in the spring, under the direction of Friends of Westford Museum, the group sponsoring the program now has a new leader.

He is Lloyd G. Blanchard, superintendent of schools for 25 years who retired in June, has been elected president. He lives at 18 Boston Road.

Blanchard succeeds Mrs. Robert Shaw, Jr., of 15 Drawbridge Road, founder of the group and its initial president. She now is vice-president in an advisory capacity.

Other officers include Kristin M. Szyvian as secretary-registrar, Mrs. Frances Cooper as treasurer and Mrs. June Kennedy, historian. Representatives from various town organizations make up the remainder of the committee.

The Friends were founded a year ago to remove from the shelf the plan to convert one of the town's oldest historic edifices into a museum. The idea which was proposed a decade ago would emphasize Westford community life over a span of 250

years

Major reconstruction and repair work already has been completed in the museum's home, the original Westford Academy structure at 2 Boston Road, which dates to 1794. The Academy is said to be the third oldest secondary school in Massachusetts, and this wooden building is probably one of the oldest of its kind in the country.

A drive continues for funds to take care of unpaid bills as well as monies for completion of the project. Response has been good this fall and President Blanchard says donations are tax deductible.

An anonymous donor has set aside \$1,794 (the year the building was constructed) as a matching fund. For each \$25 or more, this public-spirited person will give a like amount. These donors will be recognized specially with their names on a donor's plaque.

The Friends are selling hand-blown commemorative bottles and decorated tiles as a fund-raising project. They are on sale at Roudenshush Center, the library and establishments at Minot's Corner