

The Old Stone Wall

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Vol 6, Issue 3 2014

Join Our Mailing List!



NH Division of
Historical Resources

Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Director and State Historic
Preservation Officer

Laura S. Black

Special Projects and Compliance
Specialist

Richard A. Boisvert

State Archaeologist and
Deputy State Historic Preservation
Officer

Amy Dixon

Grants Coordinator

Edna M. Feighner

Historical Archaeologist and
Review & Compliance Coordinator

Deborah J. Gagne

Grants Coordinator

Tanya E. Krajcik

Archaeologist, Records Coordinator
and 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

Donna Thompson

Program Specialist

State Historical Resources
Council

IN THIS ISSUE

A new staff member and a new program!

The DHR Scrapbook: Our summer in the field

Who is using NH's Community Revitalization Tax Relief
Incentive?

Newichawannock Canal added to the National Register

Two properties added to the NH State Register of Historic
Places

Celebrate NH History Week

Learn more about preservation programs

A new staff member and a new program!

The NH Division of Historical Resources is pleased to welcome **Amy Dixon** as our newest staff member. Amy is familiar to many in New Hampshire's preservation circles; for the last eight years she served as the Historic Resource Specialist at the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. Prior to her work with LCHIP, she worked as an architectural historian for several private sector consulting firms in Pennsylvania and New England.

At the DHR,
Amy is
creating and
coordinating a
new program
that will offer
two rounds of
grant funding
to repair
historic
properties
damaged by
Superstorm



Amy Dixon

David R. Starbuck, Plymouth, Chair
Carolyn Baldwin, Gilmanton, Vice Chair
Molly Bolster, Portsmouth
Nancy C. Dutton, Wilmot
James L. Garvin, Pembroke
Tim Sappington, Randolph
Carl W. Schmidt, Orford
Robert Stephenson, Jaffrey

Ex Officio
Governor Maggie Hassan
Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Department of Cultural Resources

Van McLeod
Commissioner

Shelly Angers
Public Information Officer

The DHR is a state resource 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 US 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.

Sandy in October 2012 and to help property owners and communities plan for the effects of future disasters. Funding for the program is made available under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

The first round of grants will open October 15, 2014. After Superstorm Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined that six of New Hampshire's ten counties - Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham and Sullivan - were eligible for disaster relief. Only historic properties in those six counties are eligible for funding. Properties receiving funds must be listed to or eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places, and all repair work must be carried out according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Applications for the first grant round are available at the NHDHR's website, www.nh.gov/nhdhr, or by contacting Amy at 603-271-3558.

A second grant round, planned for Spring 2015, will also fund repairs of damage caused by Superstorm Sandy, as well as other initiatives that will better prepare historical properties for future disasters, including updated historical surveys, National Register nominations, archaeological site stabilization, community and property-specific disaster planning, and educational programming and training.

Another important component of the disaster planning program will be the creation of a state-wide online Geographic Information System database of historical properties throughout the state. Geo-referenced historical records will provide a foundation for all future disaster planning and responses by the DHR, property owners, communities and emergency officials. The DHR has been collecting data on the state's resources for 40 years, and paper records are currently available to researchers who visit the DHR's records room by appointment. The first step in this multi-year project will provide high-quality scans of records in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham and Sullivan counties. Look for more information in the coming

months on our progress and on which records may be temporarily absent from our files for scanning purposes.

The DHR Scrapbook: our summer in the field





On the rainiest day this summer, members of the DHR staff joined the State Historical Resources Council for a day in the Squam Lakes region.

Highlights included a tour of National Register properties led by Elizabeth Hengen and Betsy Whitmore, lunch at Rockywold-Deephaven Camps, and a boat ride compliments of David Martin and the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.





DHR staff members discussed plans to include the Contoocook Covered Bridge in the town of Hopkinton's 250th anniversary celebration with the Contoocook Riverway Association and town officials.

The NH Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee, also known as the "Barn Committee," toured the I-93 Welcome Center construction site. Plans call for an indoor waterfall and a downsized covered bridge.



○ State Archaeologist Dick Boisvert and his crew spent six weeks at the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program field school investigating Paleoindian sites in Jefferson and a stone tool workshop at the foot of Mt Jasper in Berlin.



○ Participants also took part in a lecture and field trip run by prominent White Mountains geologists and the Weeks State Park Association, learning about the relationships between the White Mountain's earliest inhabitants and the geology of the region.



DHR traveled to Hancock to offer technical assistance to the owners of the historic Daloz Mill. The mill, built in 1798 and rebuilt in 1900, was most recently used as a demonstration and education site.

The DHR celebrated the completion of two covered bridge projects, Blair Covered Bridge in Campton and Bath Village Covered Bridge. Both received funding from the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program.





DHR archaeologists Edna Feighner and Tanya Krajcik joined the Historical Society of Cheshire County's field school at the historic Wyman Tavern in Keene.

In the White Mountains, the DHR congratulated the US Forest Service and HistoriCorps on a job well done to repair the Fabyan Guard Station.



Who is using NH's Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive?

