



# The Old Stone Wall

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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NH Division of  
Historical Resources

<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/>

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State Architectural Historian

Tanya E. Krajcik  
Historical Archaeologist,  
Cultural Resources Records  
Coordinator,  
& Project Archaeology

Peter Michaud  
National Register, Preservation Tax  
Incentives, & Covenants Coordinator

Nadine Miller Peterson  
Preservation Planner

Mary Kate Ryan  
State Survey Coordinator, NH State  
Register

Christina St. Louis  
Program Specialist for Review &  
Compliance

Mae Williams  
Program Assistant

Linda Ray Wilson

## Project Archaeology at Boston's Museum of Science Archaeology Fair

Tanya Krajcik, Historical Archaeologist, Cultural  
Resources Records Coordinator, & Project Archaeology



The DHR's Project Archaeology program participated in the Boston Museum of Science Archaeology Fair, with a booth and workshops, on October 17. Tanya Krajcik represented Project Archaeology and Sheila Charles represented the Strawberry Banke Museum. Visitors made their own "rock art" by carving symbols that represented their own culture at the Project Archaeology Booth, and "excavated" artifacts at the Strawberry Banke Museum Booth.

To see more, [click here](#).

Photo: Tanya Krajcik, NH DHR

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[Click for DHR economic recovery program information](#)

The DHR is a state service agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

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### **Disappearing Dam Resurfaces...**

*Nadine Miller Peterson, Preservation Planner*

FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and its partners have been working to replace the Wiswall Bridge over the Lamprey River in Durham, New Hampshire.

As a result of heavy rains and widespread flooding during the 2006 Mother's Day floods, the existing steel girder deck bridge was breached. Flood water overtopped the two-span bridge and a supporting pier in the center of the Lamprey River between the spans. For the past few years, a temporary Bailey bridge transported traffic over the crossing.



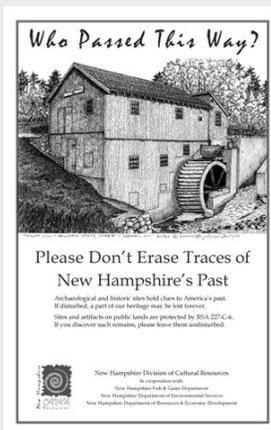
Because of review responsibilities resulting from Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources has had the opportunity to work with FEMA and its partners to identify significant historic features surrounding the bridge, including a large, nineteenth century mill site, two dams and associated worker's housing.

The mill at Wiswall's Falls was originally constructed in 1835, when Moses and Issachar Wiggin built a dam and sawmill on the river. Over the years, the mills here produced many goods: saw logs, grist and flour, cloth, knives, hoes and pitch forks, wooden measures, nuts and bolts, bobbins, axe handles, carriages and sleighs, chairs, and matches. In 1853 a paper mill was constructed and operated by Thomas Wiswall & Co. Fire, a common plague for early mills, destroyed the Wiswall mills in 1883. Later, J.W. Burham (of Newmarket Light, Heat and Power Co.) bought the property and built a power station, bringing electricity to Durham for the first time.

During preliminary studies, several mill workers' houses were identified along with stonewalls and other landscape features. Not only are significant portions of the mill site intact, but the 1912 concrete gravity dam and ruins from the earlier mid-nineteenth century sawmill dam are located just downstream from the bridge



Click [here](#) for program information about Moose Plate grants and [here](#) for the DHR grants page



Click [here](#) to read the poster

***"...it is again no question of expediency or feeling whether we shall preserve the buildings of past times or not. We have no right whatever to touch them. They are not ours. They belong partly to those who built them, and partly to all the generations of mankind who are to follow us."***

John Ruskin, from "The Lamp of Memory" in [Seven Lamps of Architecture](#), 1848.

crossing. In fact, the sawmill dam remains would not have been identified if it weren't for the draw down of the Lamprey River to facilitate construction of the new bridge.

Because the introduction of a new bridge within a sensitive historical setting would change the character of the neighborhood, NHDHR worked closely with FEMA, NHDOT, National Park Service, and the Town of Durham to identify a creative mitigation plan to offset the adverse effects associated with the introduction of a new bridge. It was important to design the bridge to blend into the setting since the Lamprey River is part of the National Park Service's Wild & Scenic Rivers Program. This included incorporating much of the original bridge stonework into the new bridge abutments.

To highlight the value, interpretive signage will be erected at the mill site and a National Register nomination will be prepared for what remains of the entire mill village. The Wiswall Historic Interpretation Committee was formed at the local level to assist professionals in preparing the signage and nomination. Together, the project partners are working to identify important character-defining features of the site so that the public can have a better understanding of the significant and "best remaining example in Durham of the town's nineteenth century manufacturing base."

