Executive Summary

New Hampshire has changed a great deal since the 1960s. A few moments of reflection produce a long list of ways our lives differ from a typical day in 1966. But despite cell phones, electric cars, and Netflix, those of us who spend time in New Hampshire can easily recognize and enjoy special places that have been here for decades, if not centuries. Our village centers, town halls, and churches – places that we gather to create community. Fields, forests, trails, and farmland – beautiful and working landscapes that sustain us in many ways. Mills, train stations, and downtowns – places that nurture our economy and our innovation. Many still remain in New Hampshire, and they create a place that we value and an identity that we hold tightly.

In 1966, recognizing that societal change was accelerating at an unprecedented pace, leaders across the United States came together in Washington, DC, and passed the National Historic Preservation Act. The new law recognized that "the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage," and that "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people." The legislation formally recognized the value of historic preservation activities and charged a number of new institutions with the job of preserving the best and most significant of the country's historic places.

Changes resulting from the National Historic Preservation Act came a bit slowly to New Hampshire. Some already-recognized historic properties were listed to the newly formed National Register of Historic Places – the Warner House in Portsmouth, the Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough, Saint-Gaudens in Cornish, and the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough – but other changes came more slowly. A State Historic Preservation Office, now the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, was not established until 1974. Implementation of another part of the act, which required federal agencies to consider the impacts of their projects on historical resources, was uneven and often lacked widespread support.

We are now approaching the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, and fortunately, despite growing pains, there is plenty to celebrate in New Hampshire. Pioneering efforts, such as those at Historic Harrisville, the New England Glassworks, and Canterbury Shaker Village, have laid the groundwork for steady progress across the state. This edition of the state preservation plan provides an opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished specifically in the last five years and to envision where we would like to be in 2020.

This plan is the result of a great deal of public outreach and analysis, and it opens with an explanation of how listening sessions, conference presentations, and an online questionnaire gathered data from a wide cross-section of the state. The narrative then provides a snapshot of New Hampshire today – the heritage, traditions, people, and resources that together drive our preservation movement. The plan then assesses how a dozen major themes benefit and challenge the preservation of historic and cultural resources. Concluding the plan are goals, objectives and strategies that together create a path to 50 more years of preservation successes.

Illustrating and illuminating all of this information are photographs submitted to the **My New Hampshire** photosharing campaign and a series of case studies written by preservation advocates from across the state. **My New Hampshire**, sponsored by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, produced more than a hundred images of favorite historical places; many of these are showcased in the plan and grace the front and back covers. The 21 case studies

provide real-world successes, advice and inspiration for preservationists grappling with similar challenges or working with comparable resources.

None of the successes showcased in the plan happened by accident or as a matter of course. They happened thanks to the steady vision and efforts of people working to preserve and promote the special historic places that matter to them. Some are major preservation milestones, such as the creation of the Portsmouth African Burying Ground Memorial Park, and some are quieter, such as the work of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to better catalog and care for its archaeological artifact collection. This plan celebrates all of the town commission members, volunteers, cultural resources professionals, property owners, museums and more – the people who comprise the preservation movement in New Hampshire.

A number of people need special acknowledgment for their contributions to this document. Thanks to everyone who participated in listening sessions and the online questionnaire, to all the photographers who posted their favorite historic places on **My New Hampshire,** and to each of the authors who shared their stories in the case studies. Stephen Gianotti provided important early support, as did Shelly Angers, Eileen Chabot, Cynthia Copeland, Nancy Dutton, James Garvin, Jenna Lapachinski, and staff at the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance as the plan entered its final edits. Staff members at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources contributed to every phase of the project, with special thanks to Laura Black and Amy Dixon, who energetically and thoughtfully took on the challenge of creating this plan, start to finish.

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