Since 2006, New Hampshire towns and cities have had the option of adopting the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, found in state law at **NH RSA 79-E**. Designed to encourage economic activity while preserving the unique historic and cultural character of towns and villages, the incentive offers property owners a break on their property taxes if they redevelop an under-utilized property. This past fall, a group of graduate students in Plymouth State University's Historic Preservation Program took a close look at the incentive and asked who was using it and to what degree?

Their results are now available in an online report, **A Tool for Your Town: New Hampshire's Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive**. The report explains the incentive process, tallies which New Hampshire towns and cities have adopted it, and highlights success stories in Berlin, Concord, Nashua and Somersworth. It also identifies common challenges for communities and developers and offers a series of recommendations for expanding the incentive's use. "The students' research showed that many towns, cities and developers are

unaware of the value of the community revitalization incentive," said Professor Elizabeth Muzzey, who is also the State Historic Preservation Officer. "Their report will hopefully go a long way in changing that."

Drew Bedard, Martha Cummings, Alison Key and Joanna Synder authored the report as part of their coursework in Plymouth's Historic Preservation Program. PSU offers both a master's degree in Historic Preservation and a four-course graduate certificate. Registration for the winter term, which begins December 1, is now open. For more information, visit the Plymouth web site at <http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/academics/degrees/masters/ma/historic-preservation/>.

Newichawannock Canal added to the National Register



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is proud to announce that the **Great Falls Manufacturing Company's Newichawannock Canal Historic District** has been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

Unusual for a National Register property, the Newichawannock Canal District is located in two states, partially forming the border between Wakefield, NH, and Acton, Maine. From the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century, the canal increased the water supply system that powered Great Falls Manufacturing's textile mill complex 25 miles downstream in Somersworth, NH, providing a constant and controlled source of water power and contributing to the region's mill economy. The historic district consists of four distinct resources that exhibit a high degree of integrity, uncommon for resources of their type and age:

- A lower canal that is structurally intact and continues its original function as an engineered stone watercourse conducting water from Great East Lake to Horn Pond;
- A stone arch bridge built largely of natural random fieldstone with round edges and little or no evidence of splitting or trimming;
- An upper canal in Great East Lake Dam that is completely submerged but clearly visible approximately two feet below the water surface when the water is clear; and
- Spoil piles - distinct piles of stone that appear to be remainder piles from construction of the canal.

Coinciding with NH History Week, an event celebrating the Newichawannock

Canal Historic District's listing on the National Register will take place at the Wakefield Town Hall in Sanbornville on Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

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 archaeological resources.

For more information on the National Register program in New Hampshire, please visit www.nh.gov/nhdhr or contact [Peter Michaud](#) at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources at 603-271-3483.

Two properties added to the NH State Register of Historic Places

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added two properties to the **New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places**.

Built in 1899 by a local contractor and the town selectmen, **Columbia's Old Town Hall** has served as a community space for town meetings and other functions, as well as the library and town offices, for generations. Although the library and town offices are now located elsewhere in Columbia, the building still hosts town meeting, select board meetings and voting.

Since its construction in 1895, the **Orange Town House** has played multiple roles in the community, serving as the local school until 1949 and the town library from the early 1950s to 1992, displaying town's history, and functioning as the seat of town government for almost 120 years. A 1980s addition to the building accommodated Orange's growing needs.

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 an individual inventory form 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 www.nh.gov/nhdhr.

Celebrate NH History Week

New Hampshire History Week 2014 will celebrate the state's rich and vibrant past with painting and photography exhibits, visits to historic sites, Civil War-era music, a Halloween History Walk in a historic cemetery and more.

Since 2011, this annual celebration has encouraged historical societies, preservationists, schools, libraries, museums, tourism groups and the general public to celebrate the importance of New Hampshire's history.

New Hampshire History Week 2014 events include:

- The Hardtacks - music from Civil War era, Oct. 18 at Hopkinton Town Library;
- "White Mountain Photography," a presentation by John Anderson, Oct. 20 at the Old Town Hall in Campton;
- "The River that Runs through Our Gate City," a presentation by Lauri Johnson, Oct. 21 at Nashua Historical Society;
- Seven to Save Announcement and Walking/Driving Tour of Kensington on Oct. 22;
- A Halloween History Walk, Oct. 25 at Blair Cemetery in Campton;
- Celebration of the Newichawannock Canal Historic District being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Oct. 25 at Wakefield Town Hall in Sanbornville.

Month-long events include Barrington Middle School's "Messages from the Past: Revisiting the Oral History Project," the annual 19th Century White Mountain Art Sale and Exhibition at the Jackson Historical Society, and free dockside tours of the historic gundalow at Prescott Park in Portsmouth on Saturdays in October.

For a full calendar of events, visit the N.H. Preservation Alliance website, www.nhpreservation.org, and click on "[Celebrate New Hampshire History Week](#)" in the "Recent News" section.

Learn more about preservation programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [News and Events](#) web page of the NH Division of Historical Resources, the [NH Preservation Alliance Events web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and the "history" section of nh365.org. Also visit PreservationDirectory.com, a national portal with links to a wide and expanding range of preservation events, sources and 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. However, its contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. 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 DC, 20240.