The Old Stone Wall

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Winter 2008-2009 - Vol 1, Issue 1

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Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the DHR e-newsletter! The last issue of *The Old Stone Wall* introduced plans to transition from a paper format to an electronic one. Although we envisioned making the change slowly over the next year, Governor Lynch's call for state agencies to cut costs has greatly sped up our plans.

If you have seamlessly received *The Old Stone Wall* in its electronic format via your email inbox - terrific! You now have several choices. You can do nothing and continue to receive the e-newsletter, or you can access this and earlier issues of *The Old Stone Wall* **on our web site**. Although we hate to lose subscribers, if you prefer not to receive the e-newsletter, you can opt to cancel your electronic subscription by following the directions at the bottom of this page.

If you did not receive our e-newsletter - if you are reading over someone's shoulder right now or else reading a printed version - please sign up by either clicking on the button at top left corner of this newsletter or by entering your email address on our Newsletter web page, accessed via the **Publications page**. We are still in search of many subscribers' email addresses, so please forward this to anyone you think would like to receive it.

For those readers who would still like to receive a printed newsletter, please call the DHR at 603-271-3483 or email at **Preservation** and request a paper subscription. To cover the costs of printing and mailing, a $5.00 donation each year is requested.

As long-time readers know, for many years *The Old Stone Wall* was published and mailed with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance newsletter. Members of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and subscribers on the DHR's mailing list

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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.

received news and information from both our state-wide preservation non-profit and the State Historic Preservation Office. With an electronic *Old Stone Wall*, we will miss this joint effort to reach preservationists across the state. The Alliance continues to publish its paper newsletter; to receive it, please call the Alliance at 603-224-2281 or **e-mail them**.

We thank you for your patience as *The Old Stone Wall* makes the move from paper to pixels. Please feel free to let us know your suggestions for improving the new format.

Elizabeth H. Muzzey
Director, NH Division of Historical Resources
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

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Rehab New Hampshire, Save the World?

***Mary Kate Ryan**, State Survey Coordinator*

With all the focus on new "green" initiatives and green products, including green construction, it may seem to the average homeowner that starting over is the only way to be energy efficient. Get rid of your imperfect old house, with its wavy plaster walls, older windows and doors, and lack of insulation. Maybe aim for a LEED certified house, with Energy Star appliances, super-efficient systems, and an air-tight building envelope? Add bamboo flooring, low VOC paints, and energy-saving lighting fixtures -- build the perfect green masterpiece. Aside from money, what's to stop you?

Well, preservationists know that "the greenest building is the one already built." That's the thrust of the National Trust's new green initiative, and firmly sets preservation within the new movement toward conservation. When we preserve a building, a home, or a downtown district, we are not only stewards of history, but also stewards of our invested energy and natural resources. Your historic house is inherently "green."

The Trust initiative is not "greenwashing." Data

compiled by the Energy Information Administration's 2003 Buildings Energy Consumption Survey demonstrate that buildings constructed before 1920 are more energy efficient than those built at any time in the rest of the 20th century. Most historic buildings are carefully sited and use passive architectural measures to maximize the comfort of occupants, as they were built before complete reliance on artificial systems to provide heating, cooling and lighting. Wide eaves that block the summer sun but allow the winter sun to enter the building, windows placed for cross ventilation and maximum natural light and mature shade trees all conspire to regulate interior temperatures and light levels in a most energy efficient way. Historically, these measures were taken out of necessity; today, we reuse them to minimize our carbon footprint and energy bills.

Existing buildings provide housing, retail and commercial space already, so maximizing their use or putting them back into service can be accomplished with less expenditure of energy. Traditional historic building materials - wood, brick, stone and plaster - require little industrial production, so they use less human-made energy to create. They are all the things the new green industries look for: renewable, sustainable, natural, local. They cost less to produce, but require more labor, meaning that the construction dollars spent on rehabilitation go to trained craftspeople and skilled laborers rather than corporations. Your dollars are more likely to stay in the local economy, another way to stay local.

