

The Old Stone Wall

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Results of NH's First State House Project

The Division of Historical Resources has announced the results of New Hampshire's First State House Project, which explored the value of this important historical artifact's possible best uses, including as a potential catalyst to heritage tourism.

New Hampshire's First State House was built in 1758 in Portsmouth as the seat of colonial government. The state capital later moved first to Exeter and then Concord. The former state house in Portsmouth was dismantled in 1836 and one-third of it was salvaged, sold, moved a few blocks, and converted into a townhouse.

In 1969 the State of New Hampshire re-purchased the building and moved it to Strawberry Banke Museum, hoping to restore it. In 1990, after two decades of delay and changes in the museum's mission, the structure was deconstructed and removed. An historic structures report was prepared and the historic elements of the building marked, placed into storage and moved to Concord.



18th & 19th century First State House elements

With the support of an Economic Development Initiative grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development,

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The DHR is a state service 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 US Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's First State House Project compiled and assessed extensive information about the condition and extent of the remaining elements, their interpretative potential, and the economic viability and potential benefit of various interpretation options. Both professional assessments and public comments - at in-person meetings and online - were taken into consideration.

The final recommendation is a phased, multi-component approach that uses the First State House to supplement and support historic sites and stories around the state. The first phase would be an exhibit installed within a large existing space, with the potential to use major framing members as a sculptural display alongside interpretive exhibit materials. The second phase would involve permanent exhibits in the State House Visitors Center in Concord and at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth, two existing state sites with direct ties to the history of the First State House. A website related to these exhibits as well as small traveling exhibits round out the proposed interpretation opportunities, extending the benefits of the project throughout and beyond New Hampshire.

Together, these components use New Hampshire's First State House to create greater opportunities for the public to enjoy and benefit from its history and values, with a strong potential to be economically viable. The exhibits and web presence could build interest in how the First State House played a role in New Hampshire's history, increase visitorship at existing state historical sites, strengthen relationships with related nearby sites, and build partnerships between state agencies in meeting stewardship responsibilities of state historic sites and collections.

To read the project's full final analysis and report, visit www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_house.htm at the end of September.

Traveling the roads at Castle in the Clouds

In the 1950s, Thomas and Olive Plant's estate "Lucknow" - today commonly known as "Castle in the Clouds" - opened for the first time for public tours. Then, as now, visitors were amazed at its stunning architecture, breathtaking views and one-of-a-kind location.

When it was completed in 1914, Plant's 6,300-acre estate stretched from the ridge of the Ossipee Mountain Range between the peaks of Mt. Roberts (~2800 feet) and Mt. Shaw (~3000 feet) down to two miles of shoreline along Lake Winnepesaukee. The main house, designed by the Boston architectural firm J. Williams Beal & Sons, sits approximately 750 feet above the lake, in a valley plateau between the two mountains; it has commanding views of the lake, the Belknap Mountain Range and parts of the White Mountains.

But Lucknow is far more than an impressive building in a beautiful setting. When it was complete, approximately 48 miles of single-lane roads and bridle paths - 15 miles of which were for equestrian use only - were overlaid on the landscape, connecting the house and grounds with natural features, including several peaks in the Ossipee Mountain Range. The Ridge Road, named for its location following three miles of the Ossipee Mountain Range's ridge, connected Mt. Shaw's and Mt. Roberts' summits. Using his Stanley Steamer "mountain car," which carried up to eight people, Plant, his family and their guests could travel a 20-mile loop from the house, visiting both peaks. A 60-foot observation tower on Mt. Shaw was complemented with towers on Mt. Roberts and four other summits located on the property.



Castle in the Clouds: 1925 sales brochure image

A 1917 article in "New Country Life" gives the best descriptions of the mountain road system. In it, Plant comments, "I thought of the magnificence of the view that must be possible from the mountain tops and I decided to build roads and trails up to them. And so I've done it." The article describes the road as "hard, permanent dirt ... winding from peak to peak, across the ridges, into the valleys, along the very edge of high, shear cliffs and through the dim quiet of deep ravines" and notes that "with the adroit cunning of inspired engineering the mountain sides have been interlaced

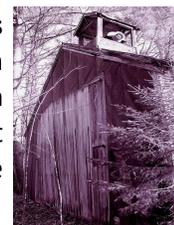
with ditches, drains, and culverts, which invisible to the casual observer, carry the rains and melting snows beside, beneath, and around the road beds, but never across them, thus effectively preventing the costly danger of washouts." Plant is described as very hands-on during the road-building process: "...with hatchet, and level, and chain, he and his workers would decide on a distant objective, then blaze their way to it, zigzagging up the steepest slopes, skirting ravines and swamps, curving around huge ledges that they could not remove or especially beautiful trees that they did not want to; striving for beauty and variety combined with a good roadway and moderate grades."

