Vision — Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Vision

Appreciation, outreach, education, vision, planning, and implementation will empower Granite Staters to recognize, preserve, use, and protect the historic resources and cultural landscapes vital to New Hampshire’s identity. The goals, objectives, and strategies explored below provide a pathway for the state’s preservation movement to work creatively and effectively to manifest this vision.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Appreciation, Outreach, and Education — empower Granite Staters to recognize, preserve, and use New Hampshire’s historic properties and special places.

Goal 1: Increase public awareness and appreciation of historic properties and special places.

Objective 1: Increase the level of public knowledge of preservation’s economic, environmental, and other critical community development benefits.

Strategies:
- Re-establish a statewide Main Street organization to support local downtown revitalization efforts.
- Create a Preservation Advocacy Day at the New Hampshire State House to promote the mutual objectives of historic preservation, sustainability, and economic development.
- Publicize heritage tourism as an asset and economic engine.
- Publish a statewide historic preservation economic impact analysis.

Objective 2: Recognize preservation’s role in helping communities retain a sense of place and identity.

Strategies:
- Expand the identification and survey of historic and archaeological resources statewide.

Granite Quarry, Columbia
Sites like this, where Columbia pink granite was quarried, tell a social and labor history of the area.
Granite from this quarry was used in the construction of the Pentagon and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.
Submitted to My New Hampshire.
- Increase understanding and appreciation for a variety of resource types, including underrepresented resources.
- Make a film or documentary about New Hampshire history.
- Celebrate New Hampshire milestones, as well as the 50th Anniversary (2016) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Objective 3:** Prioritize a lifelong appreciation for New Hampshire’s historic and special places.

**Strategies:**
- Increase visits to historic places.
- Increase opportunities for cross-generational or multi-generational history appreciation.
- Provide place-based learning opportunities in K-12 classes.
- Increase enrollment in historic preservation classes at Plymouth State University.

**Goal 2: Expand accessibility to existing information and guidance.**

**Objective 1:** Assemble existing preservation information and guidance.

**Strategies:**
- Create a dynamic collection of preservation best practices, tools, and funding resources.
- Create a comprehensive GIS-based historic and archaeological property research platform that will continually be updated.
- Develop region-wide research themes and contexts that will help guide survey efforts.
- Increase collaboration across information-sharing platforms to ensure that historical resources information is accessible in statewide systems.

**Objective 2:** Enhance dissemination of information and guidance.

**Strategies:**
- Create regional coordinated networks among communities.
- Increase the presence of historic preservation organizations and commissions at established community gathering places and events, such as local farmers’ markets and Old Home Day celebrations.
- Develop new and different ways to reach out and promote preservation to the public, such as social media campaigns and table top displays at local businesses.
- Use public event calendars, such as nh365.org, to promote history-related events.
- Publicize online resources for information and guidance.
- Share community historic resource survey findings with elected officials and local residents.
- Share community visioning session results.

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*Croydon Village School, Croydon*

*The small brick schoolhouse is reported to be the longest continuously operating one-room school in New Hampshire. Today it houses the town’s K-3 students.*

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Goal 3: Broaden content, availability, and use of training opportunities.

Objective 1: Increase rehabilitation and maintenance skills.

Strategies:
- Create hands-on preservation classes at regional technical high schools, community colleges, and other educational institutions.
- Connect professionals to educational opportunities related to the care and rehabilitation of older materials and the use of historic construction techniques.
- Provide local stewardship education about preservation-friendly repairs and maintenance for contractors, facilities managers, and property owners.
- Provide training in appropriate energy efficiency strategies as part of maintenance best practices in historic buildings.

Objective 2: Instill best practices in preservation planning activities such as identifying historical resources and working with preservation laws and regulations.

Strategies:
- Create preservation stewardship plans for historic sites.
- Connect professionals to existing training in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Establish opportunities for preservation students and professional preservationists to engage with communities undertaking survey and other activities.
- Increase support, training, and networking opportunities for heritage commissions and historic district commissions.
- Educate state and local code enforcement officials and construction professionals about the flexibility within the state-adopted building codes for historic buildings.
- Develop programs to train the public in engagement under Section 106 regulations.

