

The Old Stone Wall

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Vol 6, Issue 4 2014

Join Our Mailing List!



**NH Division of
Historical Resources**

Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Director and State Historic
Preservation Officer

Laura S. Black

Special Projects and Compliance
Specialist

Richard A. Boisvert

State Archaeologist and
Deputy State Historic Preservation
Officer

Amy Dixon

Grants Coordinator

Edna M. Feighner

Historical Archaeologist and
Review & Compliance Coordinator

Deborah J. Gagne

Grants Coordinator

Tanya E. Krajcik

Archaeologist, Records Coordinator
and Project Archaeology

Peter Michaud

National Register, Preservation Tax
Incentives & Covenants Coordinator

Nadine Miller Peterson

Preservation Project Reviewer

Mary Kate Ryan

State Survey Coordinator,
NH State Register

Christina St. Louis

Program Specialist for Review &
Compliance

Donna Thompson

Program Specialist

**State Historical Resources
Council**

David R. Starbuck, Plymouth, Chair

Carolyn Baldwin, Gilmanton, Vice
Chair

Molly Bolster, Portsmouth

Nancy C. Dutton, Wilmet

IN THIS ISSUE

Margaret Pillsbury Hospital Annex added to the New
Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

Honoring David Wright through preservation

When bridges fly

12,000-year-old bear residue found on NH blade

Bartlett-Cushman House added to the National Register
of Historic Places

DHR grants update

Happy New Year!

Learn more about preservation programs

**Margaret Pillsbury Hospital Annex added to the
New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places**



James L. Garvin, Pembroke
Tim Sappington, Randolph
Carl W. Schmidt, Orford
Robert Stephenson, Jaffrey
Linda Willett, Nashua

Ex Officio
Governor Maggie Hassan
Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Department of Cultural
Resources

Van McLeod
Commissioner

Shelly Angers
Public Information Officer

The DHR is a state resource 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.

Margaret Pillsbury Hospital Annex

The newest property added to the **New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places** is the Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital Annex at 19 Pillsbury Street in Concord. If the address sounds familiar, that's because it's our office! The DHR has been working here since the last century (the 1990's), and we were joined by other divisions of the Department of Cultural Resources in 2010: the State Council on the Arts, Curatorial Services, and the Office of Film and Television.

The Annex was built in 1927 and is the last remaining building of the Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital complex, which opened in 1891 as Concord's first building constructed solely for use as a hospital. The Annex's two stories of rooms provided individual patient rooms instead of old-fashioned wards, serving the general patient population on the ground floor and pregnant women, new mothers and "new citizens" in the second floor maternity ward. After its life as a hospital annex, the building served as offices for the first medical group practice in New Hampshire. Because of these two uses, many people have memories associated with the building - being born here (our commissioner!), giving birth here, or visiting the doctors here when it was Concord Clinic Inc. Since the 1970s, it has served as a state office building.

The State Register nomination comes out of the DHR's spring 2014 "Dig Days" event to celebrate both Archaeology Month (April) and Preservation Month (May). For two days, NHDHR staff and visitors excavated the foundation of the two-story connector that once tied the Annex to the main hospital building.

(See our summer e-newsletter, **Volume 6, Issue 2, 2014** more details on Dig Days.) Research done to facilitate the event, including extensive research about the building's history, became the basis for the State Register nomination.

Like the citizen-driven nominations that fuel the State Register program as a whole, the nomination of the Annex resulted in a greater appreciation and

understanding of it by those of us who work in it every day. The wide doorways that once accommodated hospital gurneys now provide an open-office feel. The rear sunrooms, originally built to supply patients with fresh air and sunshine, now provide two offices and a light-filled lunch room. The sturdy brick and hollow clay tile structure of building that has outlived its original purpose as a hospital is versatile enough to reaffirm the sustainability of adaptively reusing many historic buildings.

The Annex joins 298 properties in 118 communities across New Hampshire already listed on the State Register. Like the Annex, the majority of the listed properties were nominated by their owners or by local citizens interested in preserving community landmarks; properties are listed only with owner consent, and listing comes with no restrictions. The State Register program was designed to maximize citizen participation in the nomination process. The research and analysis needed to create a nomination require no special skills, but rather a dedication to learning about the property being nominated. A full understanding of why a property is significant and how that history is expressed by the building, structure or site is an important part of the nomination -- one that can inform all subsequent preservation efforts.