The Castle Preservation Society that owns and operates Lucknow as "Castle in the Clouds" is currently working with the Division of Historical Resources to explore listing the property as a National Historic Landmark, a distinction held by fewer than 2,500 historic places in the United States. For more information, visit: <http://castleinthecLOUDS.org/>

Six properties added to State Register

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

Built in 1901 to house the town's large road-grading equipment, **Freedom's Roller Shed** is an unusual and practical building. The equipment made travel in all seasons more possible for citizens - a boon in the early days of the twentieth century - and the shed provided year-round protection of this important investment. Part of a historic core of town buildings in Freedom village, the shed still serves as storage for the town.



The **Langdon Town Hall and Meeting House** was first used for town meeting in 1803 and has hosted all 209 town meetings since then. It took the town of Langdon 21 years - from its incorporation in 1787 until 1808 - to site and complete the building, which has also served as church and meeting house for civic affairs.



The **Jackson Road Railroad Trestle in Mason** was part of the Peterborough and Shirley Railroad line, which contributed to the town's prosperity in the mid-nineteenth century by opening new markets for agricultural products, denim and granite produced in town. The trestle is the only grade-separated crossing in Mason and was built to be tall enough to allow hay wagons to pass on the road underneath. It is now part of the town's rail trail.

Three more properties have also been added to the **Enfield Village Historic District**, which was recognized by the State Register in April 2011: Woodbury House, J.P. Washburn House and the North Enfield Universalist Meeting House, all on Main Street.

For more information about the New Hampshire State Register, visit: www.nh.gov/nhdhr

Summer 2012 archaeology program: Jefferson IV Paleoindian Site



Fluted point: Rhyolite, approx. 1.75"

From June 25 through August 3, during three two-week sessions, State Archaeologist Dr. Richard A. Boisvert oversaw further investigations at the Jefferson IV Paleoindian Site. Participants in the field school were documenting this location to place it in context with other Paleoindian sites. Hands-on instruction in the field was supplemented by background readings, evening lectures by various affiliated scholars and field trips to other nearby Paleoindian sites.

More than 60 students and volunteers from as far away as Michigan participated in the field school, completing excavations at two encampments occupied approximately 12,000 years ago. One of the significant findings was the recovery of chipping debris made from stone brought 185 miles from northern Maine and 400 miles from eastern Pennsylvania, indicating the presence of long distance exchange networks. Other found artifacts included fluted spear

points, scrapers and knives.

Seeking New Hampshire Mid-Century Modern architecture



Library at Phillips Exeter Academy

Do you have a favorite commercial or public building constructed during the last 70 years? The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is working with the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security to identify key architects and their buildings from this era.

Lisa Mausolf of LM Preservation is working with these agencies to develop a list of New Hampshire buildings constructed between 1945 and 1970. She is also interested in learning about architects who were working in New Hampshire during this time period.

Mausolf will incorporate the information into a historic context document on Mid-Century Architecture in New Hampshire; her findings will be presented at a public forum to be held in late fall, 2012.

Please send your suggestions to: lisa@lmpreservation.com

New Hampshire State Historical Resources Council summer meeting

The New Hampshire State Historical Resources Council (SHRC), whose duties include reviewing and approving nominations to the State and National Registers of Historic Places, meets quarterly. The summer meeting usually includes site visits to nominated or listed properties.



SHRC tours residential unit at Newmarket Mills

On July 30th, the SHRC visited the Smith Chapel in Durham, which is in the process of being nominated to the National Register, and the library at Philips Exeter Academy in Exeter, which was designed by renowned modernist architect Louis Kahn.

The business meeting took place in Newmarket at the former Newmarket Manufacturing Company mills, which is being renovated by Eric Chinberg utilizing federal preservation tax credits. The extensive stone and brick mill complex, a landmark in downtown Newmarket, is also listed on the National

Register of Historic Places.

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

***The Archeology of New Hampshire*; David R. Starbuck; Durham, New Hampshire, University of New Hampshire Press, 2006.**

Dr. Richard A. Boisvert, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and State Archaeologist, recommends a book that serves as a primer on the study of archaeology in New Hampshire.

This book provides an introduction to archaeology in New Hampshire for the general public. It incorporates abundant illustrations and coverage for all time periods beginning with the first people to live here more than 10,000 years ago and includes historic, industrial and underwater archaeology. Dr. Starbuck teaches at Plymouth State University and is the Vice Chair of the State Historical Resources Council.

The Archeology of New Hampshire is available at many local bookstores and 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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