Owned by the Town of Durham, the mill site is accessible to the public. For more information and directions, please visit the Lamprey River Advisory Committee site. <http://lampreyriver.org>

Photo: Remains of the old dam that resurfaced after river draw down, October, 2009. *Peter Michaud, NH DHR*

## Historic New Castle Lighthouse Listed on the National Register in Time for Halloween

*Peter Michaud, National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives, & Covenants Coordinator*



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is proud to announce that New Castle's Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse has been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement in the National Register of Historic Places on October 8th, 2009.

The present 48 foot tower, built in 1878, is constructed of curved cast iron plates and lined on the interior with brick. This new structure was constructed inside the old tower to insure a continuation of service for ships entering Portsmouth Harbor. The 1878 tower is a twin to the nearby Cape Neddick or "Nubble" Lighthouse in York, Maine.

A longtime subject of local hearsay and rumors, paranormal activity has been suggested at the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. An investigation by the popular Syfy Channel Show "Ghost Hunters" was featured as its 2008 season finale. Administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archeological resources.

The Fort Point Lighthouse was established in July of 1771, the 10th of 11 pre-revolutionary war lighthouses to be built in the British North American colonies. The original tower, located near the present day structure, was originally wood and 100 feet tall. This tower was razed in 1804, due to the expansion of nearby Fort Constitution, and relocated on nearby Pollock Rock as a new 80 foot octagonal wooden tower. This tower was later shortened by 25 feet in 1851.

Fort Point Lighthouse is listed with its tower, associated Keepers Dwelling (1872) and Oil House (1903.) The Friends of the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse open the tower to visitors June through October. For more information on visiting the tower, please visit the Friends' site. [www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org](http://www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org).

A longtime subject of local hearsay and rumors, paranormal activity has been suggested at the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. An investigation by the popular Sy-Fy Chanel Show "Ghost Hunters" was featured as its 2008 season finale.

Other local journalists have also caught ghost fever including the local paper's online blogger "The Gossip Lady" whose online video (click link to view) shows footage of the tower's interior and commanding views.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080821/ENTERTAIN/808210321>

Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse joins a growing list of significant New Hampshire buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects that are important in defining the state's history and character and that have been designated to the National Register for Historic Places.

For more information on the National Register program in New Hampshire, please

visit the DHR web site or contact Peter Michaud at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources at (603) 271-3483. [www.nh.gov/nhdhr](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr)

Photo: Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. *Peter Michaud, NH DHR*

### Registration Now Open for Winter 2009-2010 PSU Historic Preservation Certificate Courses

Plymouth State University's growing Certificate in Historic Preservation program is offering two courses this winter: one at its Concord campus and one online.

**The Rural Cultural Environment: Architecture and Landscape**, an online course with field trips beginning in January 2010, will be taught by Benoni Amsden, PhD, Center for Rural Partnerships, PSU.

**Heritage Studies Foundations**, taught by Christopher W. Closs, historic preservation consultant, will begin at 2 Pillsbury Street in Concord on December 2, and will include three field trips. Course registration is now open. Download the winter term poster [here](#).

For more information on the program, current offerings and registration, visit the Plymouth State historic preservation [program site](#).

### Happy Hundredth Birthday Festivities for the Belmont Bandstand

The Belmont Heritage Commission honored the village's historic bandstand on October 3 at an extraordinary celebration complete with flags and bunting, patriotic observances, speeches and greetings, two band concerts, exhibits, a display of historic photographs, tents stocked with art materials so kids of all ages could make pictures of the bandstand, and local foods. The birthday cake was an exact scale model of the bandstand created by Lakes Region Community College culinary arts students Ashley Quint, Ben Solomon, and Geoff Weller as a class project. The event received extensive press coverage in the Laconia Citizen, the Laconia Daily Sun, and statewide media. Read more and see pictures (including the bandstand cake) [here](#) and [here](#).



DHR file photo: Belmont Bandstand and Belmont Mill.



