NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FIVE YEAR

Preservation Plan

POINTS OF INTEREST AND TOURING MAP

2011
To
2015

Cover Photo: The iconic Weirs Beach sign has greeted and guided auto tourists and travelers since its erection in 1956. Its rehabilitation in 2005 earned a preservation award from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

New Hampshire's Five Year Preservation Plan

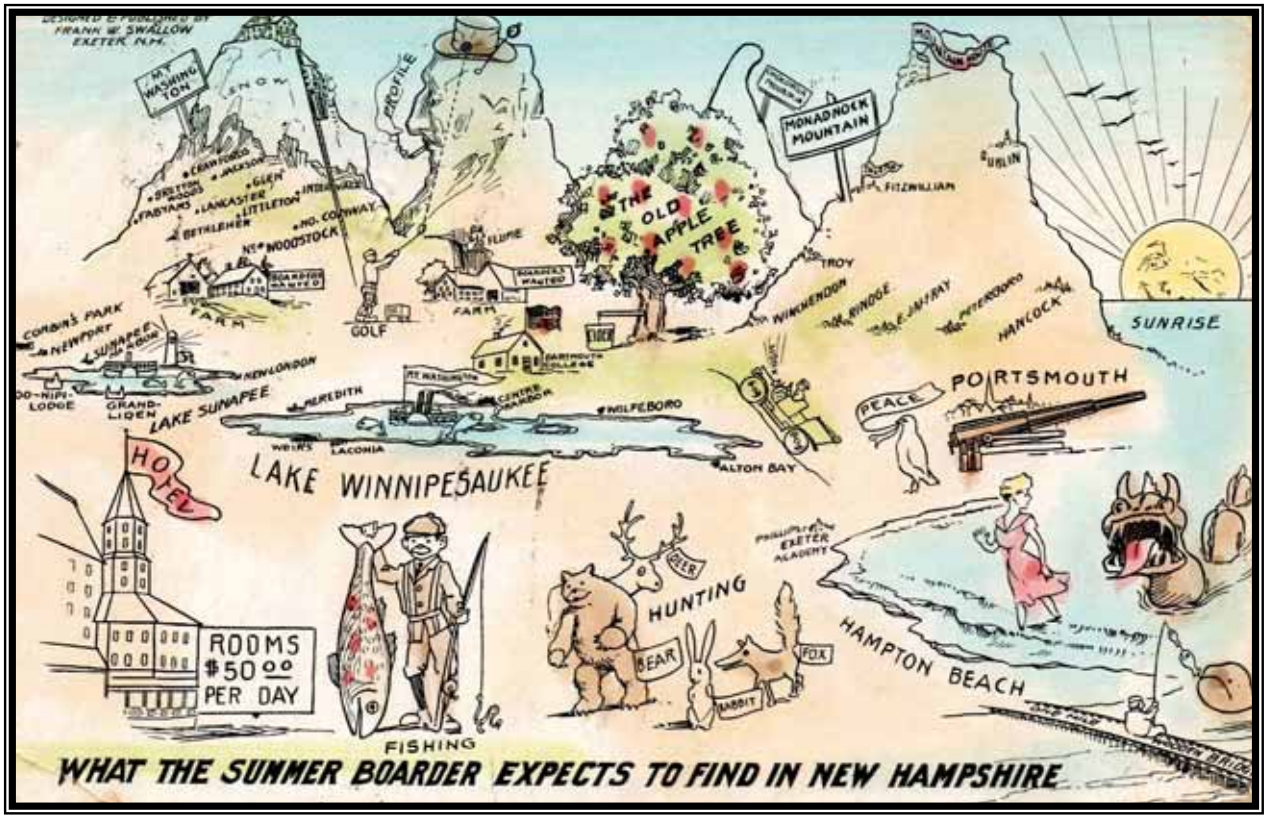
Points of Interest and Touring Map

2011-2015

Published by

NH Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Cultural Resources
State of New Hampshire

19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, New Hampshire, 03301
Phone: 603-271-3483 Fax: 603-271-3433
Visit our web site at http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr
Email us at preservation@dcr.nh.gov



New Hampshire's tourism industry has been a staple of its economy since the beginning of the 19th century. This circa 1909 postcard humorously celebrates the resources and attractions that have drawn people to New Hampshire both yesterday and today, as well as the expectations of what people thought they would see when they arrived.

Images from this post card are used within the plan.

Acknowledgment

The preparation of this plan has been funded in part with a federal Historic Preservation Fund matching grant from the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, through the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources / State Historic Preservation Office. The contents and opinions of this plan do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the US Department of the Interior or the State of New Hampshire. 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 DC, 20240.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....6

Crafting the TripTik® — Preparing the Statewide Plan.....8

Noted Attractions — Preservation Success Stories.....10

Points of Interest — State of the Survey and Inventory Program.....23

Tracks and Detours — Trends in Preserving Our Heritage.....30

Itineraries and Destinations — Goals and Actions.....39

Map Legend — Bibliography.....45

Appendices Document

Public Brainstorming Sessions Minutes.....2

Special Places.....25

Questionnaire Results.....27

"Chippa Granite" was developed by New Hampshire artist Alice E. Cosgrove in the 1950s to promote tourism.

Introduction

Executive Summary

The story of New Hampshire's past is as varied and complex as its geography, culture and weather are today. Many of these stories are written not only in books, but in the landscapes, buildings and neighborhoods that surround us in 2010. These resources embody centuries of design, creativity, materials and craftsmanship that are irreplaceable. They also help to define the unique place we call home and the places we travel to work, vacation or visit. In return, many of us are compelled to care for the past for the benefit of those who follow after us.

The preservation of historical resources offers a great many other advantages as well. It is a sound investment that can create new jobs, revitalize downtowns, provide affordable housing and support heritage tourism. Caring for the infrastructure and buildings that are already built is also an investment in a sustainable future and human-scaled communities. And in New Hampshire, preservation projects always build partnerships, among neighbors, businesses, schools, non-profits, governmental agencies and others.

Every five years the National Park Service asks the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to create a preservation plan for caring for the state's resources and sets a number of parameters for its format. The DHR is also New Hampshire's State Historic Preservation Office, and is able to offer a range of programs and services with funding from the National Park Service. Our web site, www.nh.gov/nhdhr, offers more information on both the state's federal and state programs.

The state's last preservation plan, covering the years from 2006-2010, described the remarkable progress the preservation movement had made since the 1960s and the many tools and programs created to help individuals and communities protect and preserve our built and natural heritage. It laid out goals to address threats such as sprawl, ever-widening roads, insensitive alterations and negative attitudes. New Hampshire's preservation community accomplished many of these goals in five short years. Among the achievements are the Project Archaeology program, the stone culvert study, Plymouth State University's certificate program in historic preservation, professional services planning grants, the expanded use of preservation

easements and increased stewardship of the state's historic sites. Other goals remain constant: strengthening and expanding partnerships, providing a wide variety of training opportunities, and enhancing the implementation of existing tools and programs.

Publishing a new preservation plan for New Hampshire offered the DHR the opportunity to work with partners across the state to reflect on past successes, assess current trends, and reaffirm our commitment to the state's historical resources and to those who work to protect and promote them. Although many of the concerns, needs and goals voiced by organizations, agencies and hundreds of individuals were diverse, a few themes were consistent throughout New Hampshire. First were questions about the next generation of preservationists — who are they, what are they learning about New Hampshire's past in school, and how will they care for physical resources in a digital world? Plan participants also consistently pointed to emerging conflicts between preserving older buildings and growing demands for energy efficiency, code requirements, and hazardous materials remediation, such as recently enacted new lead paint regulations.

Perhaps most importantly, a third common theme was the extraordinary value residents of New Hampshire place on the state's historical and archaeological resources and the remarkable efforts they expend to preserve, protect and promote them. In a questionnaire distributed during the summer of 2010, a final question asked what respondents would be doing over the next five years to preserve the state's resources. Their answers are inspiring and comprehensive, and they appear in their entirety in the final pages of the appendices.

This plan opens with "Crafting the TripTik," an explanation of how the DHR gathered public comments and concerns. A snapshot of success stories from the five years (since the last plan was published) follows in "Noted Attractions." Many others, large and small, could have been included. One of the commonly-repeated requests at the public planning sessions for this document was to facilitate the sharing of more success stories in order to inspire and encourage others and highlight preservation's many contributions to our communities.

"Points of Interest," a section on the state's architectural and archaeological survey programs, gives an overview of our existing and growing understanding of the state's resources. Current concerns and trends raised at five public brainstorming sessions and in responses to an online questionnaire are summarized in "Tracks and Detours," under the broad categories of tools, policies, funding, education and awareness, rules and regulations, and growth and development. These trends and opportunities provided the fodder for the final section, "Itineraries and Destinations," goals and actions for the next five years.

In the past, historic preservation has often been thought of as the realm of those more inclined to stop change than to encourage it. The stories and goals in this plan create a different and new picture, of people and organizations across the state working together to draw a new roadmap for New Hampshire, with many cherished way stations and landmarks along the way.

Crafting the TripTik®

Preparing the Statewide Plan

This edition of New Hampshire's preservation plan was first introduced in the winter 2010 e-newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The lead story explained that the DHR publishes a preservation plan for the state every five years, as directed by the National Park Service, and introduced two important themes that influenced all of the outreach that followed:

- The plan will reflect on recent success stories and lessons learned and will describe new challenges, priorities and directions for New Hampshire's historical resources, and,

- The plan will not set a path for what the DHR will be doing over the next five years, but for what the entire state hopes to do to preserve its historical buildings, neighborhoods, downtowns, archaeological sites and traditional landscapes. To compile the plan, everyone's thoughts on goals, challenges and directions were needed.

Although the Internet and online resources have been in use for some time, the 2011-2015 plan coincides with the blossoming of digital technology at the DHR. In the last few years, due to a convergence of public demand, growing capacity and, in some cases, budget cuts, services at the DHR and at preservation organizations across the state now rely more heavily on emails than on phone calls, on e-newsletters rather than printed ones, and on expanded web sites more than paper mailings. In response, the New Hampshire Preservation Plan blog debuted in early April 2010 as a way to announce developments and gather comments (http://nhplan.blogspot.com/). Posts on the plan blog were supplemented with e-newsflashes to the DHR's 2300+ member electronic contact list, always accompanied with the request to pass the information on to friends and other networks.

In late April and early May, more than 100 participants at five facilitated public brainstorming sessions in Concord, Keene, Nashua, Littleton and Portsmouth grappled with these four topics:

- What are our success stories over the last five years?

- What are the social, economic, political, legal and environmental conditions and trends that impact these resources — for better and for worse?

- What are the information gaps? Resources, tools, policies, or programs?

- What are the goals and objectives for the next five years? And beyond?

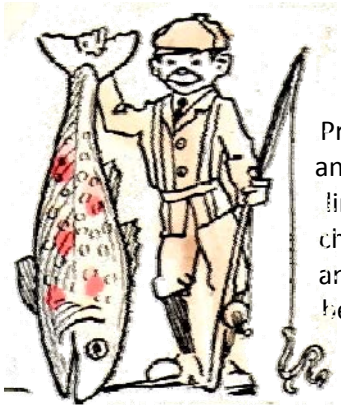
The blog provided an outlet for sharing the session discussions and comparing answers across the state. Copies of handwritten notes were posted at http://nhplan.blogspot.com/p/public-brainstorming-sessions.html. Minutes of the sessions appear in the appendices to this plan.

The staff and partners of the DHR then condensed the information into a short online questionnaire, with the goal of wide distribution and response. It was distributed to the 2300+ contacts on the DHR e-newsletter list, with a request to forward it on to others. The response was phenomenal, with 589 responses. A summary of the results appears on the plan blog, http://nhplan.blogspot.com/, and in the appendices to this plan. This gathered information forms the basis for this plan, particularly the sections on success stories, agents of change and goals and actions.

Another vital source of information for the plan is the coordination and conversations among the many organizations and individuals who comprise New Hampshire's preservation community: state and federal agencies, local governments, local and statewide non-profits, museums, libraries, educational institutions, businesses and cultural organizations. Strong partnerships and generous support are the cornerstones of all successful preservation planning initiatives and projects in New Hampshire.

Given the high level of public participation in the compilation of the plan, the DHR is considering ways to continue cultivating this engagement over the next five years as the plan is implemented. Outreach ideas include annual surveys, public forums, a continued blog or various types of social networking. Each of these tools has different benefits and may appeal to different types of constituents, as well as various costs and time commitments needed for success.

Noted Attractions



Preservation Success Stories

Preservationists across New Hampshire have spearheaded many innovative projects and successes over the last five years. The state's understanding of the important link between historic buildings, sustainable communities and slowing climate change is growing, as is the breadth of understanding regarding the state's historical and archaeological resources. Resources, property owners and communities have benefited from new funding sources, although much work remains to be done in this area, particularly given the current economy.

Communities across the state – whether large cities or small towns – are grappling with the challenges of both rapid growth and diminishing populations and resources. As the concept of smart growth is replaced with the idea of smart change, many municipalities are relying on their cultural resources to serve as landmark economic drivers and models of sustainability that create a sense of place and communities where residents want to live and contribute.

The stories in this section are only a sample of the many success stories across New Hampshire that could have been included. One important objective resulting from the public's participation in this document over the last year is the creation of a better tool to share success stories, and perhaps cautionary preservation tales as well. The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) and its partners will be investigating the best way to share these types of stories in an effective and meaningful way.

Steeplejacks repair and re-shingle the steeple roof of the Sugar Hill Meetinghouse in 2009. A Conservation License Plate grant provided part of the project's funding. The Division of Historical Resources grants approximately $50,000 each year to projects that preserve publicly-owned resources throughout New Hampshire.

Photo Courtesy of Sugar Hill

Funding Successes

Certified Local Government Program

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is a national initiative established by the National Park Service to provide competitive grants and technical assistance to local governments seeking to protect and preserve their historical resources. Because each State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is required to set aside a minimum of 10% of its federal funding to award as grants to participating communities, there is a strong incentive for towns and cities to become certified. Projects funded through the program vary widely; the DHR has established survey as a top priority.

