

HOW TO DO HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

1. Look at the place where you live (your street, or road, or neighborhood) and see how many historic buildings and structures and land uses are present.
2. Talk to neighbors and "old timers" about their memories and stories of the area -- where they have lived, where you live, what they learned from "old-timers" when they were young.
3. Go to the library and find out what information it has about local history; read the town history and study local history publications.
4. Learn how to research the deeds for your house or a nearby historic property.
5. Write the history of your own house.
6. Find and study old maps of your neighborhood or community: what is still recognizable? what has changed? why did it change?
7. Using your maps, locate and record old roads and trails, and house, shop, and mill foundations in your town.
8. Look at old photographs and views of your house, your neighborhood, your community, and try to imagine yourself in the pictures. What can you see, hear, feel, touch, taste? How would it be different now?
9. Arrange to borrow, copy, and catalogue old photographs of your town for your local library or historical society.
10. Do follow-up research on the local history stories you've learned and the new insights you've gained.
11. Give time (or money) to the library to organize a historic preservation "how-to" collection.
12. Take a historic preservation or architectural history or building rehab course.
13. Join the local historic preservation or heritage organization; if none exist, explore the possibility of organizing one.
14. Join your local historical society.
15. Volunteer to help the historical society with a task or project (it can be mundane, not monumental -- just do it!).
16. Learn how to use the Internet to find historic preservation information, and teach others how to do it, too.
17. Offer to do public relations or marketing for local historic preservation organizations or projects.
18. Visit historic places in your community...in neighboring communities...in the region...in the state.
19. Share the enjoyment of what you've learned with others, especially children (an impromptu "history walk," a "preservation picnic," a historic "mystery tour," an outing to a museum or to nearby historic sites, a trip to explore architectural history/building construction exhibits at Strawberry Banke, telling historical or historic preservation bedtime stories...).
20. Join the Division of Historical Resources' SCRAP (Statewide Conservation & Rescue Archaeology Program) and become certified as an avocational archaeologist.
21. Participate in SCRAP training, field schools, and workshops.
22. Talk up historic preservation at every opportunity (being shy is not a barrier; confidence will grow with every conversation).
23. Get others to really *look* at historic architecture, landscapes, townscape...and to *think* about what they are seeing.
24. Help others to understand how historic preservation is not a luxury but a resource that builds better lives and communities.
25. Encourage building rehab work that is sensitive and sympathetic to the character of the structure and its setting.
26. Recognize and compliment good historic preservation work, and encourage others to do so, too.
27. "Adopt" a vulnerable historic building or site and educate others about its historic value and its reuse potential.

28. Educate decision-makers about the value of preparing historic structures reports and preservation plans for historic properties.
29. Learn how to disagree without being disagreeable, and how to build consensus...then practice!
30. Become an advocate for historic preservation and encourage a preservation ethic within groups or organizations that you belong to or work with.
31. If there is a local historical resources survey underway, volunteer to help. If not, work with other interested individuals, groups, and boards or commissions to organize one.
32. Support local nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.
33. Organize a local historic preservation program, display, exhibit, or lecture.
34. Invite friends and family to attend local historic programs.
35. Join or create an oral history project.
36. Persuade local businesses to donate space for historic preservation displays and promotions.
37. Organize and promote "fun" historic preservation events for the general public; or help plan an annual historic preservation celebration that will appeal to a mix of ages, backgrounds, and interests.
38. Organize a historic preservation essay or poster contest for children.
39. Establish a historic preservation awards program in the schools.
40. Volunteer to help with local history projects in the schools.
41. Support expansion of history and historic preservation activities in the local schools.
42. Get involved with a historic preservation program for teens.
43. Join a statewide archaeology, history, or preservation advocacy organization.
44. Join a national archaeology or historic preservation organization.
45. Join an international historic preservation organization.
46. Familiarize yourself with historic preservation issues at the state, national, and international level; donate time or money to support efforts of special concern.
47. Attend an archaeology or history workshop or historic preservation conference...then put into action something you learned there.
48. Help with a fund-raiser for a preservation project.
49. Donate money or services or materials to an archaeology or historic preservation project.
50. Encourage others to donate money, services, or materials, too.
51. Attend public meetings of local officials and land use boards (Planning Board, Zoning Board, Historic District Commission) and the Heritage Commission, Conservation Commission, or Parks & Recreation Commission to find out about local issues, concerns, and decisions that are being considered (you don't have to speak!).
52. Encourage other preservation-minded people to attend public meetings with you.
53. Learn about the interrelationships between historic preservation and other aspects of land-use planning.
54. Familiarize yourself with strategies and techniques that communities and Regional Planning Commissions can use to advance and enhance historic preservation action and achievements.
55. Encourage local officials, commissions and committees, and land-use boards to incorporate concern for historic preservation into their policies, regulations, and decision-making.
56. Volunteer to help land-use boards with research or data-gathering.
57. Work with local land-use boards and service organizations to bring citizen-participation local betterment programs (Community Cornerstones, Civic Profile, Community Stewardship, Saving Place) to the community.
58. Enlist others to help establish a local Heritage Commission, if the community lacks one.
59. Volunteer to help create or update a historic preservation chapter for the community Master Plan.
60. Prepare a local historic preservation manual.
61. Propose "Scenic Road" designation for qualifying local roads.
62. Encourage your community to participate in the state "Scenic Byways" program.
63. Attend meetings of the Selectmen (or Mayor & Aldermen, or Council) and the Budget Committee to learn how historic preservation issues are being considered.
64. Volunteer (or run for election) to a local land use board, or as a local official.