Residence, Alton
Preservation-minded owners rehabilitated this residence after other buyers wanted to tear it down and subdivide the lot for new construction.
Submitted to My New Hampshire.

Vision, Planning, and Implementation – protect the historic resources and cultural landscapes vital to New Hampshire’s identity.

Goal 4: Incorporate historic preservation as an element in local, regional, state, and federal decision making.

Objective 1: Strengthen the role of municipal heritage and historic district commissions.

Strategies:
- Increase the number of active historic district commissions, heritage commissions, and neighborhood heritage district groups.
• Assess, revise, and develop, as needed, current ordinances and design guidelines that are consistent with community vision and/or commission objectives.
• Re-establish a statewide association for heritage and historic district commissions.
• Improve collaboration between heritage and historic district commissions and other municipal commissions.
• Educate communities about the roles and benefits of heritage and historic district commissions.

**Objective 2:** Enhance the ability of regional, state, and federal agencies to fulfill their responsibilities under state and federal preservation laws.

**Strategies:**
• Increase the number of qualified historic preservation staff members in regional, state, and federal agencies.
• Develop, adapt, and implement plans and procedures to protect historical resources within the regulatory framework.
• Increase public engagement and participation in regulatory reviews.

**Goal 5:** Prioritize historic preservation’s integral role in interdisciplinary planning efforts to address critical changes facing the Granite State.

**Objective 1:** Make preservation part of the solution as the state’s demographics shift and resulting housing and transportation needs are addressed.

**Strategies:**
• Assess, revise, and develop, as needed, zoning and land use ordinances that support community goals.
• Use technical assistance in applying existing flexible rehabilitation guidance.
• Complete and implement the Historic Bridge Inventory update and system-wide Historic Bridge Management Plan.
• Investigate programmatic alternatives to solving New Hampshire’s auto-centric transportation challenges.
• Include up-to-date historic resources chapters in municipal master plans.

**Objective 2:** Incorporate historic preservation concerns into disaster planning and recovery discussions and operations at the local, regional, and state level.

**Strategies:**
• Include cultural resources chapters or sections in municipal hazard mitigation plans.
• Include cultural resources sections in state disaster and climate change plans.
• Inform emergency managers and first responders about cultural resources.

*Meadow and Mountains, Jefferson*

“A New Hampshire landscape, as it is, as it was.”
— Lorna Colquhoun

Submitted to My New Hampshire.
• Develop disaster response plans for cultural resources organizations and institutions.
• Make connections between organizations to facilitate integrated preparedness planning and resilience.

**Objective 3:** Address all layers of the cultural landscape.

Strategies:
• Broaden the conversation about, and understanding of, New Hampshire's cultural landscapes.
• Create collaborative partnerships.
• Work to connect cultural and natural resource interests.

**Goal 6: Strengthen and stabilize funding sources and incentives.**

**Objective 1:** Expand the use of existing funding and incentives.

Strategies:
• Increase adoption and use of NH RSA 79-E and increase the use of NH RSA 79-D by communities.
• Expand the use and scope of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program and grants.
• Expand the use of federal preservation tax incentives.
• Increase the use of funding sources not traditionally considered for preservation projects but that can be complimentary to achieving a preservation outcome.
• Identify and address barriers to accepting funding, such as lack of matching funds, misunderstandings about funding sources, and capacity issues in smaller communities.

**Objective 2:** Increase available funds under existing funding and incentives.

Strategies:
• Protect designated New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) funding.
• Strengthen established Conservation License Plate “Moose Plate” marketing partnerships.
• Advocate with lawmakers for increased preservation-friendly policies and incentives, such as expanding tax incentives to owner-occupied residential properties.
• Increase the effectiveness of the predevelopment stage of preservation projects by expanding funding sources for steps such as building assessments and historical inventories.

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**Ebenezer Hinsdale House, Hinsdale**

*With a matching grant from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the Hinsdale Historical Society was able to purchase the Ebenezer Hinsdale House and surrounding acreage abutting the Connecticut River. Both the house and land are now protected by easements that ensure their perpetual protection.*

Submitted to My New Hampshire.