The DHR has recently been studying ways to make the CLG program more accessible. Currently, only communities with a regulatory commission may participate. To clarify needs and to revise the state's program manual, the DHR plans to visit each existing CLG community . Reassessment of the grant program has already provided better quality grant applications thanks to closer review of scopes of work prior to grant approval. A new initiative in 2010 required communities to submit a letter of intent prior to full application, allowing the DHR to work more closely with communities to craft applications that meet both program criteria and local needs.

A small building assessment grant was one key tool that set the stage for the successful restoration of the Acworth Meetinghouse.
Photo courtesy of John Butler

NH Preservation Alliance Assessment Grants

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is helping preservation project advocates prepare for effective capital projects by providing small planning grants for a building assessment or re-use study by a consultant or consultant team. Non-profit groups and municipalities are eligible, and the Alliance provides technical assistance and advice about contractors to expand each grant's usefulness. Grantees' evaluations emphasize the importance of providing "road maps" with clear priorities, phased scopes of work, adherence to the Secretary of Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation,* and links to other preservation resources. The majority have secured volunteer labor, municipal appropriations, private philanthropy or grant monies to pursue restoration, rehabilitation and repair work. Staff members from the DHR assist on grant panels and with ongoing project questions.

In 2010, the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program made a block grant to the Preservation Alliance that expanded the scale of available matching grants from $400 to $4,500. A parallel, highly popular Preservation Alliance program provides barn owners with small assessment grants; this has helped more than 80 barn owners plan repair and rehabilitation work since its inception in 2003.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Signed into law in 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was a significant investment in the country's future in the face of the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. In New Hampshire, the Office of Economic Stimulus was immediately created to provide oversight of state agencies in the management and expenditure of funds and to ensure that the state and its citizens received maximum benefits by creating jobs and protecting essential services.

Columbia Covered Bridge over the Connecticut River, between Columbia, NH and Lemington, VT. This Howe truss was repaired with ARRA funds in 2009.

A large portion of the funding targeted infrastructure and energy projects that had the potential to impact historical resources, triggering review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The DHR was proactive in getting the message out to its constituents on the Section 106 process and the possibilities that ARRA funding could provide. Working with the NH Office of Economic Stimulus, the DHR participated in the production of two videos — one focusing on Section 106 and the other on how to best weatherize historic homes. These were posted to the state website and received positive press coverage for their proactive approach.

ARRA funding also had a secondary effect not foreseen by the DHR. It brought forward several new state agencies to the review and compliance process. Of particular note was the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), which needed to distribute millions of dollars in stimulus funds in a very condensed time frame. DHR and OEP staff worked together to build a relationship that paved the way for a Programmatic Agreement that streamlined the review process for energy-related ARRA projects.

Although no ARRA funds were directly targeted toward rehabilitation projects for historic buildings, the preservation community and cultural resources in New Hampshire benefited through a larger number of participating agencies and effective outreach to them. The National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized this by posting New Hampshire's efforts as a successful case study on its website, "Weathering the Storm," at http://ww.preservationnation.org/resources/public-policy/perfect-storm/case-studies/.

Saving America's Treasures in Littleton

In 2005, the National Register-listed Littleton Town Building (built in 1894) was closed for life safety and code violations. The resulting rehabilitation, funded in part with a $500,000 Save America's Treasures grant, involved many structural repairs that removed the majority of an already compromised floor plan but saved the pristine theater that once hosted Bette Davis and the world premiere of her movie *The Great Lie* in honor of her 33rd birthday. Rehabilitating the main floor that once held the town's offices, with its fragmented historic finishes, was a formidable challenge for the first tenant, the Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce, which took on the space knowing repairs would need to comply with the 50-year preservation easement that had been put in place to protect the public's investment in the grant. The contractor and designer were unfamiliar with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Rehabilitation* but approached the project with an open mind and asked excellent questions. The final plan preserved historic wainscot and the character-defining ceiling height, created new finishes and details on new walls that complemented existing

historic fabric, and reused doors and woodwork salvaged from razed interior walls. Jumping into the spirit of good preservation, the crew working on the project took extra time and used the array of colors visible on the existing walls and woodwork to match historic window trim to original locations. The end result is a wonderful space with historic charm that serves both the visitors and residents of Littleton.

Members of the Littleton Historical Society gather for a meeting in the lobby of the Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce office in the Littleton Town Building.

Rehabilitation and Protection

Lafayette School

The renovation of the Lafayette School in Portsmouth was the culmination of a decade-long search for an appropriate reuse of this historically significant school building. The project resulted in the transformation of a building once designated as having a "blighting influence" into an appealing neighborhood asset and affordable home for ten seniors. In addition to finding an appropriate reuse of the building and protecting the neighborhood and adjacent park, the project also adapted a historic resource into a useful building while preserving many architectural features. Pivotal to the successful incorporation of significant exterior and interior features of the property was the historic review process initiated under Section 106. The overall project cost was $2.7 million. Funding sources included federal Community Development Block Grant funds and low-income housing tax credit funding, as well as investor equity and construction loan funding. City and agency officials and community groups, such as Portsmouth Advocates Inc., met to discuss the proposed project and the retention of important historic features in the new design. What emerged was the reuse of a landmark that achieved multiple important local priorities. These include the development of affordable housing, preservation of historic resources, and protection of residential neighborhoods.

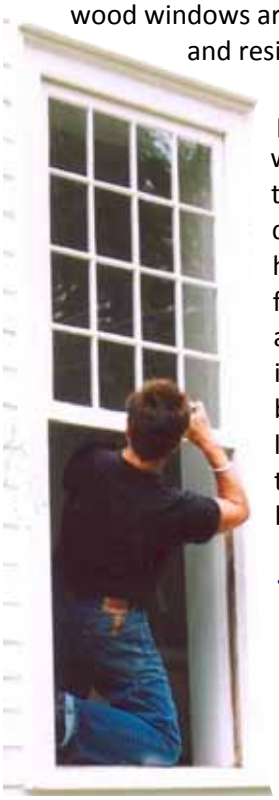
Lafayette School in Portsmouth

Stabilizing Neighborhoods

A building that once was one of Nashua's early orphanages has been converted into six apartments as part of the city's fight against homelessness today. From 1906 through 1926, 76 Kinsley Street was an orphanage run by the King's Daughters Benevolent Association. It had other owners in subsequent years until it ended up in foreclosure and in disrepair. Harbor Homes Inc., through a grant from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), purchased 76 Kingsley along with other historic Nashua properties. The Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), administered the $19.6 million NSP award from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program was designed to help address foreclosure problems in certain neighborhoods in order to make them more stable, sustainable and competitive. Through the grant, Harbor Homes targeted properties in the distressed Tree Streets and French Hill neighborhoods. It will maintain ownership of the historic buildings and rent out the 13 units to low-income families and individuals.

Greening Wood Windows

Organizations all over New Hampshire are learning about the benefits of retaining historic windows. Historic wood windows are an important part of what gives a historic building character. Many of our public buildings and residences display original wood windows that provide clues to the buildings' history and lend architectural detail and craftsmanship often missing in new design. Unfortunately, many property owners have been convinced that in order to obtain energy efficiency, historic windows must be replaced. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a historic wood window, properly maintained, weather-stripped and protected with a storm window, can be just as energy efficient as a new window. Rehabilitating historic windows also has green benefits: less materials enter a landfill, old-growth wood can be maintained and fewer synthetic materials are created. Several organizations are putting this philosophy into action. Using US Department of Agriculture Rural Development funds, the town of Bristol is investing in the reuse of historic windows at the National Register listed Minot-Sleeper Library. Bristol can be proud of its stewardship of this significant historic building and in its long-term investment in a key community landmark. Other recent success stories include the US Post Office in Bethlehem, and the Doloff Building and the New Hampshire State Library in Concord.



Jade Mortimer rehabilitating windows at the Jaffrey Meeting House.

The Rehabilitation of Monadnock Mills #2 & #6

Listed to the National Register in 1979, the Monadnock Mills Historic District in Claremont represents a once-thriving textile enterprise with a mill yard characterized by a dense concentration of mid-19th century buildings. Like many of the manufacturing complexes in the state, the more recent history of Monadnock Mills has been marked by economic hard times and abandonment; it has waited for an economic rebound since the closure in 1932. In 2009, Sugar River Mills Redevelopment LLC completed a rehabilitation of Monadnock Mill #2, an early mill building in the complex with a rare surviving monitor roof, and Mill #6, a turn-of-the-century addition built on the river side of Mill #2. The project team consulted with the DHR and the National Park Service as it planned the rehabilitation. The team crafted plans that met the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Rehabilitation*, and was approved to take the 20% Federal Preservation Tax Credit. The end result was more than $25 million dollars of private investment infused into what has been identified as one of the state's most economically depressed cities. The first tenants of the newly renovated space are Red River Computers and The Common Man Inn and Restaurant. The project opened at a public dedication ceremony in June of 2009 and is anticipated to be a strong step to further economic investment and vitality in downtown Claremont.

Claremont's Monadnock Mills #2 & #6 in the process of rehabilitation during the summer of 2008

Preserving the Working Landscape

The New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture is a voluntary network of citizens, consumers, institutions and agencies that coalesced after statewide listening sessions showed that New Hampshire residents strongly value rural character, open space and environmental quality, but often do not understand how the working landscape is directly linked to the well-being of farm and forest enterprises. Coalition partners collaborate on projects that demonstrate how our farm and forest legacy defines and sustains our state's landscape and Yankee heritage, its character, and image. Among the network's successes are initiatives to preserve barns, conserve farms and farmland, develop educational workshops, encourage the use of agricultural easements, expand local markets and visibility for farm and forest products, establish a farm viability program for New Hampshire, create and support local agricultural commissions, and help New Hampshire communities be more farm-friendly. The DHR is an active participant, and several coalition publications are featured on the DHR web site, *Tools for Preserving Barns and Farms,* at http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/barns.html.

Farms and their scenic landscapes are among the most beloved and threatened landscapes in New Hampshire. Over the last five years, successful campaigns to preserve a number of farms have showcased the value of grassroots support and creative partnerships, as well as the significance that these historic landmarks hold for communities today.

A working farm since the late 1700s, **Dimond Hill Farm** in Concord consists of large open fields and a historic connected farmstead complex atop a sloping hillside with panoramic views. Under special conservation easements signed in 2006, the farm will remain a working farm, with Equity Trust serving as the owner and NH Preservation Alliance serving as the historic easement holder for the farm buildings. Five Rivers Conservation Trust holds conservation easements for both the farmed and forested portions of the farm, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

The active fields and barn of Dimond Hill Farm in Concord

The Hersey Farms Historic District encompasses two of Andover's most long-lived and significant farms, an architecturally important cluster of buildings, and an irreplaceable rural landscape of cleared and forested land, stone walls, fences, streams, hedge rows and buildings, set against the backdrop of hills and mountains. Much of the farmland was protected in 2008 with a conservation easement thanks to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and the Hersey family's generous determination to protect the history and productivity of the farms. Other partners included the Andover Historical Society, the Andover Conservation Commission and funding from the US Department of Agriculture's Farm & Ranchland Protection Program, town and private individual donors, and an unexpected foundation gift. The group also listed the district to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008. The preservation effort is exemplary in the way that it engaged local residents and family members, while also attracting people from a variety of disciplines, perspectives, public agencies and non-profit organizations, coming together with an extraordinary sense of stewardship.

The mature trees and pastoral landscape of the Webster Farm cemetery in Franklin

Along the banks of the Merrimack River in Franklin, **Webster Farm's** early history was as the family farm and pastoral retreat of statesman Daniel Webster. Webster's home, the Elms, is a National Historic Landmark. After his death, the farm saw two more transitions, first as the late 19th century New Hampshire Orphans' Home and then as the home of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. By 2000, faced with dwindling numbers and resources, the Sisters placed the property on the market.

Four years later, a proposal to subdivide the farm for 130 homes galvanized a remarkable group of advocates. In 2005, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated Webster Place as one of the Eleven Most Endangered Properties in the country, and the Webster Farm Preservation Association formed to secure funding from the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, the US Department of Agriculture's Farm & Ranchland Protection Program and the Trust for Public Lands. The Trust held the property until it was acquired by restaurateur and philanthropist Alex Ray, who opened the Webster Place Recovery Center at the farm in 2008. Conservation and preservation easements, held by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the NH Preservation Alliance, further protect the property's values.

Sustainable and Celebrated Communities

Hooksett and the State Register

by Kathie Northrup, Chair, Hooksett Heritage Commission

Beginning in 2007 the Hooksett Heritage Commission made a concerted effort to list all municipally owned historic properties on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The commission did this for several reasons: to make the sites eligible for grant funding, to publicize the listing locally, to remind our citizens of the interesting history available right in Hooksett, and to take advantage of the prestige attached to listing.

The State Register offers a great opportunity for a dedicated amateur to prepare the application and get statewide recognition for a local property. Although owners know their properties are special, it is rewarding – and encouraging – to have the "experts" agree. The Heritage Commission hopes that the owners of other important buildings, including the oldest surviving tavern building and stagecoach stop, a former governor's home, and mill housing associated with industry critical in the town's development, will be encouraged to apply for the designation. In the past five years, Hooksett has listed five properties on the State Register, including the Head School, an 1839 building adopted by the commission. State Register listing added credibility to the project, which in turn helped garner the support of the town and aid in fund raising. A state Conservation License Plate grant funded some interior restoration, and the building is now furnished to present a living history program for students. A local group of retired teachers has formed the Head School Society to pick up where the Heritage Commission left off.

