

2011 on-line public survey

1. What do you find interesting about New Hampshire's First State House?

that it still exists and is in storage.

12/1/2011 11:22 AM [View Responses](#)

The fact it is the last one. Even the Colonial Williamsburg building is original on at it's foundation, the upperworks are replica work.

11/30/2011 9:14 AM [View Responses](#)

The only survivor of its kind... Colonila Williamsburg's statehouse was but a foundation with a replica rebuilt atop it.

11/16/2011 9:46 PM [View Responses](#)

The age of the timbers from the original structure and thoes from the past who had the for-site to preserve materials from the structure.

11/15/2011 6:43 PM [View Responses](#)

The fact that part of it still exists and that we have those parts.

11/15/2011 11:52 AM [View Responses](#)

It is a physical reminder of the traditions of politics and democracy in New Hampshire.

11/11/2011 9:31 AM [View Responses](#)

How it was constructed and how it was lived in.

11/10/2011 7:57 PM [View Responses](#)

Symbol of Portsmouth's importance in the Colonial era.

11/10/2011 7:49 PM [View Responses](#)

The fact that any of it survives, given its share of historical vicissitudes.

11/10/2011 5:49 PM [View Responses](#)

That we still have it.

11/10/2011 5:01 PM [View Responses](#)

The fact that we have one.

11/9/2011 3:59 PM [View Responses](#)

The fact we still have it. I bet we are the only state that has thier first one.

11/9/2011 6:48 AM [View Responses](#)

That we still have enough of it to challenge our imaginations,interpret our history,and understand how Anglo-European architectural traditions and technology were transmitted and adapted to provincial New Hampshire. Its remarkable story of evolution, transformation, adaptation, discreditation, authentication, and partial survival has much to tell and to teach us.

11/8/2011 1:19 AM [View Responses](#)

It is our history

11/7/2011 8:59 AM [View Responses](#)

that it has been kept in storage for so long... typical in regards to some peoples inability to make timely decisions and discard unnecessary clutter.

11/6/2011 11:12 AM [View Responses](#)

The fact that a portion of it still exists and seeing images of how it supposedly looked.

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That it has been kept in storage for so long!

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11/5/2011 7:01 PM [View Responses](#)

The story of its journey through time...an emerging preservation story.

11/5/2011 1:54 PM [View Responses](#)

press release on NH.gov

11/4/2011 10:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Location, Rich History

11/4/2011 9:05 AM [View Responses](#)

It still exists.

11/3/2011 11:51 AM [View Responses](#)

Are you kidding? It's from **1758**, which around here is old, and it's from the time our current society was born.

11/3/2011 10:59 AM [View Responses](#)

That it's still standing ...

11/3/2011 9:39 AM [View Responses](#)

It illustrates the importance of Portsmouth, ship-building, the harbor, and the ocean to the state.

11/3/2011 9:24 AM [View Responses](#)

That it's available & preserved

10/31/2011 3:37 PM [View Responses](#)

That some of it actually exists - even though it was forgotten in a storage trailer in Concord for many years.

10/31/2011 12:03 AM [View Responses](#)

The history of it and the people who used it.

10/28/2011 11:49 AM [View Responses](#)

Sorry to say, I don't know much about it.

10/27/2011 10:55 PM [View Responses](#)

that any part of it survives

10/27/2011 3:47 PM [View Responses](#)

its original location, design (what little is known) and purpose

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The fact that it actually exists even if in a box trailer for so long. It certainly is a primary historical resource.

10/27/2011 1:09 PM [View Responses](#)

The fact that a portion of New Hampshire's Provincial State House still exists is remarkable. That its master-builder and carpenters raised its sizable frame (30 by 80 feet with 21-foot posts) atop a 5-plus-foot high granite foundation (what a sight to have witnessed!). That fifth-generation American and respected governor John Wentworth was New Hampshire's only royal governor to take the oath of office in its council chamber (June 13, 1767), etc., etc.

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That it is still in use and houses so many paintings.

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It represents where government started in New Hampshire or as close to it as we are going to be able to see today.

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There has been a lot of effort over the years to have this building reconstructed utilizing very little physical evidence. I don't think it was worth it.