65. Attend state legislative hearings for preservation-related bills (you don't have to testify unless you want to!)
66. Talk to your state Representative and Senator about your historic preservation concerns.
67. Talk or write to your Members of Congress about your historic preservation concerns.
68. Share your historic preservation ideas and concerns with the local news media: prepare an op-ed essay, or feature article, or radio spot, or video clip, or public-access cable program
69. Write a "letter to the editor" on a history or historic preservation topic (be courteous!).
70. Ask the local newspaper to include historic preservation-related activities in the daily or weekly "events" listing.
71. Do a photo-essay about an archaeology or historic preservation issue, event, or hero/ine.
72. Prepare a historic preservation supplement for the local newspaper and order off-prints for later distribution.
73. During the "NH Primary Season," talk to national candidates and the news media about your historic preservation concerns.
74. Find technical and financial assistance to help historic properties (and programs) maximize their accessibility to people with disabilities, in ways that meet both accessibility and historic preservation goals.
75. Organize historic preservation "How-To" and technical assistance workshops.
76. Develop a "Historic Preservation Helper" program to assist senior citizens and low-income homeowners with minor home repairs.
77. Establish a local historic marker, plaque, or signage program.
78. Propose a state historical marker.
79. Publish an annual local calendar with a historic preservation theme.
80. Assist with a local history/historic preservation video.
81. Initiate a local historic preservation newsletter if there isn't one already.
82. Create a community historic preservation awards program.
83. Publicize preservation success stories from within the community, and from other places.
84. Develop a history/historic preservation component for community "welcome" programs.
85. Help with a local history or architecture walking/driving tour.
86. Organize a local or regional brainstorming session for historic preservation organizations, to explore shared concerns and opportunities.
87. Get involved with a regional Heritage Roundtable.
88. Support legal action to save and reuse historic properties.
89. Educate real estate brokers, lenders, insurers, accountants, attorneys, architects, and builders about the advantages of historic preservation.
90. Promote the economic and social values of rehabilitating historic buildings for the widest possible variety of purposes.
91. Have a reuse feasibility study prepared for a historic building, site, or complex.
92. Invest in rehab of a historic building.
93. Encourage use of federal "certified rehab" investment tax credits for rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties.
94. Cooperate with housing providers to explore joint use of federal "certified rehab" and "low income" tax credits for affordable housing rehab.
95. Enlist sponsors for a community historic preservation grants program.
96. Work with others to create a local historic preservation revolving fund.
97. Explore the feasibility of establishing a historic preservation easement program.
98. Donate a historic preservation or conservation easement to a historic preservation or land protection organization.
99. Educate and encourage others to donate easements.
100. Join with interested groups and individuals to explore and promote the role of historic preservation in developing sustainable local and regional economies.
101. Contact the NH Division of Historical Resources for information and technical assistance about these and many other historic preservation initiatives!

These suggestions are only a few of the possibilities. Be creative and come up with your own...then tell the Division of Historical Resources so we can share your ideas with others.

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New Hampshire's state historic preservation program began in 1974 as the State Historic Preservation Office; in 1985 it became the Division of Historical Resources and moved to a new department, renamed the Department of Cultural Resources in 1998, which also includes the State Council on the Arts, the State Library, and the American-Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission. Commissioner Van McLeod is head of the department; and the Director of the Division of Historical Resources (appointment pending in September 2001) is also New Hampshire's State Historic Preservation Officer.

The DHR is a state agency, supported by the state of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. It assists the people and communities of New Hampshire to recognize and to protect their heritage, and to encourage the stewardship of their architectural, archaeological, historical, and other cultural resources. The DHR and its staff also work with a variety of partners to act as a clearinghouse and network center for sharing historic preservation information with individuals, organizations, and agencies throughout the state.

DHR publications and resource materials are available in some alternate formats on request. Call the DHR at 603-271-3558 or Voice / TDD Relay Access 1-800-735-2964, or contact the DHR through FAX at 603-271-3433, to specify the publications and formats desired.

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