Keeping Keene Vibrant

by Timothy Garceau, Planning Technician, City of Keene

The people of Keene have long recognized the importance of maintaining their distinctive downtown. Whether a Keene native, a new resident or a visitor, it is easy to recognize how Keene's historic buildings and neighborhoods play a vital role in the economic and social well-being of the community. On a smaller scale, Keene has had similar experiences to other downtowns with historic buildings boarded up, demolished or retrofitted. As a result of both private and public investment, however, Keene's downtown has remained vibrant through preservation of individual buildings and the streetscape.

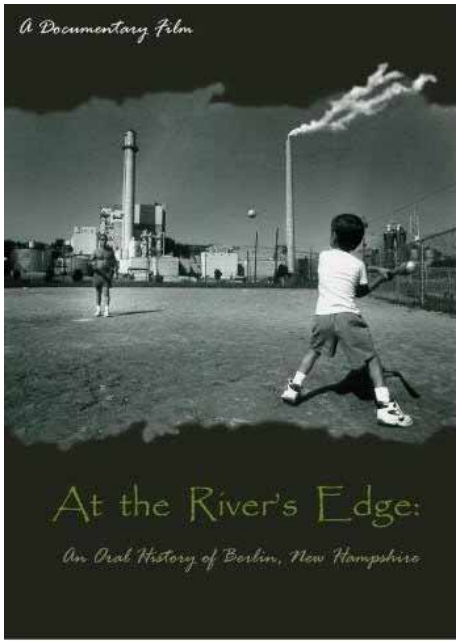
To protect the heritage of the community, Keene City Council formed the Keene Heritage Commission as an official city body in 2001. The Heritage Commission has been active since that time doing education, outreach and research. The Heritage Commission is also charged with establishing historic districts to protect what is distinctly representative of our history and culture. It successfully established the Downtown Historic District, which encompasses 180 properties along Main Street, Central Square, Washington Street, Court Street and West Street. The Heritage Commission is now researching the lower Main Street and upper Court and Washington streets to protect these "historic gateways" into downtown.

All this work corresponds with the recently-adopted Community Vision and Master Plan. Through numerous visioning discussions, public workshops and hearings, Keene has identified the "quality built environment" as a primary focus area, with goals of preserving and celebrating our architectural history, fostering efficient use of resources, maintaining neighborhoods, and sustaining a vibrant downtown. The city has been praised as a leader in sustainability. The continued use of historic buildings capitalizes on embodied energy and is at the essence of sustainable practices. In addition, the Planning Board and City Council are in the process of developing a sustainable design overlay district where developers will be provided with incentives in order to build "green." As Keene State College continues to grow, the demand for off-campus housing is growing as well. This demand is already resulting in the construction of large-scale off-campus private dormitories. Through incentives for sustainable designs, developers would be rewarded for incorporating energy-efficiency into their projects, including the preservation of existing structures.

Tourists flock to downtown Keene for the annual Pumpkin Festival *Photo Courtesy of the City of Keene*

Celebrating Berlin *At the River's Edge*

In the mid-20th century, while many communities in New Hampshire explored new identities and pursued new development to replace the dying manufacturing base in the state, the city of Berlin claimed note as the largest manufacturer of newsprint in the world. However, with the ensuing demise of the paper industry in northern New England, Berlin is challenged with creating a new identity in the 21st century as it works to built an innovative economy and fill the once productive lots and buildings left empty when the paper and pulp mills closed. As Berlin looks to creating its future, the residents of the city were given an opportunity to capture, preserve and explore their past. To celebrate its 100th year anniversary, Historic New England reached out to a variety of communities to find unique and important ways to commemorate and promote the preservation of New England, its communities and people. In Berlin, Historic New England staff worked with the Berlin & Coos County Historical Society and teachers and students at Timberlane High School in Plaistow to record and transcribe hours of oral interviews with community members. Blind Squirrel Productions at Timberlane, which has produced other films on historic topics, processed the interviews into a 90-minute documentary titled *At the River's Edge*. The movie premiered in Berlin to a sell-out crowd. The success of this movie has encouraged Historic New England and Timberlane to partner with the DHR to create a documentary that will explore the state's preservation movement by capturing and preserving the voices and stories of leaders in the movement for future generations.



Listing Bennington Village to the State and National Registers

As a precursor to transportation improvements in downtown Bennington, the NH Department of Transportation commissioned a study to determine whether the village was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and to better understand how the project might impact its historical properties. These studies occur regularly for federally-assisted projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During work by the project consultant, the Preservation Company, the Bennington Historical Society became engaged in the process and intrigued with the idea of listing the village to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2008, the DHR concurred with the consultant's recommendations that the village was eligible for the State and National Registers and was soon after contacted by the Bennington Historical Society. The society hosted a meeting in the summer to discuss the State and National Register programs and what listing does and does not mean. During that summer and fall, as residents returned the paperwork needed for listing their properties to the State Register, the Bennington Historical Society began to plan for the National Register nomination. By the winter of 2010, the Preservation Company submitted the completed National Register form nomination for the village. The Bennington Historical Society funded the work, with the Preservation Company accepting part of its payment in the form of volunteer hours from society members who worked on aspects of the nomination. The Bennington Village Historic District was listed on the National Register in April 2010. The project shows both the long-term benefits of Section 106 reviews and the importance of volunteers in accomplishing preservation goals and successes in a community.

Arnold Cernota, president of the Bennington Historical Society, accepts a National Register certificate for Bennington Village from Nancy Dutton, chair of the New Hampshire State Historical Resources Council and former New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer.

Epsom's Freewill Baptist Church

The town of Epsom's Freewill Baptist Church was saved from the wrecking ball by the hard work of an ad hoc committee, Friends of Epsom's Historic Meetinghouse, which raised nearly $90,000 to move the structure. With plans to construct a new store where the meetinghouse sat on US Route 4, Cumberland Farms offered the building to any party willing to move it. Voters agreed to accept ownership of the building for new town offices, and Cumberland Farms donated the building and $10,000 to the effort.

In the early morning hours, the Epsom Meetinghouse slowly makes its way down Route 4 to its new home as part of Epsom's municipal complex.

The Friends coordinated the logistics of transporting the 120-ton meetinghouse down US Route 4 – a highly traveled east-west route across the state – to a new location near the old town hall. The DHR and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance worked closely with the committee, brainstorming strategy, implementing the plan, and raising funds. In 2006, advocacy for the project received a boost with recognition from the Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save Program. The meetinghouse made its way east down US Route 4 in 2007, onto a new foundation at its new location. The committee and its partners continue to help the town plan for the building's future uses and raise funds to supports its rehabilitation, including grants from the Conservation License Plate Program and the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. (*This information was taken from an article published in the Preservation Alliance newsletter, spring 2007.)*

Thunder Bridge, Chichester

Thunder Bridge in Chichester, also known as the Depot Road Bridge and Pineground Bridge, was erected in 1887. It is one of only four surviving lenticular truss bridges in New Hampshire, and the only through-truss in the group. The distinctive lens-like truss design was an extremely popular bridge type in the last quarter of the 19th century. It used pinned connections rather than rivets, allowing its components to move slightly in response to forces exerting themselves on the structure. In 1981, the town, the NH Department of Transportation and DHR worked together to bypass and preserve the bridge, rather than replacing it with a new span, because of this engineering significance and its importance to the community. In 2004 it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2005 the Chichester Historical Society secured a Conservation License Plate grant for restoration of the bridge's decorative cresting, balls and finials, and the commemorative plaque. When the work was complete, residents celebrated at the bridge with a festive picnic, which has become an annual tradition. Lucille Noel poignantly expressed Chichester's gratitude to all of the contributors to the license plate program, saying, *"The bridge is once again as it was in 1887. It retains its 'integrity of place' and will continue to be a part of the town's heritage and landscape for many more years to come. Many thanks."* The Chichester Historical Society and the town continue to care for the bridge. A kiosk has been erected to interpret the history of the bridge and the nearby Ordway Mill site.

Research and Education

Sargent Museum

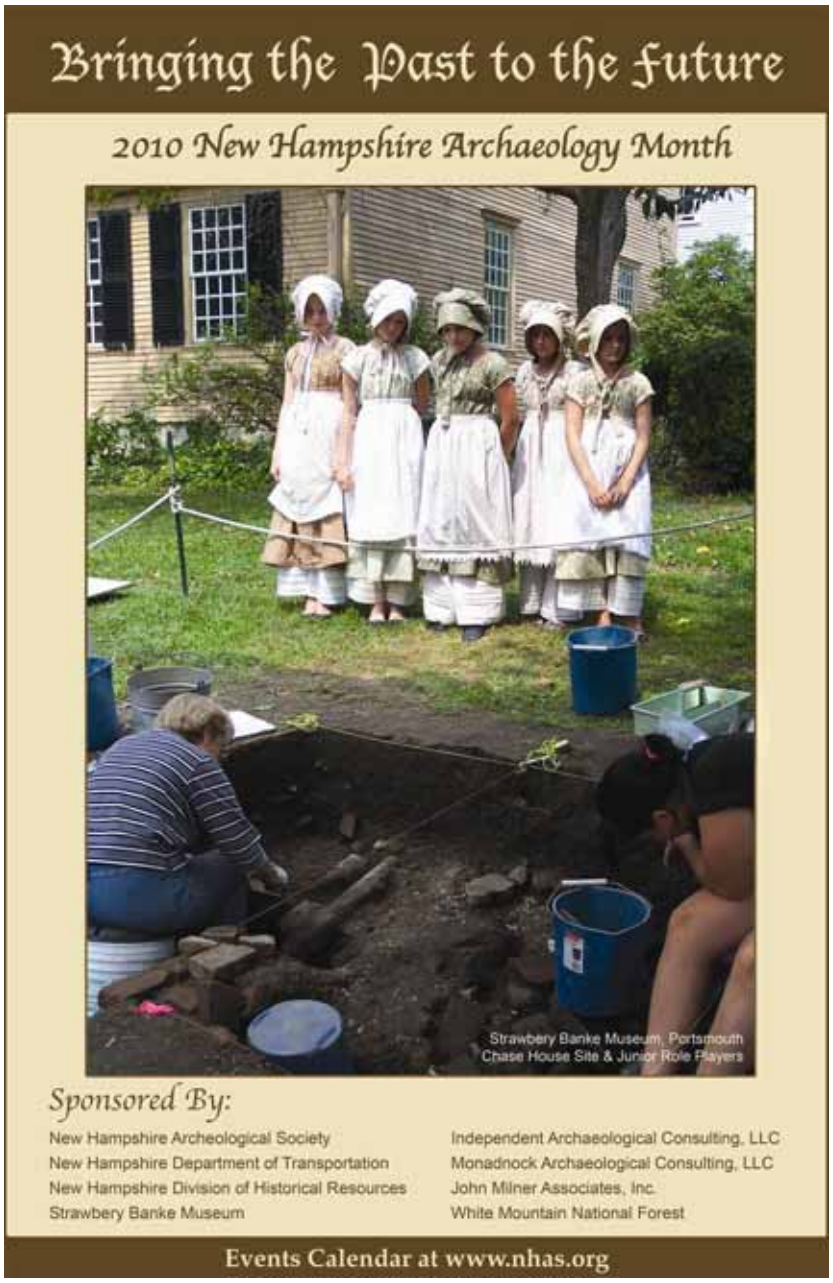
Economic hardship has tested preservation-oriented organizations over the last few years, and perhaps none more than the Sargent Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The museum was founded in 1995 to house the large and significant archaeological collection of Howard Sargent, a pioneer in New Hampshire archaeology. When museum folded in 2007, there were more than 800 archival boxes of archaeological materials, documentation and related materials, plus a substantial library. The museum was taken into receivership by the state's Attorney General, who then turned to the State Archaeologist at the DHR for guidance. With this assistance the collections were evaluated, and non-essential items such as office furniture were culled. The Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum and the Manchester Historic Association, both public non-profits, now house the collections. In the process, a substantial number of human remains were identified, ranging from medical specimens to cremated human remains from prehistoric archaeological sites. The State Archaeologist retained the human remains and initiated a comprehensive program of repatriation. The complex process is ongoing.

Project Archaeology

One of the constituencies that has been underserved by preservation in the past is elementary school children. To address that need, the DHR responded by bringing Project Archaeology to New Hampshire. This national program, developed by the Bureau of Land Management, is delivered on a state by state basis using a standard curriculum. The mission of Project Archaeology is to foster an understanding of past and present cultures, improve social studies and science education, and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy through the training of teachers.

Coordinators Tanya Krajcik, DHR archaeologist, and Sheila Charles, archaeological consultant, offer teacher workshops at least once a year. The curriculum combines a hands-on approach to archaeology and teaching scientific inquiry, personal ethics and character, and cultural understanding. One of the specific assets of the New Hampshire Project Archaeology program is its correlation with the NH Department of Education curriculum standards, which facilitates the integration of this program with social studies education in the public school systems. Five workshops have been held since 2007 and nearly 70 educators have been trained.

At a Project Archaeology teacher workshop, educator Sheila Charles demonstrates that archaeologists wear many hats, including one as "detective of the past."



Archaeology at Strawbery Banke Museum

by Sheila Charles, museum archaeologist

For three summers, 2008-2010, Strawbery Banke Museum's field schools have focused on the southeast yard of the 1762 Chase House, the home of wealthy Portsmouth merchant and patriot Stephen Chase and his family. The field results have created a revised understanding of the construction of an outbuilding – a 22 by 60 feet barn/stable depicted on an 1813 map but absent by the 1850s. Fieldwork also disclosed new information about a former privy portrayed on Sanborn maps after 1887 as an 8 by 16 foot water closet.

Many re-constructible artifacts were recovered from the broad trash deposit surrounding the privy, including chamber pots, kitchenware, and table and tea wares. These specimens reflect a broad trade network that included England, Germany and China, as well as local New England redware production. Exhibit-worthy ceramic vessels, such as an 1820-1840 blue hand-painted pearlware chamber pot manufactured by Staffordshire potter Enoch Wood, are being mended and analyzed. Artifacts recovered from the deeper depths (approximately one meter below surface) include ceramics manufactured in the late 1600s and early 1700s, such as Nottingham, Westerwald and white salt-glazed stoneware. To date, more than 8000 artifacts have been cataloged from the 2008 Chase House excavation, and cataloging continues for artifacts recovered during the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

Summer archaeological activities at Strawbery Banke also included a week-long children's camp, "Uncovering the Past: An Archaeological Adventure." Eighteen students participated in hands-on activities such as mock excavations and learned about responsible archaeology, scientific inquiry, preservation ethics and the value of stewarding our cultural legacy. The curriculum aligned with the award-winning Project Archaeology program.