10/27/2011 10:51 AM [View Responses](#)

???

10/27/2011 10:19 AM [View Responses](#)

To learn more about NH past.

10/27/2011 8:52 AM [View Responses](#)

The fact that people thought it was worth saving way back when - and that the pieces survived.

10/27/2011 8:48 AM [View Responses](#)

archetecture

10/26/2011 8:53 PM [View Responses](#)

That it's in storage!

10/26/2011 6:51 PM [View Responses](#)

it is NH's FIRST state house. In a state now divided into right regions or fiefdoms, it represents an era when the government and commerce were centered on an oligarchy of seacoast leaders who saw the rest of the state as a source of natural resources. it represents the sudden transition at the state's only seaport from a colonial to a sovereign government and the demise of the state's seafaring economy that followed.

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It's old

10/26/2011 5:23 PM [View Responses](#)

The fact that it has been saved and stored and discussed for so long without resolution.

10/26/2011 10:15 AM [View Responses](#)

The First State House is a tangible remnant and symbol of New Hampshire's long history as a royal province, and of the years of revolution and early statehood. It is also an artifact that represents much of the legal and judicial history of New Hampshire.

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2. How do you currently envision New Hampshire's First State House Project and its final outcome?

reconstructing this early building at Strawberry Banke

12/1/2011 11:22 AM [View Responses](#)

Rebuilt in Concord, to the right of the current state house, facing the green. replacing the modern UBS building. Portsmouth has shown no interest in it.

11/30/2011 9:14 AM [View Responses](#)

In Concord. Portsmouth has no interest in it.

11/16/2011 9:46 PM [View Responses](#)

Create a unique piece of furniture for the Governors Office using the lumber from the original State House building. By utilizing the NH Dept. of Corrections inmates within

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the GraniteCor Furniture Shop located in Berlin NH, lies the ability to manufacture such an item that could be showcased for years to come in the current State House.

11/15/2011 6:43 PM [View Responses](#)

I would like to see a replica of the state house built that would incorporate the old timbers.

11/15/2011 11:52 AM [View Responses](#)

Either an exhibit using features of the original building, or creation of a replica using the original fabric, as best as can be imagined in the reconstruction, but only if this is a building that would have a public function and a funding source to maintain it and related programs.

11/11/2011 9:31 AM [View Responses](#)

Don't bother to "rebuild" it - there's not enough there and we shouldn't spend the money.

11/10/2011 7:57 PM [View Responses](#)

The remaining pieces should just be made into "objects" which can be sold to those who are interested in owning a piece of history. They're not worth preserving any longer or including in building something new.

11/10/2011 7:49 PM [View Responses](#)

Make the add-on parts out of different colored/painted woods, use the building for tourism purposes, preferably in or near the main square in Portsmouth.

11/10/2011 5:49 PM [View Responses](#)

I could see the building restored in Concord either in the historic district or on the property of the Walker School where the ratification of the US Constitution took place..

11/10/2011 5:01 PM [View Responses](#)

I'm not sure what the project is, or what its outcome should be, but I am interested in seeing the first state house preserved to the extent practicable.

11/9/2011 3:59 PM [View Responses](#)

For it to be restored and placed where every one can see it.

11/9/2011 6:48 AM [View Responses](#)

I admire the way that comprehensive academic and architectural research was conducted and publicized so that the broadest possible range of interested people could share their ideas and help to shape the final outcome. I hope there will be contributions not only from New Hampshire and North America, but also (thanks to the Internet) worldwide. It would be particularly interesting to have perspectives on how the experience of being a British colony in New Hampshire compared to the colonial experience in Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, India, and Asia...and how NH's First State House may (or may not) embody it. I hope the final outcome will emphasize the value of hands-on history to empower ongoing public participation and connectivity. I hope that the results will lead to innovative ways of engaging people, and instilling a passion for decoding historical "lessons" inherent even in fragmentary or mundane evidence. I hope the project will demonstrate how tantalizing and fascinating history is, and explore new ways of telling its stories in a variety of meaningful ways that incorporate a broad range of learning patterns.