Historic buildings are soaked with embodied energy - the natural resources and labor used to construct them, the years of maintenance and investment, and the cultural capital that drives preservationists to reuse them. "Embodied energy is the total expenditure of energy involved in the creation of the building and its constituent materials," said Donovan Rypkema in his keynote address at the 2005 National Trust conference. Embodied energy is a key component of lifecycle analysis, which examines the environmental impact of building materials and systems from raw materials, through manufacture, transportation to the site, use within a building, to demolition and disposal. Lifecycle analysis, or LCA, is being incorporated into the new LEED 3.0 standards. Historic materials are also often amenable to repairs, rather than replacement, further minimizing the waste stream.

Energy Administration calculations tell us that the construction, operation and demolition of buildings account for 48% of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions. When we consider embodied energy, demolition costs and LCA,

recycling an old building that has 100 years of life and energy invested in it is far more green than demolishing it to make way for an industry-intensive structure designed to last approximately 30 years. The energy efficiency of an historic building can easily be improved further through relatively inexpensive upgrades such as weather stripping, insulation, storm windows and systems, as well as repair of any damaged or worn building features. Many rehabilitated buildings are good for another 100 years, with regular maintenance.

Beyond the individual building, preservation of historic neighborhoods and downtowns conforms to Smart Growth principles, promotes pedestrian- and bike-friendly zones and uses existing infrastructure. All of these larger considerations are necessary if we hope to reduce our transportation-generated carbon footprint. Additionally, we preserve the sense of place that enhances our quality of life

To further the cause of green preservation, the DHR has written and submitted an "Action" to the New Hampshire Climate Change Policy Task Force. Created by executive order, this group is charged with the creation of a plan to reduce New Hampshire's carbon footprint - **see the official NH Climate Change site for details**. The DHR's contribution is number 1.8 in the Residential, Commercial, and Industrial section, called "Conserving Embodied Energy in Existing Residential Building Stock." The Action promotes widespread education on embodied energy and lifecycle analysis, incentives to property owners to help them increase the energy efficiency of their historic homes while protecting their history and further study on best practices for energy efficient rehabilitation.

The DHR is proud to have been part of this process and will continue to promote historic preservation as a green answer to climate change concerns. Good stewardship of our built environment is also good stewardship of our natural resources. Stay tuned. The next newsletter will feature some of our "best practices" for energy-efficient rehabilitation.

Want to Know More About Preservation?

Beginning in March 2009, Plymouth State University is offering three preservation courses at its campuses in Concord and Plymouth. Courses may be taken for graduate credit and on an audit basis, and can get you started working toward a Certificate in Historic Preservation from Plymouth State University!

Spring 2009's classes will be Principles of Historic Preservation, Historic

Preservation Planning and Management, and Cultural Property Law.

Principles of Historic Preservation: This course provides a foundation to historic preservation and focuses on principles and theories pertaining to preservation and restoration practices; recognition of architectural periods, styles and construction methods; the definition of significance and integrity in buildings and districts; strategies by which buildings and their settings have been preserved and used, and methods of reading and interpreting the cultural environment. Taught by Christopher W. Closs, at 2 Pillsbury Street in Concord.

Historic Preservation Planning & Management: Historic preservation is an integral part of defining and protecting the cultural landscape. Preservation planning and cultural resource management (CRM) are accomplished through the identification, evaluation, documentation, registration, treatment and ongoing stewardship of historic properties. This course examines the processes of preservation planning and management and illustrates the application of those tools at the federal, state and local levels. Taught by Elizabeth H. Muzzey at 2 Pillsbury Street in Concord.

Cultural Property Law: This course examines the international, national and state legal frameworks for the protection and movement of cultural property. Archaeological site looting, transnational antiquities trafficking and armed conflicts threaten global cultural heritage. The international and American governments' responses to such threats have resulted in the development of major treaties as well as the enforcement of criminal laws and customs regulations. This course also introduces important national heritage laws such as the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and rules governing shipwrecks. State statutes and the common law regulating cultural property are also reviewed. Taught by Ricardo St. Hilaire, at Rounds Hall in Plymouth.