Additional special archaeological projects were undertaken over the summer by Strawbery Banke intern Ben Curran, who scanned and rectified historic and archaeological maps to create digital overlays that depict landscape changes over time. Curran also conducted a ground penetrating radar survey to create GIS maps that depict archaeologically sensitive areas throughout the museum grounds. The scans of a filled-in foundation near the Marshall Pottery site may have revealed the location of a Jewish ceremonial Mikvah bath. The scans of Puddle Dock are being analyzed to determine the potential effects of tidal change on the water table. The results will inform future test locations to ensure the preservation and interpretation of the many aspects of this historic neighborhood along the banks of the Piscataqua River.

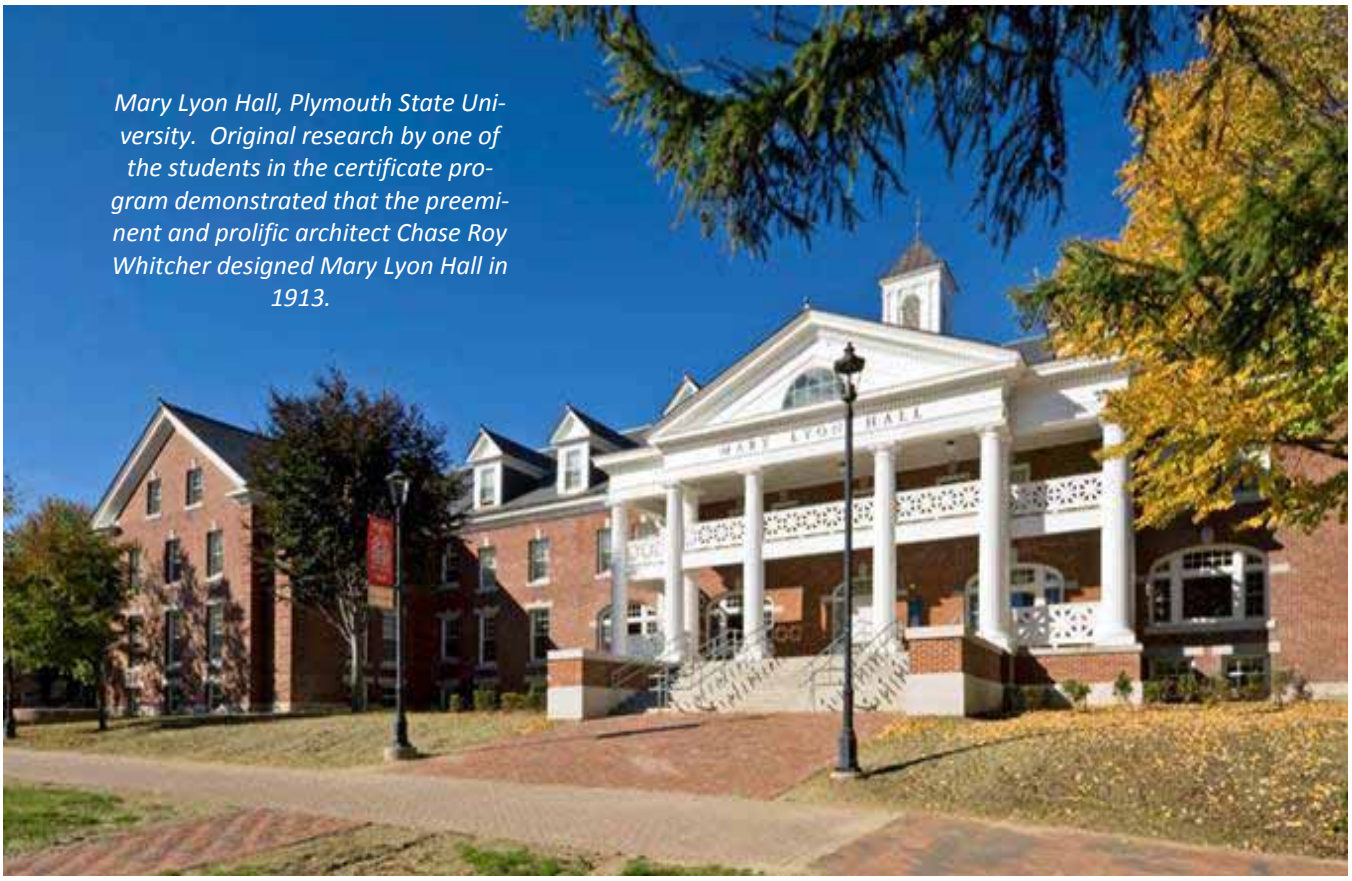
A New Historic Preservation Certificate Program

In 2007, Plymouth State University (PSU) announced the initiation of a four-course graduate certificate in historic preservation, which can be pursued on its own or as part of the university's Master of Education in Heritage Studies. The program's goals are to instill a fundamental understanding of preservation issues and challenges, to provide basic skills for those who want to pursue careers or further education in historic preservation, and to offer training in leadership and stewardship for those who work for preservation organizations and public agencies and commissions. PSU professor Dr. Stacey Yap directs the program.

The DHR worked with the staff, faculty and trustees of the University System of New Hampshire to encourage the establishment of a preservation program. DHR staff members have developed course content and serve as faculty and guest lecturers. Responding to the need for such a program in New Hampshire, state architectural historian James Garvin said, "No state in the country more richly deserves a historic preservation program than New Hampshire, and no state needs such a program more urgently. We have an unparalleled richness of historical resources spread across our state from the seacoast to the Canadian border, and these resources cry out for well-trained stewardship."

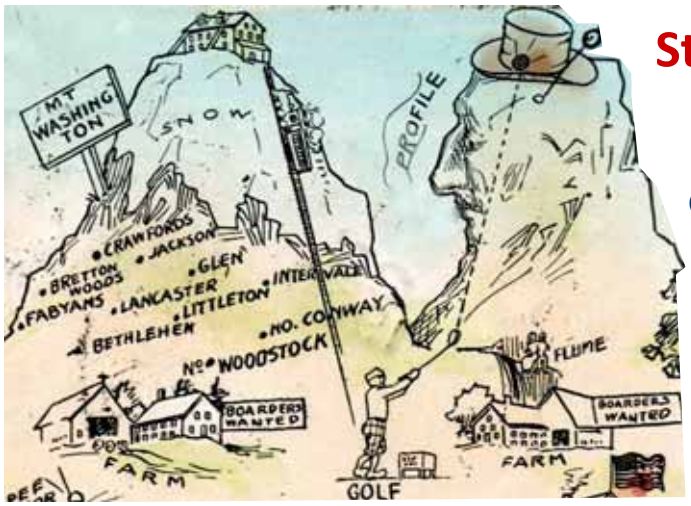
Courses in the program are offered at both PSU's Concord and Plymouth campuses, online and in the classroom. Two of the program's more specialized courses are *Cultural Property Law,* taught by attorney Ricardo A. St.Hilaire, and *Sustainability and Preservation*, offered by DHR Survey Coordinator Mary Kate Ryan.

One of the program's first graduates, Ben Curran, is highlighted in the preceding story as a summer intern at Strawbery Banke Museum. More information about the certificate program is available at http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/heritage/historic_preservation.html.



Mary Lyon Hall, Plymouth State University. Original research by one of the students in the certificate program demonstrated that the preeminent and prolific architect Chase Roy Whitcher designed Mary Lyon Hall in 1913.

Points of Interest



State of the Survey & Inventory Program

Overview of State Geography

New Hampshire comprises 9304 square miles, with 9027 square miles of land and 277 square miles of inland water. It has 1300 lakes and ponds and some 40,000 miles of rivers, as well as 18 miles of coastline. The White Mountains span the north-central portion of the state, including the northeast's highest peak, Mount Washington, at 6288 feet.

New Hampshire has 13 cities, 221 towns and 22 unincorporated places, with the cities concentrated to the southern tier and the unincorporated places to the north. In 2000, the state had a population of 1,236,000; a new population figure should be available at the end of 2010.

New Hampshire has an extensive network of transportation corridors, from water, to land and air. There are more than 4000 miles of highway and 459 active rail miles in the state, of which the state owns 200, as well as 300 abandoned miles. It is expected that rail will become more important in New Hampshire over the next decade. There are 118 registered airports, 24 available for public use. Additionally, there are 1000 miles of designated scenic byways, in 18 byway corridors, most being managed and promoted by regional planning commissions.

Cultural Resources Survey in New Hampshire

The earliest known human habitations in New Hampshire occurred within a relatively short span of time after the retreat of the last glaciers, when the land again became habitable. The state's earliest dated archaeological sites reach back to approximately 12,500 to 13,000 years ago. New Hampshire was first colonized by the British in 1623; the industrial history of the state begins with maritime industries, but is marked by forest industries, water-powered mills, large-scale textile industries and diverse agriculture. The remnants and remains of these historical activities mark the landscape, and the recordation and preservation of these diverse sites and structures is the goal of the state survey program.

The state preservation office manages two survey programs, one in architectural history and one in archaeology, which includes both prehistoric and historic resources. Many sites have resources of both types, and

often of both archaeological study periods. These survey programs run concurrently but use different forms and recordation standards and methods; each program is addressed separately below.

History of State Architectural Survey

The state survey program began with the 1960 National Historic Landmark nomination of the Macpheadris-Warner House in Portsmouth. In the late 1970s, regional planning commissions completed systematic reconnaissance level surveys of many communities. In the late 1980s, the state revamped its survey program to assist with compliance with Section 106 project review. During the 1990s, the DHR partnered with the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration, recognizing at that time that transportation corridor surveys were the largest projects being undertaken within state survey. This resulted in New Hampshire's "DOT methodology," which continues to inform larger survey scopes of work.

The tiered state survey forms and manual, including reconnaissance and intensive level survey, with an individual inventory form and three levels of area form (town wide, project area and historic district) were revised in 2001 and 2003.

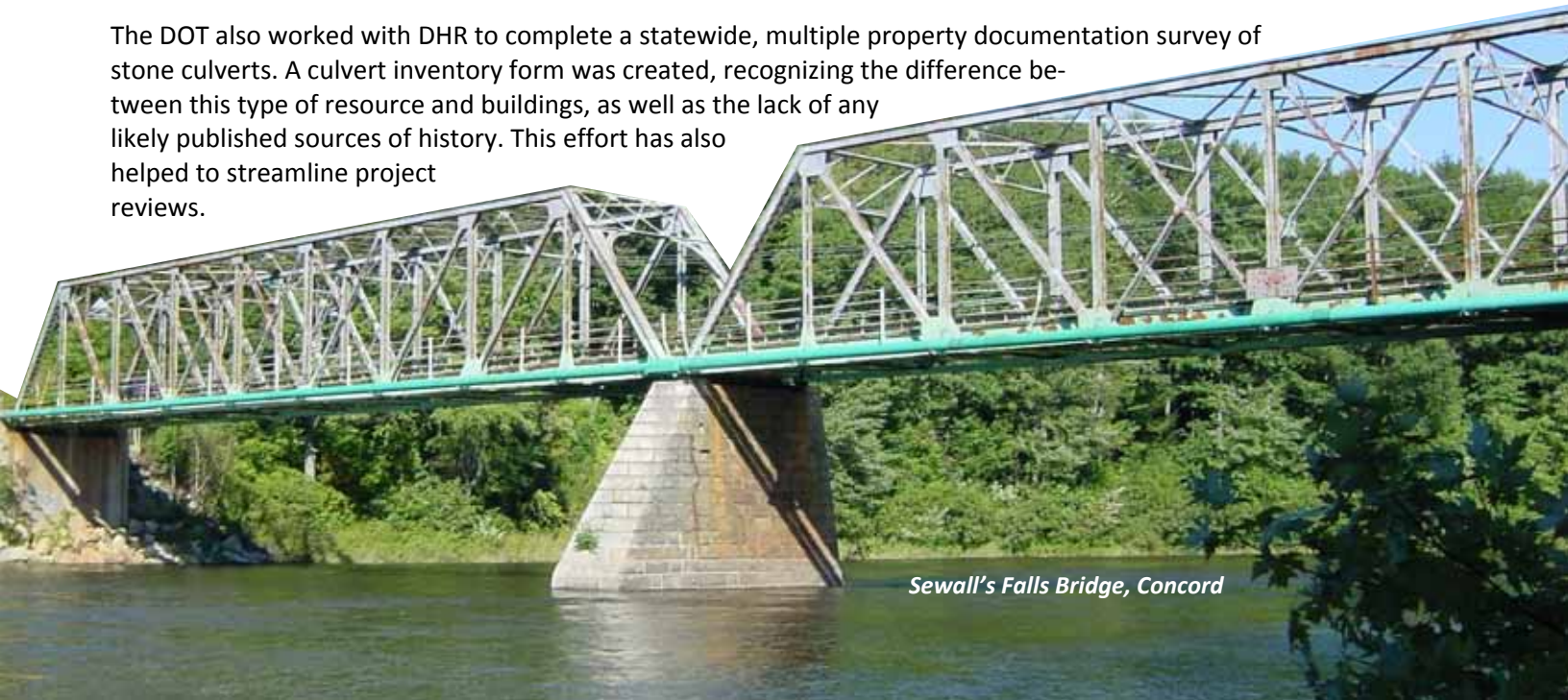
Architectural Survey Accomplishments, 2006-2010

The DHR has reviewed three wind farm projects in the last several years, all spanning several towns and many miles. The DHR is learning of the benefits and challenges of scoping project areas of potential effect that are large, non-linear and not constrained by town lines. This information will help inform a planned revamp of the area form manual in the near future.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program, through US Housing and Urban Development, has had major impacts on two cities in New Hampshire: Nashua and Berlin. In both of these towns, the DHR has looked at neighborhoods rather than "traditional" project areas; this focus on locally defined districts is likely to have a big impact on future survey work.

