

The Old Stone Wall

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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Certified Local Government success story: documenting Wakefield's heritage

Wakefield, N.H.'s mill history comes alive in *Survey of Water-Powered Mill Sites and Dams*, a new publication sponsored by the Wakefield Heritage Commission and funded through the Certified Local Government Program. This important program, which was created by the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, is designed to provide an opportunity for local governments to become more directly involved in identifying, evaluating, protecting, promoting and enhancing the educational and economic value of local properties of historic, architectural and archeological significance. The Division of Historical Resources administers New Hampshire's program, in partnership with the National Park Service.



Photo courtesy Victoria Bunker, Inc.

As part of the Wakefield project, archaeologists Sheila Charles, Victoria Bunker and Dennis Howe of the archaeological firm Victoria Bunker, Inc. conducted historical research and field surveys in order to identify, locate and document mill sites and their industrial

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features. Archival research and oral histories were also part of the research process.

The goals of the survey project were to help facilitate preservation planning, increase public awareness of historical resources and promote stewardship of the sites; it has already had an impact on the community. Here are some of the projects the survey has prompted since its publication in August 2011:

- The Wakefield Heritage Commission is creating a Heritage Centre, similar to a welcome center, in a freight house that is being restored. Much of the material for the display is drawn from the survey. The Wakefield Heritage Commission anticipates the exhibit will open in August 2012.
- One of the newly mapped mill sites has added an additional layer of importance to a land parcel the Wakefield Conservation Commission is attempting to secure as part of a conservation easement.
- The Newichawonnick Canal (which spans the New Hampshire/Maine border) and the ashlar bridge spanning the canal are deteriorating and have long been areas of concern for citizens. A steering committee with representatives from both Acton, Maine and Wakefield, N.H., has been formed to find preservation alternatives.
- A private non-profit community group has acquired one of the sites, known as the Drew Mill. Using research information found in the survey it hopes to restore the water-powered mill and establish a museum.
- The survey has informed the Historical Resources Chapter of the Master Plan, which is currently being prepared by the Wakefield Heritage Commission.

For more information about the Certified Government Program, contact Nadine Peterson at the Division of Historical Resources: nadine.peterson@dcr.nh.gov

A Valentine for you...



Eight properties added to State Register



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added eight individual properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The most recent additions to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places are:

The **High Street Cemetery in Benton** is the last remaining resource that conveys the history of the town's early High Street area settlement, which was bypassed by most industry and transportation. Stories of the pioneers who settled this remote, rugged area are told by the cemetery's 46 grave markers, the oldest of which dates to 1812 and the newest to 1877.

Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford began in 1935 as the Belknap Mountains Recreation Area; it was the largest Works Progress Administration project in New Hampshire as well as one of the state's first year-round recreation areas. It featured both ski jumps and a motorcycle rally area, and its construction eased unemployment and created a tourism destination that is still popular today.

Mary Lyon Hall, at the center of the Plymouth State University campus, was built as a dormitory in 1915 by noted New Hampshire architect Chase Roy Whitcher, when the institution was still known as Plymouth Normal School. Recently updated, it still serves as both a dormitory and an important connection between the modern campus and its historic beginnings.

The **W.F. Palmer Place in Sandwich**, a farm house and barn property that shows the shift from Greek Revival to Gothic Revival architecture, is significant primarily as a farm that also served as a retail outlet. W.F. Palmer ran a feed and grain store that later expanded to a general store, serving the crossroads village of Cram's Corner in the first half of the 20th century.

Seabrook's Methodist (or "Smithtown") Cemetery was in use by 1826 and purchased by the town in 1827. It chronicles the lives of the citizens who created Seabrook, developed it, and were laid to rest there, and includes founders, soldiers, statesmen, craftspeople and members of prominent families.

Three individual properties within the State Register-recognized Enfield Village Historic District have also been added to the State Register: the Francis H. Wells House, the Stickney House and a duplex on Route 4. The Enfield Village Historic District is an excellent example of a Connecticut River Valley village center. Its buildings date from 1800 through the 1970s and include municipal, commercial, religious and residential structures.