More information about the certificate program can be found at: **the program website**. Enrollment and course registration forms are **also online**.

DHR/SCRAP Historic Sites Survey in Pisgah State Park

***Edna Feighner**, Historical Archaeologist and Review & Compliance Coordinator*

In 2008 the DHR offered a two-week archaeological field school for its Historical Archaeology Mapping and Surveying Program, part of the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP).

The focus of the 2008 survey was to locate and map the Broad Brook Community (1840-1920s) identified in 1983 during an archaeological field school conducted through the Continuing Education Program at Keene State College. The Broad Brook Community was located in what is now Pisgah State Park, a 13,000 acre park located in the southwestern corner of New Hampshire that incorporates portions of the towns of Winchester, Hinsdale and Chesterfield. The area is considered important in local history because of early lumbering activities; it was the site of the Broad Brook Steam Lumber Mills.

The program focuses on the identification and recordation of the historic sites in New Hampshire's state parks. This year's program was coordinated with Sarah Bockus of Antioch and was under the direction of the DHR's Historical Archaeologists Edna Feighner and Tanya Kress. The specific objective for this field school was to encourage visitors, students and interested community members to explore the rich history the New Hampshire, and learn to appreciate that the past bears an important relationship to its environment and our natural resources.

During the two weeks, six volunteers and two students from Antioch learned to prepare archaeological site forms and participated in documentation and state-level recordation of the existing cellar holes, dams, mills and associated features that would indicate a community's historic presence. Through the summer's efforts, an additional nine historic sites were identified, mapped and photographed. In addition, previously unexplored areas were assessed, stretching from Fullam Pond to the Hardscrabble area, later named Nash City, settled in the 1780's.

This is the first of many historic sites mapping projects that will continue through the SCRAP program at the Division of Historical Resources. We plan on visiting the rest of our state parks over the years, engaging the support and interest of friends groups, community members and students for identifying, recording and photographing New Hampshire's dynamic history.

Concord's Old North Cemetery Entered in the National Register of Historic Places

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

Concord's Old North Cemetery has been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement in the National Register of Historic Places.

Old North Cemetery was established in 1730 when Concord was the fledgling township of Penny Cook. It remained the city's only downtown burial ground for one hundred thirty years. Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States and the only U.S. President born in New Hampshire, was buried there, as were Revolutionary and Civil War veterans, industrialists and politicians important in Concord's history.

Administered by the National Park Service within the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historical 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.

Today the Old North Cemetery remains a welcoming, historic green space in the midst of Concord's urban fabric. In recent years, the city has made significant strides forward in its preservation.

The Old North Cemetery 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 **our website** or contact **Peter Michaud** at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources at 603-271-3483. Color electronic images of the Old North Cemetery are available upon request.

New Additions to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

***Mary Kate Ryan**, State Survey Coordinator*
***Shelly Angers**, Communications Coordinator, Department of Cultural Resources*

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historic Resources Council has added four individual properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. In addition, four properties were added to the Bennington Village Historic District, and one property was added to the Francestown Mill Village Historic District.

"These new listings to the New Hampshire State Register are community

landmarks that add to the story and history of our state," said New Hampshire's State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth H. Muzzey. "Special recognition also goes to their owners, who are working hard to preserve for them for the future."

The State Register is part of the state's efforts to recognize and encourage public and private initiatives to identify and protect historically significant properties throughout the state. In order to be eligible for the Register, properties must be at least 50 years old and retain the unique qualities that make them irreplaceable.

The most recent additions to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places are:

Upper Village Hall, Derry. Built in 1875, this town hall has served as the site of town meeting, the town's first library, a grange hall and a fire station, among other uses. Built in the Italianate style, this building has been the political center of town since its construction.

Harbor House Livery/Sunapee Town Hall, Sunapee. Built circa 1889, this building originally served the vital tourist trade around Lake Sunapee as a livery stable attached to the Harbor House hotel. It has since served as town hall, fire station and police station, showing the adaptability of its historic construction and the thrift of town citizens.