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Use it as a learning tool with the NH Voc Tech School. As our country ages, carpenters that are experienced in restoration will be in demand. Have our students here in NH use it as one of their projects.

11/7/2011 8:59 AM [View Responses](#)

this is not the time to waste more \$ that could be used to help others (US-NH citizens) in need. the outcome could be to raffle off portions or all of the materials to anyone that cares enough to have them. the proceeds should then be used to assist needy NH indigenous people or school programs.

11/6/2011 11:12 AM [View Responses](#)

I see it serving as an excellent seacoast museum and NH history Interpretation Resource Center that would become a major tourist attraction for the NH Seacoast much like what Heritage NH was in Glen, NH.

11/6/2011 8:09 AM [View Responses](#)

It would be great to re-erect it in Portsmouth. It should be used to infill a vacant lot in the old section of town and as much reproduced as possible

11/5/2011 7:01 PM [View Responses](#)

I would favor it as a working laboratory for the study of the preservation process.

11/5/2011 1:54 PM [View Responses](#)

reassembled in portsmouth. it would npbe a perfect addition at Strawberry Banke

11/4/2011 10:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Tourist Attraction, School Field Trip for History

11/4/2011 9:05 AM [View Responses](#)

I think it should be reconstructed and placed at Strawberry Banke.

11/3/2011 11:51 AM [View Responses](#)

Preserve it for future opportunities.

11/3/2011 9:39 AM [View Responses](#)

I don't know enough to answer that question.

11/3/2011 9:24 AM [View Responses](#)

Not sure -- would love to see it rebuilt as a statewide public meeting center -- in the tradition of NH's Official Town Meeting House (the Belknap Mill) and NH Institute of Politics at St. Anselm's College

10/31/2011 3:37 PM [View Responses](#)

A plaque, bench, landscaped area at it's original location. Original replication at it's hostage location in Concord.

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Possibly an exhibit that travels around the state

10/28/2011 11:49 AM [View Responses](#)

N/A

10/27/2011 10:55 PM [View Responses](#)

Best left unreconstructed

10/27/2011 3:47 PM [View Responses](#)

an awful lot of effort has been expended to date for not much in potential/ eventual benefit. Find a place to re-erect the frame where it can be safe and dry, add some interpretive panels, and let it go at that. if not, keep it safely stored. Do not try to raise

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money to reconstruct the entire building; that would be too costly and cover up what few original elements there are.

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Reconstruction, in part or in sections. Either out of doors or inside a building that would protect and enhance the display.

10/27/2011 1:09 PM [View Responses](#)

Because its true physical nature is unknown, the remaining portion of New Hampshire's Provincial State House should not be reconstructed, but preserved and exhibited -- as is - within a suitable structure.

10/27/2011 11:32 AM [View Responses](#)

I don't know enough about the project to comment but hope that the building stays in active use for its intended purpose.

10/27/2011 11:27 AM [View Responses](#)

Not sure, I am hoping that it can represent a time and give a feeling of what it was like at that time in NH government.

10/27/2011 11:18 AM [View Responses](#)

I would rather see the effort and dollars go to a more worthy project. There is nothing unique or significantly revealing in the few remaining building relics.

10/27/2011 10:51 AM [View Responses](#)

The announcement is not clear. What is the Project? Calling it a "resource" and "artifact" means nothing to me.

10/27/2011 10:19 AM [View Responses](#)

What is the project? The "flier" was not very clear. There was reference to a resource - do you mean that the First State House is a resource?

10/27/2011 10:00 AM [View Responses](#)

I do not know if you are going to focus on the history of state house politics as the NHSPF is about the White Mountain Forest and its politics. Or how the State House effected the residents of NH?

10/27/2011 8:52 AM [View Responses](#)

Resurrection

10/27/2011 8:48 AM [View Responses](#)

back to its original state

10/26/2011 8:53 PM [View Responses](#)

It would be great to see it rebuilt and on display at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth.

10/26/2011 6:51 PM [View Responses](#)

A model of the statehouse, a video about what it meant (see above), a book about its history and evolution to the capital at Exeter, then Concord, and an exhibit of some of the timbers.

10/26/2011 6:03 PM [View Responses](#)

??