DHR staff have been busy in and out of the office since the last newsletter was distributed. Technical services visits included: Allenstown (Bear Brook CCC Recreational Camps, Old Allenstown Meeting House), Ashland (Village Graded School), Belmont Heritage Commission, Berlin (Berlin Housing Authority and Northern Forest Heritage Museum), Bow (Nichols-Colby Sawmill), Brookfield Heritage Commission, Center Harbor (National Register), Chichester Heritage Commission, Claremont (National Register), Concord (Blossom Hill and Calvary cemeteries), Concord (Bridges House), Derry (NH Preservation Alliance "Seven to Save" and annual meeting), Durham (Wiswall Dam, with FEMA; see related story), Hollis Heritage Commission, Hopkinton (NH Preservation Alliance directory launch), Laconia (New Hampshire Veterans' Association), Milton (Town House), Northwood Heritage Commission, Ossipee (Whittier Covered Bridge), Pembroke (Emerson Mill), Pembroke (Whittemore Homestead), Peterborough (National Register), Portsmouth (Energy efficiency in historic buildings), Rumney (Colburn-Gregoire Farm Barn), Stratham survey training, Temple Historical Society (Temple

Glassworks Site stewardship).

DHR staff were presenters at local, state, and national events, including: American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) conference in Providence, RI, Boston Museum of Science Archaeology Fair (see related story), National Park Service training on federal rehab tax incentives in Raleigh, NC, National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges annual meeting, NH Archaeological Society annual meeting, NH Cemetery Association fall meeting, NH Housing Finance Agency Compact Design forum at Canterbury Shaker Village, NH Joint Engineering Societies "Investing in Infrastructure" conference, NH Social Studies Conference annual meeting (Project Archaeology booth), NH State Building Code Review Board hearing on adoption of the International Existing Building Code, Pembroke bus tour, PSU Historic Preservation certificate program lectures and field trips (see related story), Salmon Falls Village tour (Rollinsford Library), and a full calendar of statewide activities during October -- Archaeology Month - including a historical archaeology open house at the SCRAP lab, a presentation on the archaeological and cultural investigation of a 18th century ethnic Maine fishing village, and a presentation to the Deerfield Elementary School.

Photo: Temple Glassworks Archaeological Site Visit. Peter Michaud, NH DHR

### Weatherization Guide and Windows Blog

Excerpts from the National Trust "PreservationNation" e-news for September 23, 2009



*Original windows matter. From dramatic Gothic masterpieces to the colorful details of stained glass, these gems are instrumental in telling the special stories of our older and historic homes and buildings.*

*The National Trust has launched a [Weatherization Guide](#) and [Windows Blog](#) to show property owners how they can keep their unique windows and still meet their goals for going green and achieving greater energy efficiency.*

*Bookmark the [Weatherization Guide](#) as a resource for making your older or historic home more eco-friendly without compromising its character.*

DHR file photo: Jade Mortimer restoring windows at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse

## NH Preservation Alliance Offers New Online Directory of Preservation Products and Services

The NH Preservation Alliance introduced its online [Directory of Preservation Products and Services](#) with a celebration at the Beech Hill Farm events barn in Hopkinton on September 30. The directory lists contractors, consultants, craftspeople and organizations that adhere to a preservation ethic and are members of the Preservation Alliance; it can be searched by regions and categories. Browse it and study [Questions to Ask Before Selecting a Contractor](#) to help with good choices for preservation projects.

## Local Energy Matters for Preservation

Is your city or town looking at ways to save money while continuing to use your historic municipal buildings? The Small Town Carbon Calculator ([STOCC](#)) could help. Energy efficiency projects are more likely to be funded if a clear need can be demonstrated, and STOCC can help communities define needs and focus priorities.

Explore the [Clean Air-Cool Planet](#) site and its many links for more information about simple ways to save energy and support sustainable communities.

If your town has a local energy committee or a heritage commission -- or, if you're lucky enough to have both -- the STOCC inventory of town-owned buildings would be a great asset for either or both groups. The DHR will work with cities and towns to make sure their energy efficiency projects also preserve the important historic character of their historic municipal buildings.

If you have local success stories about a partnership between your local energy committee and your heritage commission -- or your conservation commission or your agricultural commission, the DHR would love to hear about it. Please send stories and contact information to [Nadine Peterson, Preservation Planner](#).

## Can Historic Preservation Help Lead Us Out of the Recession?

*James T. Kienle, FAIA, Contract Magazine, September 28, 2009*

"Reusing existing structures is recycling at its best. Not only is the embodied energy preserved, but avoiding demolition also reduces the financial and environmental costs of hauling it off to a landfill. Energy and money are spent in rehabilitating structures, but seldom come close to the

costs of a new building." Read [more](#). (If the link doesn't work properly, search online by pasting the title or the author's name into your browser .)