James M. Perkins House, Sunapee. This 1890 house is a well-preserved, later example of a Victorian-era Second Empire-style house, with a mansard roof, canted bays on the corners and elegant sawn scroll work details.

Kentlands, New London. This summer home near the Little Lake Sunapee region was designed by Prentice Sanger in 1908-1909 for his parents. The property exemplifies the summer house movement in New Hampshire and is notable for its architecture and high degree of historical integrity.

The Bennington Village Historic District is a residential district that developed when the paper mill industry attracted workers who needed housing. The district was recognized in July 2008. Four additional property owners chose to add their properties to the district in October.

The Francestown Mill Village Historic District is a small village of houses that grew up around a soapstone mill in the 1820s. The district was recognized in July 2008, and one additional property has been added.

Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on individual inventory forms from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. Having a property listed in the Register does not impose restrictions on property owners. For more information, visit **our website** or contact **Mary Kate Ryan**, 603-271-3465.

Six Historic Conservation Projects Receive Moose Plate Grants

***Deborah J. Gagne**, Grants Coordinator, DHR*
Shelly Angers, Communications Coordinator, Department of Cultural Resources

Six projects focused on conserving historic buildings will receive funding through the DHR's Conservation License Plate Grant program.

Through this program -- also known as the "Moose Plate" grant program -- the DHR awards funds to projects that conserve and preserve significant publicly owned historic resources and artifacts that contribute to New Hampshire's history and cultural heritage.

"Purchasing a Moose Plate is a great way to show that you care about New Hampshire's heritage and culture," said Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod. "The $35 cost the first year you register your plate -- and the $30 each year thereafter -- goes right back to New Hampshire's communities to support a variety of cultural projects." For more information about the program, see the Moose Plate website.

The 2008 projects receiving Conservation License Plate Grants from the Division of Historical Resources are:

The Old Allenstown Meeting House Rehabilitation Project, Phase I-III (Allenstown) - to continue the long-term preservation of the building by repairing existing clapboards.

Cheshire Railroad Depot Restoration Project (Troy) - to refinish the floor in the waiting room and the stationmaster's office.

The Frost Place: 2008 Moisture Rehabilitation Project (Franconia) - to apply borate treatment to the first floor and cellar framing, install suitable gutters and downspouts and re-grade the west side of the house.

Lisbon Historic Railroad Station Restoration (Lisbon) - to finish the restoration of the building by painting the exterior, installing floor tile and repairing window frames.

Head School (Hooksett) - to enable interior repairs to the tin ceiling, refinish the floor and repair damaged plaster.

Epsom Historic Meetinghouse (Epsom) - to repair broken historic stained glass windows.

"New Hampshire's unique historical resources bring our past to life and help to define our state's culture today," said Elizabeth Muzzey, director of the Division of Historical Resources. "Conserving these resources ensures that what it means to be from New Hampshire will be accessible to future generations." The Conservation License Plate Program's grants are funded from the sale of "Moose Plate" license plates. A portion of the funds raised each year through the program is allocated to the Department of Cultural Resources, which, in turn, makes funds available to the Division of Historical Resources.

For more information about the DHR's Conservation License Plate Grant Program, please contact **Shelly Angers** at 603-271-3136 or **Deborah J. Gagne** at 603-271-3559.

NEW and IMPROVED @ the DHR Website

Expanded publications page, featuring **technical assistance reports**.
New **Preservation Easements** page.
Expansion of the **Research Topics** page coming soon.

Linda Ray Wilson, Editor, and the staff of the
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

This newsletter has been financed in part with a federal 'Historic Preservation Fund' matching grant from the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources/State Historic Preservation Office. Part of the cost of this newsletter has been paid by the DHR's annual federal program grant. However, its contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. Regulations of the US Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. The State of New Hampshire (under RSA 275 and RSA 354-a) prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability or national origin. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20240.