10/26/2011 5:23 PM [View Responses](#)

An exhibition of preservation challenges and questions most communities have or will encounter at some point, with this exhibit as the resolution to NH's State House Project.

10/26/2011 10:15 AM [View Responses](#)

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Everything depends upon the identification of a partner or partners who have the will and the resources to make some interpretive use of the artifact and/or the historical themes and concepts that it represents.

10/25/2011 6:19 PM [View Responses](#)

3. What benefit(s) for New Hampshire citizens do you hope to see result from the interpretation of New Hampshire's First State House?

preserving a unique part of NH history

12/1/2011 11:22 AM [View Responses](#)

Educational and informative.

11/30/2011 9:14 AM [View Responses](#)

Educational and tourist interests.

11/16/2011 9:46 PM [View Responses](#)

Create a constant reminder to the public about the talents hidden behind our NH Correctional walls while enlightening people on how such services can be individually obtained and utilized. Inmates who acquire a "real skill and work ethic" are less likely to reoffend once released, and in the long run, helps all citizens in NH.

11/15/2011 6:43 PM [View Responses](#)

It's a part of our history. We should preserve it. We should also find a way to use the replica.

11/15/2011 11:52 AM [View Responses](#)

Interpretation should not just be historical, but done in such a way as to inspire continuing questions about traditions of democracy and government in all periods of NH history.

11/11/2011 9:31 AM [View Responses](#)

It would be interesting to see how the people lived there.

11/10/2011 7:57 PM [View Responses](#)

A better understanding of Portsmouth's role in the Colonial era.

11/10/2011 7:49 PM [View Responses](#)

Like Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, visitors will be amazed by its small size. Moral: you don't have to be big to have powerful ideas.

11/10/2011 5:49 PM [View Responses](#)

Citizens will want to know more about the history and culture of our State of NH.

11/10/2011 5:01 PM [View Responses](#)

I presume that there would be a historical education component, as the most important result. It would be great if the space could also be used by the public for functions and/or events too.

11/9/2011 3:59 PM [View Responses](#)

A educational resource.

11/9/2011 6:48 AM [View Responses](#)

Education. Interpretation. Enlightenment. Empowerment. In addition, economic benefits of heritage tourism, and increased international visitation to the state and region as a whole. A model program of well-planned and well-documented historically-focused

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economic development, with ongoing data collection and dissemination. Collegiality and cooperation with other tourism and local marketing programs in the Seacoast area, which can serve as a model for other parts of the state. A highly visible way to demonstrate why the state of NH and the business community should invest more attention, funding, and creative effort into heritage tourism. A way to develop models and applications for the multiplier effect of such investment, including longer stays and higher per capita expenditures by visitors. At the local level, an opportunity for synergy with Discover Portsmouth and the Black Heritage Trail. Partnering with "local" and "green" initiatives, and with the arts, film, and museum communities. School programs, Elderhostel, collaboration with the NH Political Library, the UNH School of Law, academic programs at UNH, PSU, Keene State, and others to build a strong, shared knowledge base for exploration and appreciation of NH's history and its lessons for our present and future. From my personal perspective, I hope the project and its long-term implementation will help people to "read" the built environment, and to translate what they experience into active and persistent advocacy for historic and heritage preservation.

11/8/2011 1:19 AM [View Responses](#)

We learn from our past. By protecting our history we can improve on it and change our future

11/7/2011 8:59 AM [View Responses](#)

that not all clutter is worthy of keeping.... memories can be kept in photographs and stories as well. thank you...

11/6/2011 11:12 AM [View Responses](#)

Increasing pride and interest through better interpretation & promotion of N.H.'s truly colorful and unique heritage. After all, the first overt act of the American Revolution took place at New Castle in 1774; the first Mast Tree Riot in America took place in two parts in April 1734 at Exeter which at the time included Fremont & Brentwood where the riot actually took place; the first Civil War Riot in New England which took place in Fremont on July 4, 1861; the fascinating Spaulding & Frost Barrel Cooperage that operated for 125 years in Fremont between 1874 & 1999; the world's largest weaving room at Newmarket in the early 20th century; and countless other fascinating little-known events & firsts that I could elaborate on which occurred in N.H. Survey completed by: Matthew E. Thomas Fremont, NH 11/6/11

11/6/2011 8:09 AM [View Responses](#)

It should stay near to the original site to retain as much integrity as possible. I see it being optimally used as a rent-able meeting space. If the historic use has been as a meeting place for early New Hampshire legislation, it could at least continue to be used as a gathering place.