Owners of listed properties may also purchase a plaque to mark their listed properties and raise awareness of their importance. Properties owned by a non-profit or by a public agency may also qualify for grant funding for rehabilitation work. Preservation grant programs that use eligibility for the State Register as a pre-qualifier for application include the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, Moose Plate (Conservation License Plate) and New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

Raising awareness about significant properties can be a way to garner greater community support for their preservation. The State Register has proven to be an excellent tool for doing so. If you are interested in learning more about the State Register program, please visit the NHDHR website or contact [Mary Kate Ryan](#) at 603-271-6435.

Honoring David Wright through preservation

The cause of covered bridge preservation lost a strong advocate with the death of David Warren Wright (1940-2013) of Westminster, VT last year. Wright was nationally recognized as an unyielding advocate for the preservation of covered bridges using traditional methods and materials. Prior to his death, he served as president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges for twenty-four years, following two years as a member of the Board of Directors.

As president of the Society, Wright became involved with most covered bridge projects in the eastern United States, including many in New Hampshire. In 1984, he began the campaign to repair the weakened Cornish-Windsor Covered

Bridge, built in 1866. In 2010, he negotiated a partnership between the Society, the National Park Service and Case Western Reserve University to rehabilitate a rare Howe pony truss railroad bridge in Gorham that was nearly destroyed by arson in 2004. The bridge was removed, rehabilitated and reassembled in Ohio for structural testing and classroom instruction at Case Western Reserve. Just prior to his death, Wright became deeply concerned about a comparable Howe truss bridge further east on the same rail trail in Randolph; its failing stone abutments threatened it with destruction.

Over the last year, the Society and other preservation groups have honored Wright's memory by making progress on several preservation projects that were dear to him. In the fall of 2014, the Gorham pony truss bridge was returned to Gorham from Ohio; it will be re-erected and interpreted in partnership with the Gorham Historical Society in 2015. This month, the Bureau of Trails and the Bureau of Historic Sites in the Department of Resources and Economic Development successfully lifted the endangered Randolph truss from its failing abutment; following repairs, it will be reset on its original site. *(For more on the Randolph bridge project, see the photo and video below.)*

David's passion will live on in these projects and more as the Society and others continue the work of caring for New Hampshire's beloved covered bridges.

When bridges fly



The Randolph bridge mid-move

It's not every day that a bridge hovers mid-air. On a cold December day, crews from Northern New England Field Services of Stewartstown lifted the Howe pony

truss over Snyder Brook on the Presidential Recreational Rail Trail off its abutments and moved it to a safe resting spot in preparation for repairs to the bridge's failing abutments. The Bureau of Trails and the Bureau of Historic Sites at the Department of Resources and Economic Development are managing the project in Randolph, with assistance from the DHR and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. Click on the photo above for a short video on the big move. In the foreground, [Laura Black](#) of the DHR captures the moment on camera.

12,000-year-old bear residue found on NH blade

In September and October 2013, DHR staff and [NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program \(SCRAP\)](#) volunteers devoted more than 1,800 hours of work toward rescue archaeology efforts at the Jefferson VI Paleoindian site in Jefferson. A wealth of new data, including diagnostic fluted projectile points, abundant flaking debris, scrapers, knives and diminutive boring tools - known as graters - were recovered.



The front and back sides of each Paleoindian tool analyzed for protein

In the final days of excavation a number of tools were found in the deeper levels of the site and recovered without direct contact with the excavators' skin. One was a distinctive tan blade made from the local rhyolite; the other was a well-made triangular end scraper made of a black chert from a source at least 200

miles away. These artifacts represented an opportunity to explore an unusual avenue of research, analysis of potential protein residue on the surfaces of tools.

Although the effects of the harsh climate and acidic soils in the Northeast have left very few bones of animals hunted by Paleoindians 12,000 years ago, animal and plant proteins have been shown to survive on the working edges of stone tools for many millennia. In 2000, a pair of artifacts - a projectile point and a large heavily worn butchering tool fragment - were similarly found at the Jefferson IV site, only 500 feet from Jefferson VI. These artifacts were analyzed by the PaleoResearch Institute of Golden, CO. The point yielded no protein, but the fragment retained cervid protein, indicating that the original tool was used on a deer, moose, elk or, most likely, a caribou. Based on this success, the decision was made to perform the same analysis on the pair of tools from Jefferson VI.