The DOT completed a first draft of a state-wide multiple property documentation of the High Pratt Truss bridges in New Hampshire, an increasingly rare and significant category of engineered resources. It is the second type-specific bridge survey in the state, for one of the most threatened resources. This overview of the state's truss bridges has been instrumental in making the case for preservation of these engineering landmarks. The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance listed metal truss bridges to its Seven to Save program in 2008.

The DOT also worked with DHR to complete a statewide, multiple property documentation survey of stone culverts. A culvert inventory form was created, recognizing the difference between this type of resource and buildings, as well as the lack of any likely published sources of history. This effort has also helped to streamline project reviews.



Sewall's Falls Bridge, Concord

Given the high value of waterfront property in New Hampshire and a pattern of teardowns along the state's lakes and ocean-front, a priority from the last plan was a survey of camp and cottage properties. The DHR is beginning to develop a context for these types of properties, and the Squam Lakes Conservation Trust has been promoting easements on lakefront cottages with help from the New Preservation Alliance. Review under the state's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act has produced some of the survey, allowing review of these projects to proceed more quickly. The DHR has also worked with the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, which includes state parks, to recognize the potential importance of these resources.

New Hampshire's inventory forms and manuals are available for download on the DHR's website at www.nh.gov/nhdhr/review/architectural_history_forms.htm. This has made the program more widely accessible, which is important in light of the popularity of the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places Program, which also uses the forms as the nomination applications.

In addition, the DHR started accepting photos taken with digital cameras for survey in 2009. A draft digital policy was in effect for one year, with a final policy going into effect in March 2010. The policy still requires photographs to be printed and forms submitted in hard copy.

In 2010, to recognize the success of the State Register program's first decade and to honor the work of the owners and community members who have completed successful nominations for their properties, the DHR launched a plaque program to mark State Register-listed properties. The sign design comes from a competition sponsored by the State Historic Resources Council, and it is produced locally in Concord. It serves the public purposes of honoring these properties while also promoting the program.

Statistics, 2006-2010 (and cumulative)

Type of Form	Added 2006-2010	Total to Date
Individual Inventory	2428	9279
Project Area	35	140
Historic District Area	40	201
Town-wide Area	1	35
National Historic Landmark	0	22
National Register	23	724
State Register	146	227

Survey & Inventory Goals for 2011-2015

The DHR will continue to promote and increase the use of the State Register program. A process exists to co-list National Register properties on the State Register. Few owners have taken advantage of this, but more could co-list with stepped up promotion.

Using feedback from users and the State Historical Resources Council, the DHR will be making small updates to the inventory forms and manuals. These will include clarifications, small corrections, and simplification of certain sections. To help guide users to the appropriate format, the area form manual will more fully address the differences between the three types of area forms.

Space for file storage at the state office continues to be an issue. A space plan needs to be created, and additional ways to house and access files should be developed. This will include looking at reconfiguring storage, culling files, archiving information where appropriate, and continuing to rethink the public access needs of these files.

Technology is impacting the way that survey is performed and accessed. The DHR needs to develop an action plan that will serve needs for at least ten years and to identify funding for this large and complex endeavor. One important initial step is to reorganize the historic properties and related databases to prepare them to interface with the following:

- NH State GIS system (GRANIT)
- National Register Information System scanning of listed properties in New Hampshire
- DHR website (public portal for some survey research)
- public access terminal to be housed at DHR
- town websites with survey information

Cultural resources survey is changing, and the New Hampshire state survey program must remain vital by understanding and employing this information. The increased use of available demographic information, digital technologies and information and digital platforms are important factors to consider.

The increasing recognition of the importance of neighborhoods beyond the traditional cultural resources definition of district, as well as the crucial need for community involvement, will continue to alter the state's survey program. A community-based reconnaissance survey program must be developed. Information on finding, training and retaining qualified volunteers, as well as identifying and cultivating local leadership in cultural stewardship, can be gleaned through partner organizations' current and ongoing work with volunteer groups. A study committee of groups currently working on community-based survey will be created, both to test new survey methodologies and to tailor this program to community needs. The DHR hopes to use the existing inventory forms with modified requirements rather than creating new forms.

Volunteers in Stratham begin field work at the town's former hall after attending training with DHR Survey Coordinator Mary Kate Ryan. Photo Courtesy of the Stratham Heritage Commission

Status of the State Archaeological Survey

The earliest archaeological sites in New Hampshire reach back to approximately 12,500 to 13,000 years ago. Occupation have continued uninterrupted by Native American populations through the present day. Abundant evidence for Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland and Contact period sites is present in the state and reflected in the DHR archaeological database. Arrival and settlement of Europeans and their African slaves occurred in the early 17th century along the seacoast, although earlier accounts by seafarers record brief encounters between the Native and non-Native populations. From the 18th century on, the vast bulk of the archaeological record is that of Euro-American populations who spread over the entire state, absorbing or displacing the Native peoples. The full range of agricultural, industrial, residential, religious and ancillary sites are represented in the site files at the DHR. *The Archeology of New Hampshire – Exploring 10,000 years in the Granite State,* published in 2006 by Dr. David R. Starbuck, serves as a general summary.

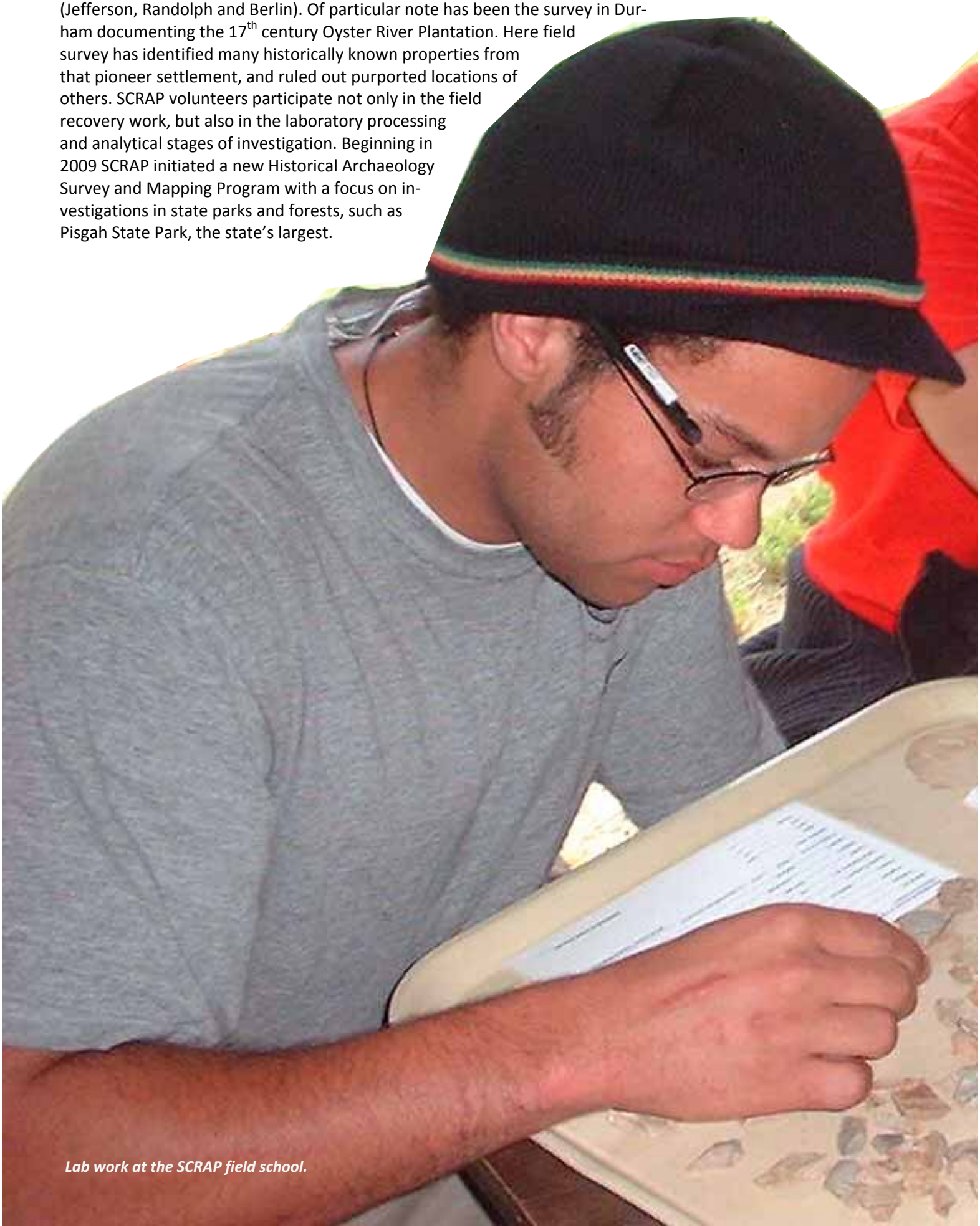
Over the last five years the quantity of archaeological sites recorded in the DHR database has grown by 211 sites to a total of 2070, while the number of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) reports in the same time period has expanded by 284 to a sum of 1970. This number of sites and projects is modest compared to many other states and reflects the relatively small size of the state, heavily vegetated environment (more than 85% of the state is forested) and comparatively small number of projects with Section 106 requirements. Within that context, significant sites have been documented. Perhaps the most distinctive site recently discovered and mitigated is the Tenant Swamp site in Keene, where a small but dense Paleoindian site was found in the direct impact area of new school construction. The site was mitigated through a total data recovery program completed by mid-summer 2010. The site will be a significant addition to understanding Paleoindians in the Northeast.

An important methodological step forward was accomplished with a survey that incorporated a significant amount of ground penetrating radar at the Valley Street Cemetery in the urban core of Manchester. Here a storm drain project needed to thread through both marked and previously unknown unmarked graves. Use of this technology is becoming more common in the state. The US Forest Service contracted to record a 1942 crash site of a B-18 bomber in the town of Lincoln in the White Mountains. Precise GPS surveying techniques were employed to generate a detailed map of the crash and to help develop interpretive signage. Less dramatic but still significant were the many instances where surveys identified significant sites that were then avoided by the sponsoring projects. These are examples of low cost, low impact preservation through agency/client coordination and planning.

Broad economic and technological trends have shaped the scope and direction of Section 106-sponsored archaeological surveys. Telecommunication projects have progressed from a moderately high rate to a lower plateau. Surveys of proposed housing subdivisions declined sharply with the overall economic conditions. This decline was offset by the federal ARRA program, which injected considerable funds into infrastructure improvements, and in particular to water and sewer projects, consequently increasing the number of associated archaeological surveys. In response to the need for prompt review, the DHR successfully instituted a special tracking and response program to ensure that any ARRA-funded projects would receive initial review within five working days of receipt of project information. Wetland permitting under the US Army Corps of Engineers generated survey activity along the margins of the lakes and great ponds, a zone with well-documented archaeological resources. Concurrent with these trends has been a relatively constant number of surveys related to highway construction. In general, the number of CRM archaeological surveys has shown a moderate increase over time, but with significant variations among the various project types.

The NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP), a program of the DHR, has served as the primary source of non-CRM archaeological activity in the state with annual field schools (offered in conjunction with Plymouth State University), responses to citizen discoveries, and emergency rescue efforts. This program trains and utilizes volunteers from the public to carry out archaeological investigations. Field school surveys have been conducted in the southern and central Merrimack River valley (Manchester and Franklin) and through the White Mountains

(Jefferson, Randolph and Berlin). Of particular note has been the survey in Durham documenting the 17th century Oyster River Plantation. Here field survey has identified many historically known properties from that pioneer settlement, and ruled out purported locations of others. SCRAP volunteers participate not only in the field recovery work, but also in the laboratory processing and analytical stages of investigation. Beginning in 2009 SCRAP initiated a new Historical Archaeology Survey and Mapping Program with a focus on investigations in state parks and forests, such as Pisgah State Park, the state's largest.



Lab work at the SCRAP field school.

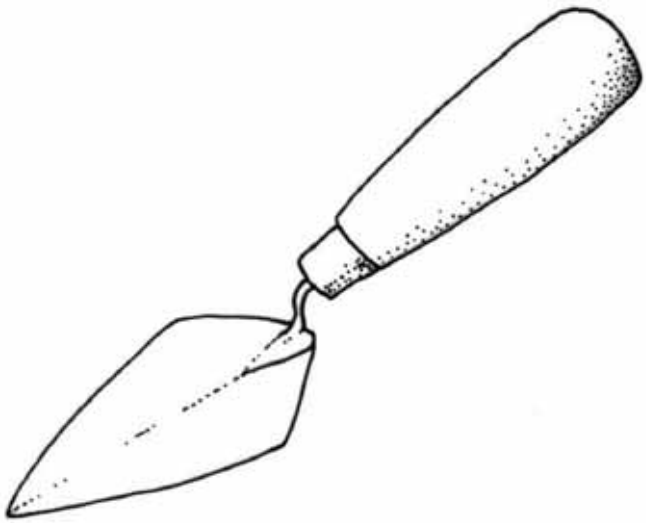
The DHR partnered with Antioch University to map and photograph nine historic sites associated with the Broad Brook Steam Lumber Mills and community (1840s-1920s) and assessed several earlier previously unexplored areas at Pisgah State Park.

Because there are no graduate programs in archaeology in the state, a concerted effort has been made to attract students from outside institutions to use data generated by the SCRAP projects for advanced degree requirements. Master's theses granted from Northern Arizona University (2008), Tulsa University (2010) and Binghamton University, NY (2010) were based on Paleoindian sites investigated by SCRAP. In addition, since 2005 the State Archaeologist has authored or co-authored seven articles based on SCRAP archaeological surveys; each has been published in a scholarly journal.

