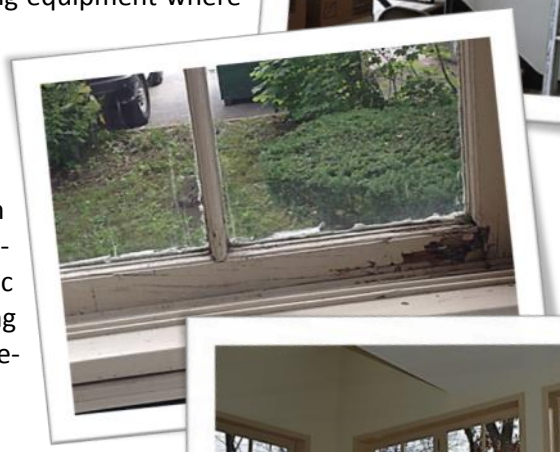
Concord — Energy Efficiency at the Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital Annex

— Mary Kate Ryan (State Survey Coordinator, NHDHR)

The building that the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources occupies, the Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital Annex, was built as a hospital ward with individual patient rooms in 1928. It is a brick-faced, terra cotta tile building, with double-hung 8/8 single-glazed window sash. It utilizes community steam system heat in the winter and scattered window unit air conditioners in the summer. Over the past decade, the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services, through its Bureau of General Services, has completed small projects to promote energy efficiency within the building. The occupants — NHDHR, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the New Hampshire Film and Television Office — have also become better versed in energy efficiency through use measures such as turning off equipment and lights when not in use, upgrading equipment where feasible, and using the building systems efficiently. The projects that have been completed thus far include the insulation of the attic, the replacement of steam traps and installation of efficient thermostats on the radiators, and the installation and tuning of attic vent fans to help exhaust summer heat. Currently, the historic windows on the rear stairwell are being rehabilitated to increase efficiency and preserve features original to 1928.



In the four years since these minor preservation-friendly projects have been completed, the energy use in the building has been reduced by 26,807 kBTUs. This is 7,856 kWh, or 235 gallons of gasoline, for a more relatable measurement. At the average cost of energy — averages may differ based on fuel options — this saves about $1,282 per year. This was accomplished with minimally-intrusive projects that did not alter character-defining features of the historic building, a win from a number of perspectives.