For more information about nominating a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, visit www.nh.gov/nhdhr.

National Register of Historic Places: 2011 round-up

Throughout the last year, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior honored a number of New Hampshire properties with listing to the National Register of Historic Places. Administered by the National Park Service and the Division of Historical Resources,

the National Register is the country's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is part of the National Park Service's overall program to coordinate and support efforts to identify and protect our historic and archaeological resources. In New Hampshire, close to 5000 resources are listed on the National Register.



Once two distinctly different cemeteries, **Blossom Hill/Calvary Cemetery** represents both the rich and famous of Concord's history as well as the city's immigrant working class. Blossom Hill is an excellent example of a 19th century park-like cemetery with mature trees, undulating landscapes, and gravestones and mausoleums that represent the final resting place for former senators, governors and Concord's upper-middle class. Calvary Cemetery was Concord's Catholic cemetery, the final resting place for the Irish, French and Italian immigrants who came to Concord to work in its factories; it includes fine examples of funerary art connected to the families of some of Concord's premier granite stone carvers.

Since its construction in 1910, the **Shedd-Porter Memorial Library** has been an impressive focal point in the "paper village" downtown district of Alstead. Designed by the McLean & Wright architectural firm in Boston, Mass., the neoclassical library is considered to be one of the most impressive library buildings in New Hampshire. Following a floor plan typical of other small library buildings of its time, the Shedd-Porter Library is constructed of choice materials and marked by unusually sophisticated detailing and fine workmanship.

The **Salem Common Historic District** is a well-preserved example of a traditional rural New Hampshire townscape, historically functioning as a local center of civic, religious, educational and community life for more than two hundred years. The earliest historical associations can be traced to the construction of the original meetinghouse in 1738; it subsequently saw major renovations in 1838 and 1899 and continued to serve as the site for annual town meetings until 1958. Along with the meetinghouse, the town library, hose house, cemetery, and common with memorials are listed as part of this district. This is the first National Register listing for the town of Salem.

Built in 1896, the **Pelham Library** building was constructed as a memorial to the town's veterans. The colonial revival building is a notable design by architect Frederick W. Stickney of the firm Stickney & Austin in Lowell, Mass.. Originally built as a library and meeting space for the town officers, the library is now home to the Pelham Historical Society. This is also the first National Register listing for the town of Pelham.

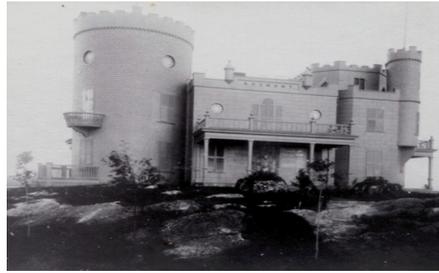
Built in 1939 as offices for the U.S. Forest Service to manage the White Mountain National Forest, the **Federal Building** in Laconia is an excellent example of a simplified classical architectural style under the Public Works Administration (PWA). Completed under the supervision of architect Louis A. Simon, the Federal Building served as offices for the U.S. Forest Service from 1940 until the early 21st century. The building is currently being sensitively rehabilitated by the non-profit Lakes Region Community Services (www.lrcs.org) as its future headquarters and offices.

Built in brick c.1825, the **Buckminster-Kingsbury Farm** in Roxbury is an excellent vernacular expression of the Federal and Greek Revival styles that evolved in New Hampshire and southern Maine. As an active and prosperous farm for most of its history, the property once sported 150 acres, a large apple orchard, a "Sugar Place,"

three barns with a piggery, carriage house, shop and cart shed. This is the first National Register listing for the town of Roxbury.