An endangered resource common to New Hampshire are cellar holes and abandoned agricultural complexes scattered throughout second growth forests. Local historians, antiquarians and relic hunters sometimes search out these sites with fervor and diligence. DHR staff members have responded to requests from several communities (including Lyme, Warner and Cornish) by training community members and interns to instead conduct basic survey and documentation of these resources in place. Specific field and data recording methodologies have been developed to meet the needs of this kind of survey, to be implemented by volunteer members of the immediate community.

Underwater archaeology is the least developed type of survey in the state. Although there is an active diver community, there has been little interaction between it and the DHR. Improvement in this area is clearly needed and is a top objective for archaeological survey in the state.

Overall, the status of archaeological survey in New Hampshire is good, with some areas showing demonstrable improvement within the last five years (cellar hole surveys, Paleoindian survey methodology, etc.) and others clearly in need of improvement (underwater resources). The execution of CRM-derived surveys and their review continue in an effective and efficient manner, while the regulatory surveys have generated important methodological and research results. Continued growth and improvement of archaeological survey in the state is anticipated.



Tracks
& Detours

Trends in Preserving Our Heritage

A wide range of demographic, economic, social and political trends shape resource protection, for better and for worse, in New Hampshire and throughout the country. This section summarizes the concerns and trends raised at five public brainstorming sessions and in responses to an online questionnaire implemented in 2010, under the broad categories of tools, policies, funding, education and awareness, rules and regulations, and growth and development. Recently created tools and policies have created a more conducive environment for rehabilitation and, in some cases, helped to level the playing field for the preservation of historical properties. Their successful implementation will influence the preservation of resources throughout the state in the coming years.

More challenging are concerns for additional funding and incentives and the need for greater awareness and educational opportunities. Questions regarding the most appropriate and effective amount of regulation governing the protection of historical and archaeological resources remain, as does the long list of threatened properties in the state. A new trend in some New Hampshire communities results from the current economic downturn; a pattern of sprawling development has changed to a dire need for almost any type of development that can provide jobs and revenue. Answers and avenues to address these serious challenges are possible as well; the goals and actions outlined in the next section provide a roadmap for positive preservation solutions.

New Tools

Let's create clear incentives that encourage redevelopment, large and small, especially in the area of energy conservation and alternative energy uses. These are key concepts to younger generations, as well as some of us baby boomers. Every child should have state and regional education about their community history.

-public comment from the
DHR online questionnaire

Demolition Review Ordinances

Many communities in New Hampshire are experiencing population shifts and land use pressures that can lead to change and disinvestment in older neighborhoods and teardowns that erode character and identity. A demolition review ordinance allows a community to proactively avoid the demolition of historically significant buildings, particularly when paired with other preservation tools and policies, such as heritage or historic district commissions or completion of a historic resource survey. In cases where a community cannot garner the local or political support for a local historic district, demolition review can be the only viable means for slowing the loss of significant buildings. Communities in New Hampshire that have adopted this local ordinance now include Concord, Exeter, Keene, Laconia, Stratham, Weare and Windham.

Demolition review is a preservation tool that ensures potentially significant buildings and structures are not demolished without notice to the community and review by a heritage or historic district commission. If a building is determined to be historically or architecturally significant, the issuance of the demolition permit is delayed for a specific period of time – typically between 30 to 90 days. If demolition review is conducted during the early conceptual stages of project development, alternatives can be explored in earnest and without undue hardship to the applicant.

The NH Division of Historical Resources (DHR) worked closely with the Concord Heritage Commission's Demolition Review Committee and NH Bureau of Public Works when the demolition of the historic Huntress property on the campus of the New Hampshire State Hospital was proposed in 2009. The campus has value to New Hampshire for both its architecture and landscape and its importance to understanding mental health care from its inception in 1842 through the mid-20th century, when changed treatment strategies began to deemphasize institutional care. The campus is a significant historic resource as well as a valuable infrastructure asset for the state. Because previous master plans recommended the adaptive reuse and renovation of campus buildings rather than demolition, for both historical and environmental reasons, project partners have worked to develop a plan to mothball the Huntress property until a suitable future use is found.

New Hampshire Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive

Enacted in 2006, the New Hampshire Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (NH RSA 79-E) encourages several types of development that enhance downtowns and town centers through economic activity that preserves cultural and historic character and a sense of community while encouraging in-town residential uses. The legislation followed the success of a discretionary easement program for historic agricultural outbuildings, known as NH RSA 79-D, which offers property tax benefits for owners who maintain or rehabilitate historic agricultural outbuildings.

The community revitalization program offers relief from increased property tax assessment when owners or investors undertake a project that restores a deteriorated property into active use, creates new and/or affordable housing, or substantially rehabilitates a historical property in a village center or downtown. Property owners can also qualify for relief if they replace an under-utilized property, as long as that property is not historically significant.

Towns and cities have the discretion to designate the areas in their municipalities that qualify for the relief, and each must individually adopt the provisions of NH RSA 79-E. A number of communities have done so: Berlin, Concord, Groveton, Hopkinton, Hooksett, Lisbon, Manchester, Moultonborough, Pittsfield, Rochester and Warner. Given New Hampshire's heavy dependence on property taxes to fund government and public programs, other New Hampshire towns and cities may wait for a return to a more expansive economy before following suit.

Neighborhood Heritage Districts

Although Neighborhood Heritage Districts (also known as Conservation Districts) are found throughout the country, until recently New Hampshire lacked information that could be distributed to municipalities to assist them in establishing one. In 2007, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the DHR a Johanna Favrot grant to create the legal framework in New Hampshire for such districts and to prepare a citizen handbook for establishing and administering them. The study resulted in the publication of *Neighborhood Heritage Districts: A Handbook for New Hampshire Municipalities,* available for download at: http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/documents/NHNeighborhoodHeritageDistrictsHandbook.pdf

Atlantic Heights in Portsmouth

A neighborhood heritage district is a zoning overlay mechanism that focuses on protecting character of an area. The term neighborhood is significant: it reinforces that these districts are established as a result of direct citizen input and the opportunities they have to guide the ways their neighborhood may change. A chief objective is to protect *neighborhood character* and the shared features of buildings located there, rather than *details*, such as window sash, doors and trim, pertaining to individual buildings. The term character implies that rather than overseeing minor alterations to individual buildings, the district will protect those significant features that define a property or setting — features that are decided by the community. Given the state's historic patterns of development, invested citizens and strong sense of place, this new tool could be applied to neighborhoods, village centers and rural landscapes across New Hampshire.

Policy Outlook

Let's focus on the built environment, which is valuable for community development and tourism. Make our village centers attractive for locals and tourists. This is what makes NH such an attraction.

-public comment from the DHR online questionnaire

School Siting Legislation

In 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation spotlighted the increasing losses of historic neighborhood schools across the country by adding them to its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Threats included lack of money for repairs, an assumption that new is better, public policies that discourage the maintenance of historic schools, and regionalized schools in locations that rule out the possibility of students walking to school. Seeing a need to address these issues in New Hampshire, in 2008 the National Trust selected the NH Preservation Alliance as one of six pilot organizations to develop recommendations for state and local action. The Trust grants were funded through a cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency and with support from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Other agency partners included the DHR and the NH Department of Education. One of the outcomes was the passage of NH Senate Bill 59, which updates and improves public school siting and building aid policies for improved local decision-making and state investment. The bill was part of a set of recommendations put forth by the NH Preservation Alliance and its partners to clarify the local decision-making process and align school building aid with state policies promoting or requiring smart-growth, sustainability and high performance schools.

Sustainability and Historic Preservation

The conservation and improvement of historic properties and older buildings, greening existing buildings, and reinvesting in historic communities are all crucial to slowing climate change. In 2009, the NH Preservation Alliance published *Green Guidelines: Promoting Environmental and Economic Sustainability through Historic Preservation* for state policy makers and one for local decision-makers (http://nhpreservation.org/pdf/greenguidelineslocal2009.pdf). The voice of preservation was also strong throughout the state publication *New Hampshire Climate Change Action Plan*, whether specifically addressing the value of the embodied energy present in our historic buildings, or recommending more general actions that reuse what we already have, promote densely built communities and protect our historic natural landscapes (http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/nh_climate_action_plan.htm). The plan promotes widespread education on embodied energy and lifecycle analysis, incentives to property owners who increase the energy efficiency of their historic homes while protecting their history, and further study on best practices for energy efficient rehabilitation. To address the sometimes complex task of installing energy efficiency measures in historic districts, the non-profit Clean Air-Cool Planet, with assistance from the DHR and Strawbery Banke Museum, published *Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Historic Preservation: A Guide for Historic District Commissions* (http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/HDCGuide.pdf).

Strengthened State Agency Efforts

The DHR works with many other agencies to review publicly-assisted projects that may affect historical or archaeological resources; a great deal of preservation work is done by agencies as diverse as the Bureau of Public Works and the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). In the past five years these cooperative efforts have been strengthened by greater efficiencies and expanded coordination.

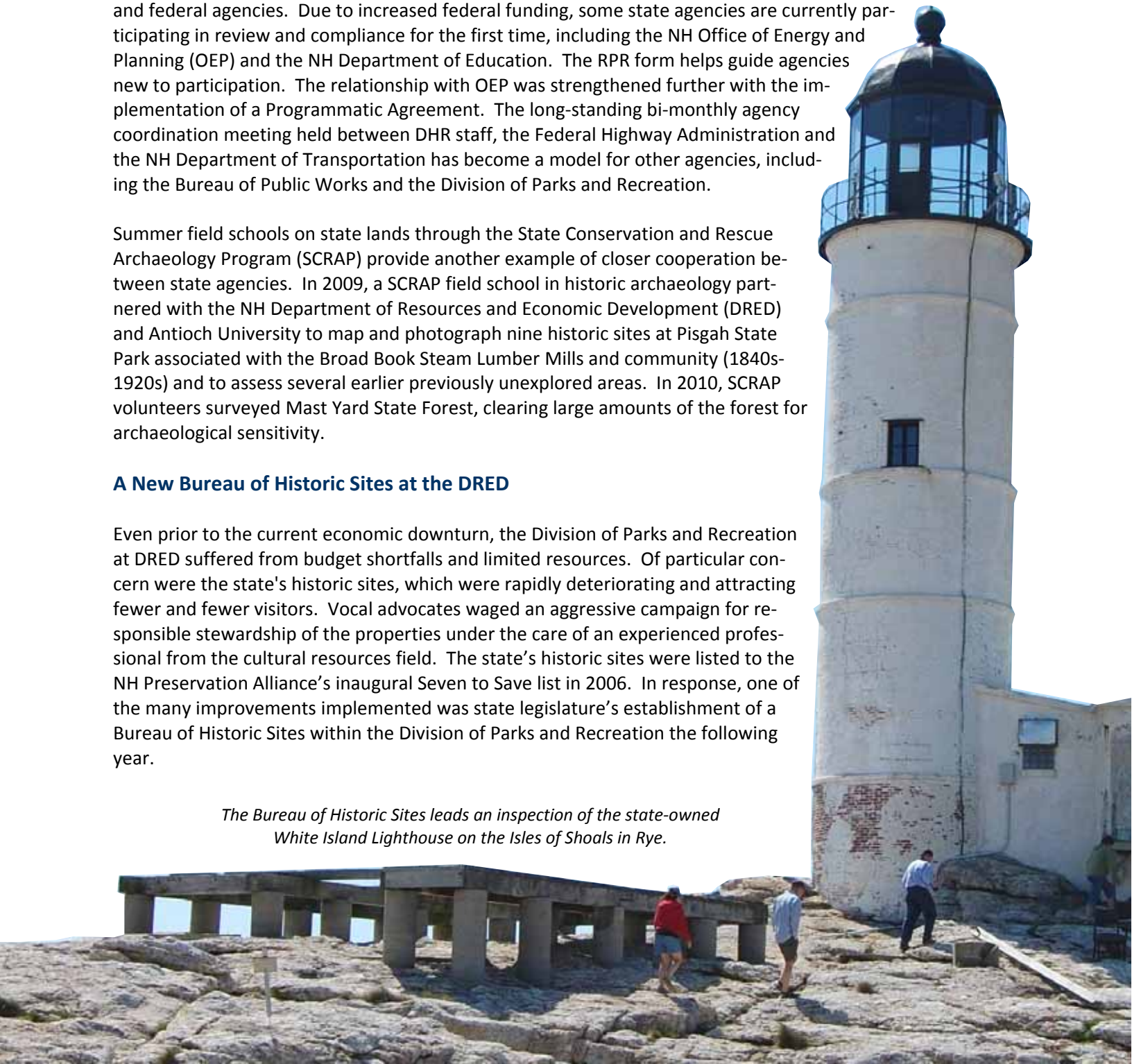
The DHR clarified and streamlined its review policy by revamping the way that agencies initiate review. Project proponents now complete and submit a Request for Project Review (RPR) form, which provides basic project information, photographs and mapping. The new form minimizes delays caused by incomplete submissions.

This streamlined review has also had the benefit of strengthening the DHR's working relationships with state and federal agencies. Due to increased federal funding, some state agencies are currently participating in review and compliance for the first time, including the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) and the NH Department of Education. The RPR form helps guide agencies new to participation. The relationship with OEP was strengthened further with the implementation of a Programmatic Agreement. The long-standing bi-monthly agency coordination meeting held between DHR staff, the Federal Highway Administration and the NH Department of Transportation has become a model for other agencies, including the Bureau of Public Works and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Summer field schools on state lands through the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) provide another example of closer cooperation between state agencies. In 2009, a SCRAP field school in historic archaeology partnered with the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and Antioch University to map and photograph nine historic sites at Pisgah State Park associated with the Broad Book Steam Lumber Mills and community (1840s-1920s) and to assess several earlier previously unexplored areas. In 2010, SCRAP volunteers surveyed Mast Yard State Forest, clearing large amounts of the forest for archaeological sensitivity.