11/5/2011 7:01 PM [View Responses](#)

The preservation alone is important to me, but it could mean even more if it was turned into an interpretative center for the study of preservation methods, protocols, etc

11/5/2011 1:54 PM [View Responses](#)

appreciation of our history and the unique role NH played in the founding of our nation

11/4/2011 10:14 PM [View Responses](#)

Enhancing our cultural resources with history.

11/4/2011 9:05 AM [View Responses](#)

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That we know our state's history better.

11/3/2011 11:51 AM [View Responses](#)

Greater knowledge of how we started. And some pride in conserving our resources and saving good things.

11/3/2011 10:59 AM [View Responses](#)

The availability and accessibility of a unique state historical landmark.

11/3/2011 9:39 AM [View Responses](#)

It will help citizens better understand the state's long history, reaching into its pre-REvolutionary past.

11/3/2011 9:24 AM [View Responses](#)

Living history for all ages to learn about, particularly students and newcomers -- combining with our first in the nation primary tradition

10/31/2011 3:37 PM [View Responses](#)

Cultural enrichment. We had a humble beginning - with a touch of reality.

10/31/2011 12:03 AM [View Responses](#)

a greater understanding of our history as a state. How we became a state, who those community leaders were back then and how they shaped the way we are today.

10/28/2011 11:49 AM [View Responses](#)

greater sense of what early NH was like

10/27/2011 10:55 PM [View Responses](#)

Not many--there are many things more interesting and important for NH than the remnants of the first state house

10/27/2011 3:47 PM [View Responses](#)

Could be yet another interesting story to tell somewhere in Portsmouth, among the many historic sites and museums in the downtown.

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Any reconstruction would provide a wonderful chance to study and interpret the construction techniques of that era. In sum, it would be an invaluable teaching experience.

10/27/2011 1:09 PM [View Responses](#)

Although unintentionally neglected, it would help New Hampshire's historic community to interpret better the state's rich Provincial history (1680-1775).

10/27/2011 11:32 AM [View Responses](#)

I don't know enough about the project to comment but hope that the building stays in active use for its intended purpose.

10/27/2011 11:27 AM [View Responses](#)

A chance to know what it was like at that point in NH history.

10/27/2011 11:18 AM [View Responses](#)

That we studied what physical evidence we had and that we cannot compile enough information to do an accurate reconstruction.

10/27/2011 10:51 AM [View Responses](#)

Where, what if the NH's First State House?

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What kind of interpretation? I kind of see what you are getting at but you are using jargon that ordinary citizens may find bewildering ...

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If I do not know your goal how can I answer?

10/27/2011 8:52 AM [View Responses](#)

Kids will be able to walk through history and hopefully begin an early appreciation of history and artifacts.

10/27/2011 8:48 AM [View Responses](#)

our states history correctly portrayed

10/26/2011 8:53 PM [View Responses](#)

An understanding of New Hampshire's influential role in early American government, and NH's attempts to create a functioning state government.

10/26/2011 6:51 PM [View Responses](#)

NH is supremely bad at telling its own story. We don't honor the 1623 founders. We don't promote our state-owned historic properties well, we don't tell our story in a way that attracts and appeals to the public. We don't put enough funding into researching, designing, or disseminating our history. The state house is potentially a good teaching point, but will most likely go the way of the rest of our stories -- unfocused, largely forgotten, barely maintained, never well told to a 21st century audience that likes it's history dramatic and exciting and relatable to their busy lives in a high-tech world.

10/26/2011 6:03 PM [View Responses](#)

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10/26/2011 5:23 PM [View Responses](#)

It's a good story that could stimulate interest in local history.

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A focus on New Hampshire's history under British government, and an understanding by modern citizens of New Hampshire of the significance and legacy of that history.

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