Summer 2012 archaeology programs: Moultonborough and Jefferson

In the summer of 2012 there will be two opportunities to participate in SCRAP (State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program) field schools. From June 4 through June 15, Division of Historical Resources archaeologist Tanya Krajcik will lead a two-week program on historical archaeology at the site of the **Roxmont Estate** on Long Island in Moultonborough (*courtesy photo*).



The first week of the Moultonborough program will be devoted to seminars on archaeology, landscape history and design, and historical research and documentation. During the second week students will gain field experience by participating in survey, mapping and excavation on the site. For more information, contact Tanya Krajcik at tanya.krajcik@dcr.nh.gov.

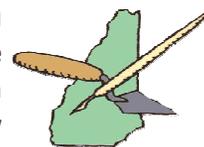
From June 25 through August 3, during three two-week sessions, State Archaeologist Dr. Richard A. Boisvert will oversee further investigations at the **Jefferson IV Paleoindian Site**. In Jefferson, participants in the field school will document the site with extensive excavations and place it in context with other Paleoindian sites in the immediate vicinity and the broader region. Hands-on instruction in the field will be supplemented by background readings, evening lectures by various affiliated scholars and field trips to nearby Paleoindian sites. Visit the SCRAP website at www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm.

Participants in either program may obtain academic credit through Plymouth State University. Contact Tamara Cocchiarella at tococchiarella@plymouth.edu or the College of Graduate Studies at imdazell@plymouth.edu.

Individuals may also participate as SCRAP volunteers. Volunteers will receive the same instruction as credit students. Successful completion of the fieldwork will earn SCRAP certification for Excavation Technician.

Reminder: April is New Hampshire Archaeology Month

New Hampshire Archaeology Month has migrated to April! You can kick off the celebration by attending the **New Hampshire Archeological Society spring meeting** on Saturday, March 31, in Merrimack. Other planned events include the **Conference on New England Archaeology** (Saturday, April 14, at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth) and a **Project Archaeology Teacher Workshop** on April 20 at Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish.



Check the web site of the New Hampshire Archeological Society at www.nhas.org for details about these and other archaeological activities.

Mooseplate Grants 2012



The 2012 Conservation License Plate / Moose Plate grant round is open until Friday, April 27, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Conservation License Plate Grant Program awards grants through this program for a maximum of \$10,000 for the preservation and restoration of publicly owned historical resources. If you have any questions about the Division's Conservation License Plate Grant Program or have a project idea whose eligibility you would like to discuss, please contact Deborah Gagne at: deborah.gagne@dcr.nh.gov.

Linda Wilson named Honorary Member, AIA-NH

The New Hampshire chapter of the American Institute of Architects named Linda Wilson an Honorary Member at the 2012 Annual Awards Banquet held on January 20 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester. This award is bestowed on non-architects who have given distinguished service to the profession of architecture within the state. Wilson was recognized for her outstanding work and dedication in steadfastly preserving, protecting and honoring the built environment of New Hampshire.

In making the presentation, John Merkle AIA stated: "Linda has acquired the respect and love of the architectural and preservation communities over her long career and we are pleased to commend her as a consummate preservation professional."

All Books Great and Small ... Recommendations from the DHR Staff

***The Economics of Historic Preservation*; Donovan D. Rypkema; Washington, DC: The National Trust Press, 1994.**

Mary Kate Ryan, State Survey Coordinator, recommends a book that makes a business case for historic preservation.

My favorite all-purpose book to explain to anyone why preservation is important is Donovan D. Rypkema's ***The Economics of Historic Preservation***. This book does what historians often don't -- it explains the practical reasons why reuse of historic buildings revitalizes the places we live. Most people have a soft spot for their hometown or college town, a sort of nostalgia, and they appreciate preservation on an emotional level; Rypkema explains why it makes economic sense, blending the emotion with facts and numbers.

This book is available at www.amazon.com.

Learn more about preservation programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [News and Events Page](#) of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, the [NH Preservation Alliance Events web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and the "history" section of nh365.org. Also visit PreservationDirectory.com, a national portal with links to a wide and expanding range of preservation events, sources and resources.

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