### Marketing Preservation in a Tough Economy

*Kevin Kirkpatrick, Executive Vice President, MG Group*

presented at the 2009 National Trust Preservation Conference in Nashville TN

Main points of the presentation:

- People value results more than ever. Talk about impact, not about process.
- Focus on short-term benefits of preservation instead of long-term. People are looking for a more immediate pay-off.
- Rally the troops! Be even more proactive about engaging and building relationships and loyalty with likely supporters and allies.
- As the economy shakes the foundation of many organizations, both public and private, remind people that you are a stable, secure organization.
- Be more overt in your messaging about the importance of preserving heritage, which reminds people of things that are solid, lasting and important. Talk about why preservation matters!
- Don't try to do more with less. Instead, do the right things with the resources you have.

[Metropolitan Group](#) is a full-service social change agency that crafts and integrates strategic communication, multicultural communication, resource development and organizational development services that empower heritage preservation, arts and other social purpose organizations to build a just and sustainable world.

### ACHP "Section 106 Essentials" Training Is Coming Back to Concord in 2010

*Nadine Miller Peterson, Preservation Planner*



**Save the Date!** The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased that it has been chosen to host Section 106 training with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Concord, New Hampshire, on August 18 and 19, 2010. This is the ONLY ACHP Section 106 training that will be offered in the Northeast in 2010.

The **Section 106 Essentials Seminar** is a two-day course designed for those who are new to federal historic preservation compliance or those who want a refresher on the Section 106 regulations and review process. This course explains the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which applies any time a federal, federally assisted, or federally approved activity might affect a property listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### What will you learn?

Information on the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the Section 106 process; real-life case studies to illustrate each step in ACHP's regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800); practical advice on how to make Section 106 work smarter and more efficiently to resolve conflicts between development plans and historic preservation values; and a revised curriculum and a course CD, featuring model documents, guidance materials, and a reference library.

#### Who should attend?

The course is geared toward federal, state, or local government officials, tribal representatives, and private consultants who encounter federal preservation regulations in their jobs, and members of the public with an interest in historic preservation.

All course sessions are two days and meet from 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. each day. Course size is

limited to promote an active discussion, so **register as soon as possible**.

Please visit the [ACHP training site](#) for more information or to register online.

## News to Use

### **NPS seeks proposals for Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program**

The National Park Service is seeking project proposals from government agencies and private organizations for its Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program for summer 2010. The program annually sponsors 15 to 18 interns. Costs are shared between the NPS and the intern sponsor. The intern sponsor is expected to contribute \$5,679 toward the costs. The NPS does recruitment, application processing, payroll, and career mentoring. The deadline for intern project proposals from potential sponsors is November 30, 2009. For more information about the program and an application contact Turkiya Lowe, 202-371-2229 or [turkiya\\_lowe@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:turkiya_lowe@contractor.nps.gov).

### **Heritage Preservation's Conservation Assessment Program accepting applications**

Heritage Preservation is accepting applications for 2010 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grants. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2009. The program helps small to mid-sized museums with assessments of collections, environmental conditions, and sites. Museums with buildings older than 50 years receive additional funds for a historic structure assessment to identify priorities for care of the building(s). Applications are available at [www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP). For more information contact Sara Gonzales at 202-233-0831 or [sgonzales@heritagepreservation.org](mailto:sgonzales@heritagepreservation.org).

*(Thanks to Joan Antonson of the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology for these reminders!)*

## Save These Dates

On Thursday, November 19, Elizabeth Muzzey, DHR Director and NH SHPO, will speak on historic bridges at a DOT workshop (T19 on the registration list) for municipal transportation projects, as part of the NH Local Government Center's annual conference at the Radisson Hotel / Center of NH in Manchester. The workshop is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. If you are a municipal official, try to attend. If not, encourage your municipal officials to attend. Download more information about the entire [LGC conference](#) here.

The DHR and the NH Preservation Alliance will share a booth for both days of the LGC trade show (November 18 and 19), and again for the annual NH Farm & Forest Expo on February 5 and 6, 2010. Bookmark the [Farm & Forest site](#) for news about the Expo events, and plan to attend.

The NH Preservation Alliance's Old House & Barn Expo will return to the Center of NH at the Radisson Hotel, Manchester, on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, 2010. The Expo is back by popular demand with something for everyone interested in old buildings, and all that is involved in renovating and owning one. This year will have special emphasis on energy efficiency in older buildings and window preservation. Contact NHPA at 603-224-2281 and go the NH Preservation Alliance site for news and information.

Check the [NH Preservation Alliance "Events" web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and [nh365.org](http://nh365.org) for information on other preservation programs and activities.

## Download the DHR Brochure

The colorful [DHR trifold brochure](#) is now online, free of charge, at the DHR's "About Us" web site. Download it for distribution -- or save paper and historic places by sharing the web link widely!

[Staff members](#) of the  
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources  
have prepared this newsletter.

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