A New Bureau of Historic Sites at the DRED

Even prior to the current economic downturn, the Division of Parks and Recreation at DRED suffered from budget shortfalls and limited resources. Of particular concern were the state's historic sites, which were rapidly deteriorating and attracting fewer and fewer visitors. Vocal advocates waged an aggressive campaign for responsible stewardship of the properties under the care of an experienced professional from the cultural resources field. The state's historic sites were listed to the NH Preservation Alliance's inaugural Seven to Save list in 2006. In response, one of the many improvements implemented was state legislature's establishment of a Bureau of Historic Sites within the Division of Parks and Recreation the following year.



The Bureau of Historic Sites leads an inspection of the state-owned White Island Lighthouse on the Isles of Shoals in Rye.

The Bureau's task is large – direct oversight and care of six house museums and eight historic sites containing significant cultural resources, landscapes and collections. The Bureau is also responsible, in cooperation with the DHR, for the oversight of stewardship related to all cultural resources administered by the Divisions of Parks and Recreation and Forests and Lands at DRED. Since its creation, the Bureau has begun to address deferred maintenance, improve communication and relations with the various friends groups that help run the museums, and facilitate the creation of new interpretive plans for the public.

Protecting Human Remains and Grave Goods

Protection of unmarked graves, human remains and associated grave goods is one of the responsibilities of the DHR's State Archaeologist. This responsibility overlaps with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act legislation in that it includes non-Native American remains. Prior to 2009 there was protection for some unmarked graves in state law, although it was limited in scope. A serious oversight was exposed with the proposed sale of the remains of a Civil War soldier and his grave goods. Bones and artifacts of a New York state soldier had been taken from his grave in Virginia and offered for sale at a New Hampshire auction. Representatives of the Sons of Union Veterans raised objection and brought this to the attention of the State Archaeologist. Even without statutory prohibition to the sale, supporters were able to effect the return of the remains and grave goods to New York.

This gap in legislation was addressed subsequently by a bill that prohibited the New Hampshire sale of any human remains, regardless of race or date of burial, from any location. Previously it was necessary to demonstrate that protected remains and grave goods were excavated within New Hampshire after 1987. The amendment removed these limitations and rendered a potential charge of a Class B Felony to violators. The amendment passed through the legislative process with no challenges or modifications and became law in September 2009.

1791 Law Amended to Protect Stone Walls

The vulnerability of stone walls to theft and damage has become a regional concern and the subject of increasing publicity. Once rare, such theft has become epidemic as the value of weathered stone for landscaping has increased dramatically. In New Hampshire, a law dating from 1791 was amended in 2009 to strengthen protection of the state's stone walls. The earlier law protected "stones" in a general way, but not specifically stone walls, and charged thieves a $15 maximum fine — equivalent to 15 days of wages for a 19th century worker. In the updated law, much of the wording of the historic statute was retained, but "stone from a stone wall" was added, and the $15 fine was increased to "treble damages, based on the cost of materials and restoration, and including attorney's fees and costs."

Stone wall atop Mt Blue Job in Farmington.

Funding

"People are willing to help maintain the character of the community, but the funding is dwindling as other needs are addressed and the general budget is kept nearly level."

-public comment from the DHR online questionnaire

Funding for preservation – and the issues and ramifications that surround it – is usually the start of every conversation as people discuss their efforts to care for historical properties. The cost of preservation projects, in terms of both time and money, is a concern, as is the widespread perception that preservation projects *always* cost more. In the current economic climate increased or extra costs, whether perceived or real, remain unpopular. In difficult times, the goal of preserving historical and archaeological resources may be seen as an obstacle to bringing new jobs and development into a community and to meeting basic needs such as housing and transportation. The debate continues as to whether preserving heritage is a community function that creates jobs and local investment, or a luxury to be postponed until "good times."

In the plan questionnaire (see appendix C), the most common answer to the question *"What is negatively affecting the character of your community?"* was the need for additional financial support. This need extends not only to individual projects, but also to activities such as educational programming and the operating needs of historical organizations and government agencies. Given current economic conditions, low interest rates and plummeting investment values, grant programs and foundations are also at risk. In New Hampshire, dedicated funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program has been diverted to meet other state budget priorities.

The timing of funding also presents roadblocks for preservation. Given the human tendency to defer maintenance, historical buildings and structures can be brought to the brink of demolition by neglect or destruction before fundraising begins. Securing grant funding can be a long process, particularly if support dwindles and costs escalate as a resource deteriorates. Selling maintenance and the long view of resource stewardship can be difficult, particularly given the realities of one or two year budget cycles for local and state government in New Hampshire. Owners of historical homes lack any type of grant funding or financial incentives for help with repairs and renovations.

The People Factor: Education and Awareness

"Our town values its heritage, culture & history. It rescues and reuses buildings that would be considered unsalvageable elsewhere. However, those efforts would have better results with greater access to preservation expertise & support. Lack of outside funding & the hardscrabble town budget foreclose other preservation possibilities. Once-active citizens are aging and no longer able to volunteer time and effort, and the congregations of our three historic churches are struggling for survival. Youth needed!"

- public comment from the DHR online questionnaire

People protect archaeological and historical resources, and to do so they need energy, support and education. A common worry presented at the public brainstorming sessions for this plan was the sense that for a host of reasons, fewer people are now willing or able to participate in community projects. Although some praised their communities' support for historical resources, many more spoke of a lack of a unified vision, conflicting goals, insufficient awareness in local government, and a lack of energetic volunteers.

Session attendees across the state voiced concern about a diminished emphasis in school curricula on history and, in particular, local history. Place-based education and lessons in local architecture and historical places were suggested as tools that could help instill a life-long sense of stewardship in the next generation. Other educational needs include training for preservation contractors and craftspeople and a broader public understanding of the grants, code variances and other "breaks" that make preserving cultural resources a more viable option.

Changing demographics may also influence resource protection. Just as the state's historical resources age, so do its residents. Some towns suffer from a lack of sufficient skilled, retired or semi-retired volunteers with an interest in historical preservation and need more information as to how to identify and motivate volunteers.

The age-old concern that "the younger generation just doesn't care" is now compounded by the digital age. A new challenge is to engage people locally, despite the distractions of an international digital world. New technologies may provide greater entrée to preservation information and opportunities for fund raising and promotion, but they can also serve to divide. Some parts of the state's population have less access or interest in new online tools and media. Preservation organizations and advocates now face the sometimes complicated challenge of reaching all of their constituents.

Rules and Regulations

"Private landowners are, for the most part, skeptical of becoming involved in any program that includes added cost and time to their individual project."

- public comment from the DHR online questionnaire

Plan questionnaire respondents were almost evenly split on the question as to whether more regulation is needed to protect resources, or less. Respondents wrote of the need for municipal architectural review

boards and of local historic district ordinances that were too limited to be effective. Prime farmland, scenic view sheds and rural landscapes remain vulnerable to incompatible development. On the other hand, increased regulatory interference and the complexity of working with regulations continue to be seen as problems as well.

Without sufficient coordination, training and flexibility, existing federal and state regulations and policies can conflict with preserving community resources. Examples noted in questionnaire answers include the recently updated regulations on lead paint, the expenditure of energy efficiency public funds in ways that threaten historical properties, and increased state fees and building code requirements that are incompatible with historic resources. Achieving some public goals can be in direct opposition to preserving cultural resources, necessitating their demolition. Others voiced concerns about the inflexibility of historic preservation requirements themselves, noting that an "all or nothing" mentality can lead to a decision to do nothing with a historical property.

Growth and Development

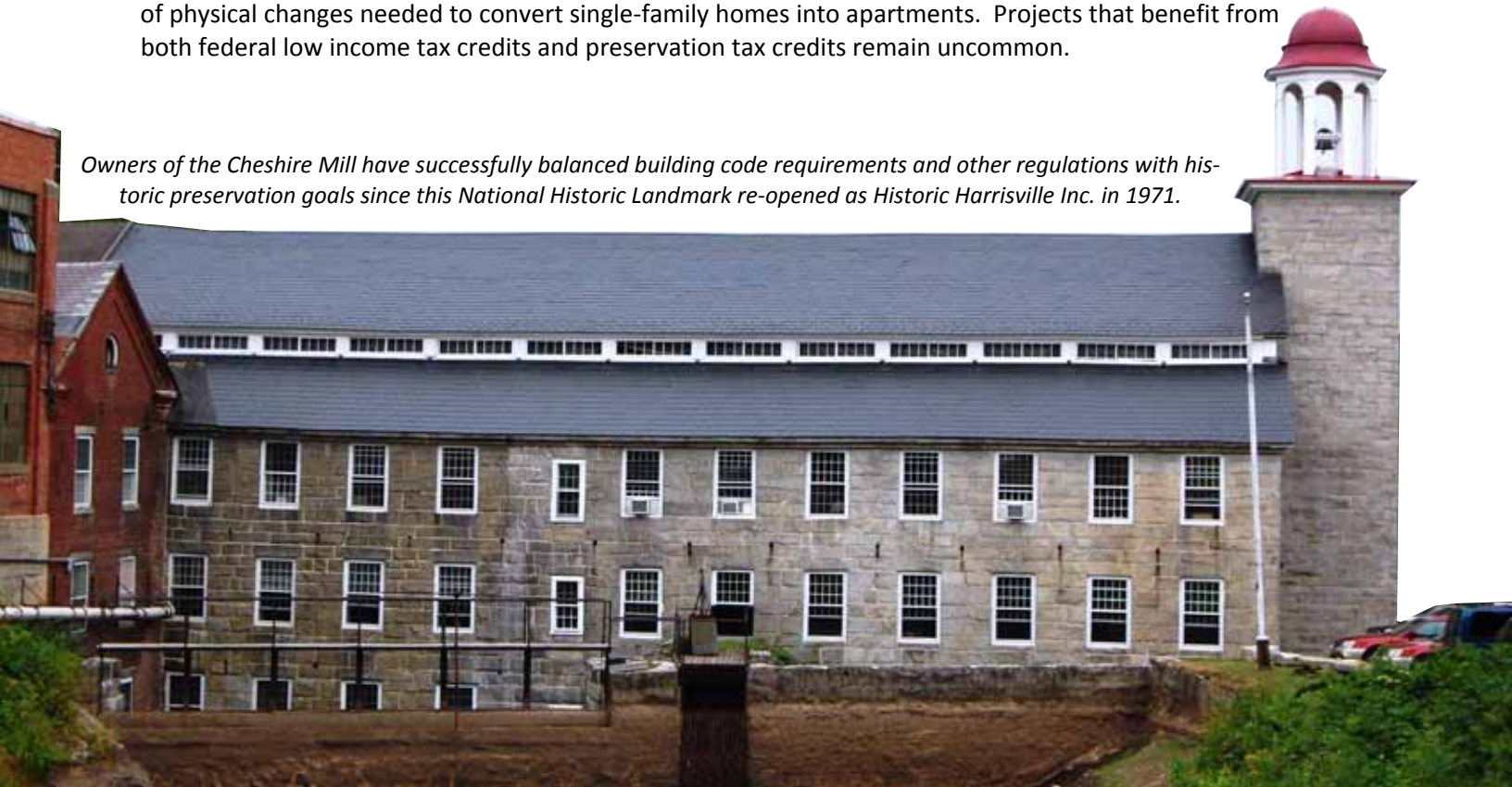
"How do we incentivize reuse, especially with historic homes?"

-public comment from the DHR online questionnaire

Despite the overall slow economy, the potential impact of growth and development on historical and archaeological resources remains a concern in New Hampshire. At the public brainstorming sessions, attendees worried that some municipalities were "too desperate for development," at any cost. Others noted that although housing trends such as condominium or high-end residential developments may have stalled, these will resurface as the economy improves, and little effort has occurred to put "good planning" into place that considers the land's past uses. Some worried that planning boards or community development offices were not following guidance in master plans or historic resources chapters that had been developed with public participation.

Many saw the potential serendipity between the need for the affordable housing in New Hampshire and the existing historic housing stock, both in rural areas and in downtowns. Multi-family units in downtowns and village centers promote smart growth near established businesses, services and transportation routes. However, some historic district ordinances seem to be roadblocks, sometimes discouraging or prohibiting the types of physical changes needed to convert single-family homes into apartments. Projects that benefit from both federal low income tax credits and preservation tax credits remain uncommon.

Owners of the Cheshire Mill have successfully balanced building code requirements and other regulations with historic preservation goals since this National Historic Landmark re-opened as Historic Harrisville Inc. in 1971.



Threatened Resources

"We have lost enough. It's time to act. We should stop thinking of our history as an albatross and more as a cultural and financial resource. We can either make history dull, or vibrant with a life force of it own to re-energize our communities."

-public comment from the DHR online questionnaire

Patterns of historic development in New Hampshire vary from urban neighborhoods, to industrial sites, agricultural villages, and sparsely settled areas used mainly as transportation corridors. Threatened resources exist in each of these settings, and their preservation depends on a number of factors, such as whether the resource continues to have a needed use, redevelopment pressures, and whether a resource can be adaptively reused in a manner that works economically. Each year, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance publishes its Seven to Save list; a look at those lists over the years demonstrates the variety of resources and threats across the state: http://www.nhpreservation.org/html/news_197.htm.

Attendees at each of the brainstorming sessions and respondents to the plan questionnaire named resources they felt were most endangered in their parts of the state. Farms and agricultural properties topped the list of concerns, along with scenic vistas and rural landscapes. Following closely behind were villages and downtowns and historic engineering structures, such as bridges, dams and early roads. All of these resources illustrate some of the earliest themes in New Hampshire history; many have outlived their original intended uses or are threatened by 21st century patterns of development. The state's scenery – whether pastoral, rugged or picturesque – is vital for tourism, one of the most lucrative industries in New Hampshire.

Barns in particular remain one of the most popular but threatened historical landmarks in the state. The New Hampshire Historical Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee, also called the Barn Committee, and its partnering organizations have worked for more than ten years to help barn owners keep these icons in repair. Securing grant funding or a low-cost loan program for repairs remains a priority goal for the Barn Committee.