The black chert scraper did not retain any proteins; however, the protein analysis for the rhyolite blade revealed the presence of black bear protein. This find indicates that bear was processed for meat or hides by Paleoindians in Jefferson. Although we know that black bear were common in the late Age Ice, this is the first find to show that Paleoindians in New England were using black bear meat or furs; to date, the closest bear protein finds have been in eastern Quebec.

The ability to recover protein from the working edges of tools contributes an important dimension to our research into the diet and lifeways of these earliest inhabitants of New Hampshire. Adding bear to the faunal inventory is a significant and unique discovery for New Hampshire and the Northeast.

Bartlett-Cushman House added to the National Register of Historic Places

The DHR is proud to announce that the **Bartlett-Cushman House** in **Stratham** has been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The building is significant both for its architecture and its social history.

Built in 1827, the Bartlett-Cushman House is an excellent example of a Federal-style hip-roofed house. It retains distinctive original details, including a semi-elliptical louvered fan above the front entrance. In the mid-19th century, several Italianate features were added. Unusual for a property of its age, the building's original February 1827 construction contract between Josiah Bartlett II and the builder, Joshua Pike of Exeter, still exists and details the original building plans.

The property's social significance is also important. While it has had a series of owners, two families, the Bartletts (1827-1892) and the Cushmans (1913-2013), raised generations of families in the house, each under different circumstances that reflected their times.

In a community dominated by farming, the Bartletts were well-respected and

well-educated physicians; both Josiah Bartlett II and his nephew, Josiah Bartlett III, practiced medicine in the home. The family's well-known patriarch, Josiah Bartlett of Kingston, was a member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In the early 20th century, prosperous Stratham farmer Otis French purchased the property for his married daughters, Susie Cushman and Bessie Robinson, who used it as a two-family dwelling, sharing the kitchen. Unlike the socially prominent Bartletts, the Cushmans and Robinsons were working class, holding jobs like private chauffeur and carpenter.

Administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archaeological resources.

For more information on the National Register program in New Hampshire, please visit http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/national_register.html or contact [Peter Michaud](#) at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources at 603-271-3483.

DHR grants updates

December 10, 2014 marked the closing deadline for the DHR's first round of storm recovery grants for historic properties that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. The next grant round is scheduled to open this Spring; it will fund repairs for damages caused by Superstorm Sandy, as well as initiatives to prepare historical properties for future disasters, including community- and property-specific disaster planning, updating historical surveys, National Register nominations, archaeological site stabilization, and educational programming and training.

For more information about the Storm Recovery and Disaster Planning Grants, please contact Grants Coordinator [Amy Dixon](#) at amy.dixon@dcr.nh.gov or 603-271-3558.

The Department of Cultural Resources 2015 Conservation License Plate/Moose Plate Grant round will be opening soon. Cities and towns from across New Hampshire may apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 in Moose Plate funding to address the preservation needs of their publicly- owned historic buildings.

This year, DCR is asking applicants to submit a Letter of Intent prior to submitting a grant application. This letter will help potential applicants know whether their project ideas meet the grant criteria before they put a lot of work into an application. This will also help to confirm which of the three granting divisions of

the Department of Cultural Resources is the best fit for the project, prior to the application phase. Letters of Intent are due March 27, 2014; grant applications are due April 24, 2015.

The Division of Historical Resources Moose Plate Grant Program awarded six grants in 2014. Awardees were Gregg Free/Wilton Public Library, Wilton; Meriden Town Hall, Plainfield; Allenstown Town Library, Allenstown; Old Meeting House, Frankestown; Searles School and Chapel, Windham; and Old Town Hall, Hooksett.

Look for more details on this popular program later in January at www.nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose. For more information on Moose Plate grant funding, contact Grants Coordinator **Deb Gagne** at deborah.gagne@dcr.nh.gov or 603-271-3559.

Happy New Year!



Best preservation wishes for 2015 from the DHR!

Front row: Edna Feighner, Nadine Peterson, Laura Black, Chris St.Louis and Deb Gagne.

Back row: Amy Dixon, Tanya Krajcik, Dick Boisvert, Donna Thompson, Peter Michaud, Beth Muzzey and Mary Kate Ryan.

Learn more about preservation programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [News and Events](#) web page of the NH 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.

This newsletter has been financed in part with a federal Historic Preservation Fund matching grant from the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources/State Historic Preservation Office. However, its contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. 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.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to donna.thompson@dcr.nh.gov by donna.thompson@dcr.nh.gov | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources | 19 Pillsbury Street | Concord | NH | 03301