Another type of historical landmark that faces the challenges of obsolescence is historic bridges. The state's earliest bridges — dry-laid stone arches and wooden covered bridges — remain the sentimental favorites of tourists and residents. Due to their scenic appeal, their preservation is more assured than their late 19th and early 20th century counterparts – metal and concrete bridges built to carry the state's railroads and automobiles. The NH Department of Transportation, with the DHR and the Federal Highway Administration, have recently committed to completing a historic bridge preservation and management plan. The state's remaining older bridges will be inventoried, evaluated and prioritized for rehabilitation and reuse. The plan will also identify appropriate treatments, promising new preservation technologies and potential funding sources. But iconic bridges like the Memorial Bridge and Sarah Mildred Long Bridge between Portsmouth and Kittery, Maine, and bridges that have won grants for future work, including Meadow Bridge in Shelburne and the Cheshire Railroad stone arch bridge in Keene, remain vulnerable.

Local citizens walk across Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth after attending a rally to show support for its rehabilitation.

Itineraries & Destinations

Goals & Actions

Admission tag and brochure for Story Land, one of many White Mountains attractions developed during the post WWII era.

Reversing roadblocks and finding the tipping points for successfully preserving the state's historical and archaeological resources are the main goals of this five year plan. The goals and strategies that follow suggest both broad and specific ways for the state's preservation community to work effectively and creatively to reach that destination.

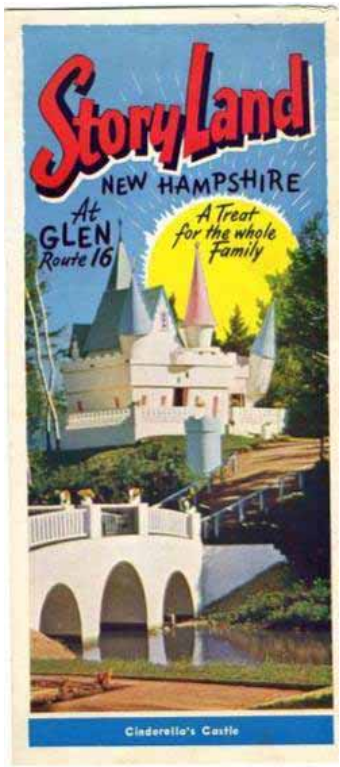
1. Survey, Recognition and Protection

Resources are most often cared for and enjoyed when people recognize their history and significance. Survey, evaluation and recognition efforts must accelerate so that a fuller understanding of New Hampshire's past, as documented by these resources, can be shared with our citizens and visitors. Particular strategies will be to:

- Facilitate the consistent identification of archaeological and historical resources with a vital and responsive state survey program by:
    - Increasing survey efforts, particularly for under-represented resources types and historical contexts.
    - Expanding opportunities for participation in the state survey program through the creation of a community-based reconnaissance survey program
    - Updating guidance, methods and training as needed and in response to pertinent new technologies and tools, including Geographic Information Systems and NH Granit
    - Reassessing and updating the New Hampshire archaeological site prediction model
    - Developing consistent underwater archaeology survey guidance and improving communication with the state's active diver community

- Identify and integrate relevant new topics into the historic contexts for use by researchers and planners.

- Harness the powerful tool of historical resources interpretation through the expanded use of marker and signage programs.



- Work to offer survey and inventory information digitally, making project reviews and planning activities more efficient and informed while protecting original paper documents

- Increase nominations to the National Register and the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, particularly for under-represented resources types and historical contexts

The Balsams Grand Resort Hotel in Dixville Notch has welcomed guests to northern New Hampshire since just after the Civil War. The Ballot Room at the hotel is where the first votes of the New Hampshire presidential primary are cast and counted.

- Recognize the importance of "invisible resources" — such as archaeological resources, dams, maritime resources, and stone features — through programs such as Project Archaeology and multiple property documentation

- Provide a clearinghouse for information on finding, training and retaining qualified volunteers, as well as for identifying and cultivating local leadership in cultural stewardship

- Bring attention to specific resources and their stewards through awards and other recognition

- Continue to identify significant cultural resources that may be adversely affected by publicly-assisted projects through continued review and compliance work under state and federal regulations

- Provide the most up-to-date information available about preservation treatments and techniques for special categories of resources, such as metal bridges, culverts, concrete structures and barns

- Increase funding and expand availability of professional consultant grants for services by architectural historians, historical architects, engineers, attorneys and planners to assist with preservation project planning, technical assistance and federal/state project reviews

- Identify key properties for protection and preservation through easements or purchase, expand the use of preservation easements, and strengthen capacity for easement monitoring

- Work with transportation agencies and others to develop preservation strategies for rail-related features, both on active rail lines and on rail trails

Mid-20th century postcard of the "White Mountain Central Railroad" — part of Clark's Trading Post in North Woodstock

2. Education and Outreach

To create a lifetime sense of stewardship of our history and heritage resources for all ages, additional educational programs and outreach initiatives are needed:

- Raise awareness of the importance of New Hampshire's sense of place, its connection with quality of life and the importance of preserving vital places and neighborhoods

- Create more educational opportunities for all ages, from kindergarten though graduate school, with an emphasis on increasing place-based education and local history-based curricula

- Support the evolution of the existing Plymouth State University graduate certificate in historic preservation into a full master's degree program in preservation studies for the people of New Hampshire

- Utilize new technologies to disseminate information — such as best practice case studies and success stories — to a broader audience and to promote better communication in the preservation community

- Assess existing sources of preservation information and determine whether a new type of clearinghouse is necessary to ensure that the public knows what is available, where it is located and how to access it

- Promote the economic benefits of cultural resources preservation by gathering and sharing quantitative data on specific preservation projects

- Provide up-to-date information on appropriate energy efficiency and alternative energy measures for historic properties

- Develop strategies to attract younger and more diverse participants and volunteers to preservation organizations and their activities

- Explore whether a professional preservation skills training program would be desirable and successful in New Hampshire, with an emphasis on job creation, weatherization and energy-related topics

Pete Ripaldi (pictured with his daughter and her friend) and his Cub Scout troop are restoring the "Old Woman's Shoe," one of several structures preserved by the town of Hudson and volunteers at the former Benson's Wild Animal Farm. Photo Courtesy of the town of Hudson.

- Increase the number and strengthen the pool of preservation professionals working in New Hampshire, and identify and facilitate networking opportunities for them

- Expand training opportunities for preservation groups – local commissions, historical societies, certified local governments, council members and staff – that promote the benefits of partnerships, strong leadership and organizational development

Hikers enjoying the scenic vistas from an historic mountaintop fire tower in Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham

- Provide increased historic preservation training/workshops and information sharing for local planners, elected officials and other decision makers

- Develop and distribute recommendations for a basic preservation toolkit collection at local and depository libraries

- Develop and produce new publications, pamphlets, videos, DVDs, exhibits and other materials to extend the preservation message

3. Vision and Planning

To better advocate for a preservation vision in New Hampshire, preservation planning and a preservation ethic need to be integrated into decision-making on state, regional and local levels. Specific steps include:

- Re-create the image and relevancy of preservation as a basis for growth, sustainability and reuse, and history of place as the foundation of social connection and continuity

- Make preservation a part of general public policy by engaging the widest range of people (age and interests) and creating new partnerships and consensus

- Assess the opportunities and needs of heritage tourism in the state and explore whether a more formal program structure would benefit visitors, heritage resources and the communities where they exist

- Participate in regional and national conversations on preservation topics to explore innovative solutions and share New Hampshire successes

- Nurture recognition of the importance of place and encourage community investment through projects such as local legacies, community cornerstones, town anniversaries, and advocacy for local landmarks

- Expand and support proactive community preservation approaches and decision-making through the creation of new certified local governments, historic district commissions, heritage commissions and Main Street programs and the implementation of preservation planning tools such as demolition review ordinances, neighborhood heritage districts and architectural design review

- Work with existing historic district and heritage commissions to update and improve their ordinances, regulations and rules of procedure, and to establish effective design guidelines

- Promote the use of preservation-friendly tools such as innovative zoning, context-sensitive design, form-based codes and flexible building codes

- Support the statewide adoption of the International Existing Building Code to further encourage historical building rehabilitation

- Seek legislation to make historic preservation chapters required, rather than optional, Master Plan components; assure that chapters include provisions for survey and consideration of the economic and community development potential of preservation and rehabilitation

- Create and distribute educational materials and training that will assist communities in developing historic preservation chapters in their municipal master plan

- Support the NH Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the DHR in publishing and implementing a state-wide historic bridge preservation and management plan.

- Strengthen and encourage public involvement in Section 106 and state reviews of projects that affect historic and archaeological resources

- Explore whether additional preservation laws or innovative state legislation would benefit historical and archaeological resources in New Hampshire

- Reinforce the link between preservation and broader planning initiatives in fields such as conservation, agriculture, forestry, tourism, economic development, planning and housing by increasing communication and awareness of preservation's role in land use and managing change

- Promote sustainable land use and reinvestment in existing historical infrastructure and buildings, particularly through strengthened working partnerships with energy-related organizations and programs

- Continue to support and encourage the improved stewardship of state-owned historic sites and increase the range of the benefits they provide to the public

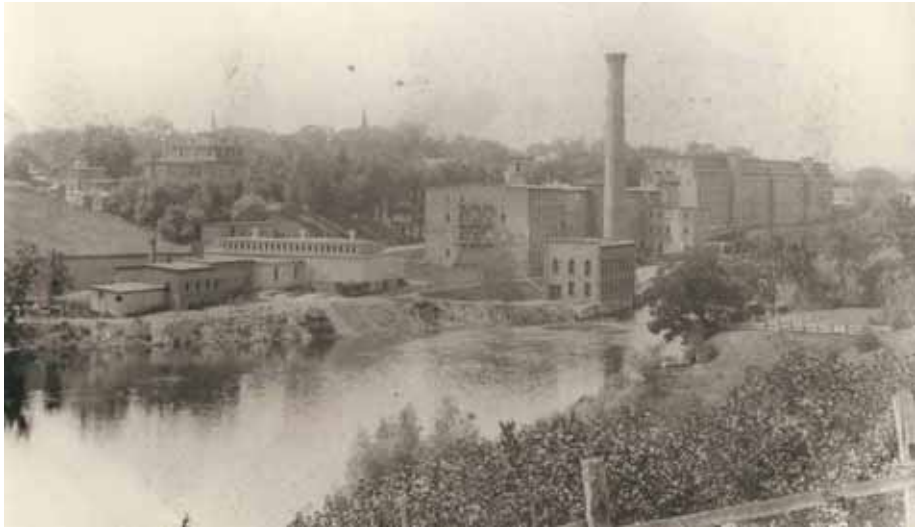
- Develop and distribute the state preservation plan and encourage the public's continued participation in caring for and enjoying the state's historical and archaeological resources

Franconia Notch is one of New Hampshire's most popular parks. Its attractions celebrate the relationship between natural and cultural resources.

4. Funding and Incentives

For these goals to be effective, additional sources of funding and/or incentives must be mobilized to support historic preservation efforts. Particular efforts will be made to:

- Seek new and increase existing funding for New Hampshire archaeological, historic preservation and conservation projects
- Provide up-to-date and comprehensive information on funding and revenue sources for heritage projects and historical organizations, including sources not typically linked to the preservation field
- Expand the use and scope of Certified Local Government (CLG) program and grants
- Assist local Main Street programs by re-establishing state-level support and a clearinghouse for information and assistance



Rehabilitation of the Salmon Falls Mfg Company's mills in Rollinsford was an early project to take advantage of federal preservation tax credits. The mills are now an artist colony, and the village thrives as part of the state's creative economy.

- Support the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and promote its benefits for communities and resources across the state
- Provide an increased number of grant writing workshops and expand training to cover all aspects of fundraising — where to find funding, how to approach foundations and how to write convincing proposals
- Administer the state conservation license plate grant program, provide assistance and support to applicants, and promote the purchase of "Moose Plates"
- Expand the use of federal preservation tax incentives for property owners working within set rehabilitation guidelines when restoring their buildings
- Promote the use of state historic preservation tax incentives, such as NH RSA 79-D and 79-E
- Develop a grant program focused on barns and other agricultural properties
- Explore opportunities for new service delivery tools such a revolving fund for preservation projects
- Assist and support applicants who are seeking funding for historic preservation and archaeological projects from public and private programs
- Demonstrate the direct relationship between preservation projects, community development and economic growth through published case studies and economic impact analyses.

Bibliography

Clean Air Cool Planet Inc., *Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Historic Preservation: A Guide for Historic District Commissions*. http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/HDCGuide.pdf. Accessed 13 October 2010.

Hengen, Elizabeth Durfee with Carolyn Baldwin, Esq., *Neighborhood Heritage Districts: A Handbook for New Hampshire.* http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/documents/NHNeighborhoodHeritageDistrictsHandbook.pdf Accessed 30 September 2010.

Meighan, Patrick, "Fresh Start for Rehabilitated Building", Friday, August 6, 2010, http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/816135-196/fresh-start-for-rehabilitated-building.html#disqus_thread. Accessed 30 September 2010.

New Hampshire Climate Change Policy Task Force, *The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan: A Plan for New Hampshire's Energy, Environmental and Economic Development Future*. http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/nh_climate_action_plan.htm. Accessed 13 October 2010.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics. Home Website. www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/aeronautics/index.htm. Accessed 24 September 2010.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit. Home Website. www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/railandtransit/index.htm. Accessed 24 September 2010.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation. Scenic and Cultural Byways. http://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/scbp/index.htm. Accessed 27 September 2010.

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/. Accessed 20 October 2010.

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. http://nhpreservation.org/html/news_226.htm. Accessed 30 September 2010.

New Hampshire State Library. *New Hampshire Almanac*. Accessed at www.nh.gov/nhinfo/history.html, 24 September 2010.

New Hampshire's Five Year Preservation Plan

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources