The Old Stone Wall

Volume XV, Number 1

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Historical Resources

Fall 2007

PSU Announces Certificate in Historic Preservation

Plymouth State University's College of Graduate Studies has approved a four-course graduate certificate in historic preservation. The certificate may be pursued on its own or as part of the university's Master of Education in Heritage Studies.

In keeping with PSU's geographical location and its commitment to special service for New Hampshire's northern areas, the certificate will focus on rural aspects of historic preservation. Courses will emphasize the cultural environment of rural areas, including architectural forms and landscapes.

Plymouth State UNIVERSITY

The program will seek to instill a fundamental understanding of preservation issues and challenges, to provide basic skills for those who may want to pursue careers or further education in historic preservation, and to offer training in leadership and stewardship for those who work for community preservation organizations or government agencies and commissions.

The Division of Historical Resources has worked for the past seven years with several staff, faculty, and trustees of the University System of New Hampshire to encourage the establishment of preservation courses within the system. At the invitation of USNH chancellor Stephen J. Reno, Commissioner Van McLeod and architectural historian James Garvin presented the case for preservation studies to the University System Academic Planning Council in January 2006. At that meeting, Commissioner McLeod emphasized the fact that the Department of Cultural Resources and other state agencies are seeking ways to forge closer bonds with the University System for mutual benefit.

In that spirit, the Division of Historical Resources has worked closely with the program coordinator, Professor Stacey Yap of Plymouth's Social Science Department, in developing course content and syllabi.

Responding to the need for such a program in New Hampshire, architectural historian Garvin said, "No state in the country more richly deserves a historic preservation program than New Hampshire, and no state needs such a program more urgently. We have an unparalleled richness of historical resources spread across our state from the seacoast to the Canadian border, and these resources cry out for well-trained stewardship. As one of the fastest growing states east of the Mississippi, New Hampshire is facing immense pressures of change and development. We desperately need a citizenry who understand our past and are trained to be good keepers of this legacy. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is committed to working with Plymouth State

(continued on page eight)

DHR Grants in Action

The 2007 Conservation License Plate Grants Program is an overwhelming success. There were 31 grant applications reviewed by the DHR in early June, 2007. Unfortunately, there is more need than there is

(continued on page eight)

Editor's Note: Where's Summer?

Hoping for more warm days before snow flies, we ask, where did summer go? This year, the question is not only about the weather, but the newsletter as well. Alert readers may note that the previous issue of The Old Stone Wall (XIV:4) was for Spring 2007, but this one (XV:1) is the Fall edition. Perhaps we should call it the Indian Summer issue. Meanwhile, we're collecting stories for the Winter newsletter; and you may read all of the newsletters published since 2003 online, at any time, at http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/newsletters.html, or click the "publications" tab on our home page, http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/.

HIGHLIGHTS

NEW! HP GRAD PROGRAM AT PSU 1
DHR GRANTS 1
WHERE DID SUMMER GO? 1
RECENT NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS 2
MULTI-TASKING MOOSE PLATES..... 2
NH DOT CULVERT SURVEY 3
RECENT STATE REGISTER LISTINGS 4
SCRAP VIEWS 6
HDC COMMISSIONS CORNER 7
• HDCS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION
• PRESERVATION E-MAIL NETWORKS

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Department of Cultural Resources

Van McLeod
Commissioner

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. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

Recent National Register Listings

Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford NH. Listed June 12, 2007. *(Photograph by Lisa Mausolf)*

Bedford Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1832 to replace an earlier Presbyterian meetinghouse (c1755) that its congregation had outgrown. Nearly all of Bedford's early settlers were of Scotch-Irish descent and members of the Presbyterian denomination. In addition to its importance as the center of community life for much of the town's history, the church is significant for its architecture. It incorporates design characteristics of the Federal style, dating from its initial construction, harmoniously combined with the Colonial Revival Ionic portico added in 1894.

Temple Town Hall, Temple NH. Listed June 12, 2007. *(Photograph by James L. Garvin)*

Temple Town Hall was first constructed in 1842 to serve the local Universalist congregation when the meeting house they had shared with the Congregationalists was abandoned by both sects. In 1875 the newly formed Miller Grange purchased the property. Shortly thereafter the building was expanded with a rear addition to accommodate a stage. By 1889 the grange had lost members to the degree that the building was sold to the town for use as a town hall, a use that continues to this day, although town meetings have not been held here since 1990.

Wakefield Town Hall and Opera House, Wakefield NH. Listed June 12, 2007. *(Photograph by Lynne Emerson Monroe)*

Built in 1895 to serve as the primary civic and cultural meeting place for the town of Wakefield, the Town Hall and Opera House is currently the focus of a multi-year rehabilitation and revitalization project. This impressive Romanesque-style building is prominently sited at the corner of High and Meadow (Route 109) streets in the village of Sanbornville. Characteristic of its type, the building accommodated town offices and the jail, an auditorium for meetings and performances, and first floor commercial spaces. Wakefield Town Hall and Opera House was designed by renowned architect Alvah Thurston Ramsdell of Dover, who designed four comparable town halls between 1893 and 1908.

Christine Fonda Rankie
National Register and Tax Incentives Coordinator

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Mobilize your own at
http://www.mooseplate.com

The NH DOT Bureau of Environment Surveys Stone Culverts

NH DOT file photo

The major flood events over the last two years damaged many small stone culverts in southwest and south central New Hampshire. These stone culverts serve as links in the drainage systems along the state's highway systems and are significant assets to the State of New Hampshire. As the state and towns began to repair these culverts, it became apparent that some of the ones over fifty years old were "historic" and the intact ones might be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Because these historic stone culverts have never received a systematic survey, their numbers, their different designs, and their manner of construction as well as the number of intact examples are unknown. In the recent past, the need to improve roads and drainage has resulted in a significant loss of this poorly known resource. Given the level of flood damage across the state, it became important to understand the answers to these questions and determine which culverts were eligible and, if possible, could be repaired in-kind to accommodate the current hydrology.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will soon receive FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding and Federal Highway Administration/NHDOT State Planning and Research monies to complete a statewide, three-phased study on stone culverts, to better understand this resource. The first phase was financed by the NHDOT and the NH Division of Historical Resources and conducted this summer with the help of two interns, Ashley Bushey from the University of Vermont and Sarah Ganley from Smith College. This phase completed the fieldwork part of the study. Phase 2 will begin this fall. It will include an evaluation of the culverts' historic significance, to establish what exactly makes a stone culvert eligible for the National Register. The Department's consulting architectural historians will complete this phase. The third phase of study, also beginning later this fall, will use the expertise of an engineer to determine common reasons for failure and to devise best practices for repair of culverts eligible for the National Register. Such practices would maintain the historic integrity of the structure.

During this summer's survey of stone culverts, which started in the flood-damaged southern towns but eventually extended across eight of New Hampshire's ten counties, the interns identified over one hundred historic stone culverts. Preparation for the field component of the 2007 NH DOT Stone Culvert Survey began with collection of locations for potentially historic stone culverts. Identification of their locations came from many helpful sources ranging from the NH Division of Historical Resources Survey files, responses to an e-mail query sent out to state offices and road agents and local historians, a culvert survey conducted by The Nature Conservancy on the Ashuelot River, the NHDOT bridge data base, and a NHDOT water quality study conducted in the southern section of the state.

NH DOT file photo

Before beginning actual fieldwork, the interns dedicated a significant amount of office time to data organization. Since culverts are small structures seemingly hiding under the roadway, they are difficult to locate in the field. All available information was organized by culvert: mapping information including, when available, the exact location via GIS; any existing photographs of each culvert; and descriptive information provided by the contact. The interns organized the data by town and county, surveying one county at a time. In the field, the 100 and more culverts were mapped, described, measured, photographed, and sketched.

The study was intended to address some basic questions. What were the different ways stone culverts were constructed through time and what different forms did they take? Were there reasons for these variations? The study included examples with a broad range of integrity or intactness. Culverts with some new material, cement mortar, bypass culverts, extended culverts, and culverts with inserted pipes were included in the study. Culverts showing damage from natural processes were not excluded. The goal of the fieldwork was not to survey only pristine examples. Rather, the goal was to understand the different levels of integrity that now exist and to understand how these stone structures fare under flood conditions. How much alteration can occur before a historic stone culvert is no longer eligible for the National Register?

The Bureau of Environment sincerely thanks the many participants who provided stone culvert locations. It is looking forward to the evaluative and engineering studies that will take place during late 2007 and into 2008. This study is ongoing, and when additional research is collected and analyzed, it will be shared with local road agents and other interested groups via an online pamphlet, and in other venues.

Nadine Miller Peterson
NH DOT Bureau of Environment
(now the new DHR Preservation Planner)

New Listings to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

Twelve historical properties have been listed to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places during 2007. Listing provides public recognition that a historic property is an important resource in a community. Other benefits include a complimentary one-year membership to the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, special consideration in the application of some access, building and safety codes, and qualification for many types of grant programs for preservation projects (as funding is available). All photographs are from DHR files.

Smyth Library, High Street, Candia: Although a public library had operated out of several buildings since the 1880s, the Smyth Library was the first purpose-built library building in Candia. Marion C. Smith donated it to the town in 1934 in honor of her late husband, Frederick Smyth. A native of Candia, Smyth was a successful businessman and politician. Under his leadership as governor, the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanics was established in 1866; it later became the University of New Hampshire in Durham. The Smyth Library bears a striking resemblance to the Taylor Library in East Derry and may have been designed by the same architect.

Thomas Ayres Homestead, Park Avenue, Greenland: The earliest sections of the Thomas Ayres Homestead were built circa 1737 on the old post road between Boston and Portland, Maine. The house and property have expanded since, creating an imposing landmark on the town green in Greenland. In the late 1800s, the Ayres Homestead served as a summer boarding house, called Elm Shade, offering city dwellers a quiet rural vacation for $1 a day. Its owners continue that historic use today, operating a bed & breakfast.

Haverhill Lime Kilns, off Limekiln Road, Haverhill: Two stone lime kilns stand off the Chippewa Trail near Black Mountain in Haverhill, well-preserved survivors of an important 19th century industry. Mined limestone, rare in New Hampshire, was heated in the kilns until it turned into powdered lime, which was then packed in barrels and shipped throughout New England for use in agriculture, as mortar, and in a wide variety of other products. Built in 1838 and 1842, the kilns operated successfully for approximately 50 years, aided by the close proximity of acres of woodland for fuel and the Concord, Boston & Montreal Railroad for transport. The Civilian Conservation Corps and other government work programs occupied the site in the Depression, repairing one of the kilns in 1940-41. Today the Haverhill Heritage Commission is working with the property owners to keep the kiln site cleared and open for public access.

Holman & Merriman Machine Shop, Canal Street, Hinsdale: The clerestory roofline of the brick Holman & Merriman Machine Shop is a landmark in Hinsdale Village. Built in 1837 as a cooperage and pail factory, the mill was home to the Holman & Merriman Machine Shop from 1865 to the 1920s. In 1875, a shop apprentice, George Long, produced the world's first self-propelled vehicle, now on display at the Smithsonian Museum. Although once part of a complex of industrial buildings and shops along the Ashuelot River and canal in Hinsdale, the Holman & Merriman Machine Shop today is one of the few physical reminders of the village's 19th century industrial prominence.

(continued on page five)

New Listings to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

(continued from page four)

Littleton Community House and Annex, Main Street, Littleton: The Community House has served as a center for social activities and services for close to 100 years in downtown Littleton. Since the center's opening in 1919, more than two million people have visited and worked together there. Built in 1884 as the residence of a lumber baron, the Queen Anne style house is asymmetrical in plan and form and incorporates a variety of materials and projections. The well-preserved and ornate interior features and finishes are illustrative of late 19th century/early 20th century styles and tastes.

Simonds Rock, off Al Paul Lane, Merrimack: Simonds Rock is an unusual resource on the New Hampshire State Register. Credited by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as being the second largest glacial boulder reported in New Hampshire, Simonds Rock measures about 50 feet long, more than 30 feet high and more than 25 feet wide. Only the Madison Boulder is larger. Given the rock's composition of Massabesic Gneiss, the USGS estimates that it was carried to its current location by a glacier from a site about five miles to the northwest. Simonds Rock derives its historical importance as a landmark for land surveyors and travelers along Pennichuck Brook and the Merrimack River for hundreds of years. It has also provided legendary inspiration for writers and storytellers through time. Today Simonds Rock is owned by the Southwood Corporation, a company of the Pennichuck Corporation.

New Castle Congregational Church, Main Street, New Castle: The New Castle Congregational Church is the only ecclesiastical building in this small town and has served as a focus of community life since it was built in 1828. Research shows that the master builder, Thomas F. Foye, and the finish carpenter, Andrew B. Vennard, drew inspiration for its construction from the design books of architect Asher Benjamin and the appearance of St. John's Church, located upriver in Portsmouth. Today, both the exterior and interior of the church remain largely unaltered, well-cared for by the congregation for close to 200 years.

Odiorne Homestead, Ocean Boulevard, Rye: An estuarine farm since the 1600s, the Odiorne Homestead illustrates some of the most significant aspects of New Hampshire history: use by American Indians, the first European settlement in the state, tidewater farming, and coastal defense during World War II. Buildings and landscape features on the farm today include a c.1800 farmhouse, a barn and greenhouse, an ancient well and cemetery, old roads, salt marsh, stone walls, a World War II era storage building for TNT, and acres of re-forested farmland. The property serves as the southeast headquarters for the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Temple Town Hall, off Route 45, Temple: A landmark in the historic village of Temple, this Greek Revival style building was constructed in 1842 to serve a local Universalist congregation. After the congregation's membership dwindled, the Miller Grange took over the building in 1875 and added a stage. The town purchased the building in 1889 for use as a town hall, although the grange continued to meet there. Although the town offices are now located in another building, the Temple Town Hall is currently under repair and will continue to serve as a community meeting and gathering space.

(continued on page six)

New Listings to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

(continued from page four)

Shedd Free Library, North Main Street, Washington: Constructed in 1881, the Shedd Free Library stands as an extremely well-preserved example of an eclectic style, with Renaissance Revival and Eastlake influences, as applied to civic architecture. The library is significant for its prominence within the village center, as well as for its long-standing contributions to education and civic life in Washington. Its architect, Shephard S. Woodcock of Boston, also designed the Grace United Methodist Church in Keene and the Sanborn Seminary in Kingston.

Corner School, River and Poocham Roads, Westmoreland: The earliest section of the Corner School may date to 1789; it now serves as a wing to the new and improved school, built in the Greek Revival style in 1846. Westmoreland students attended this one-room schoolhouse until the 1950s; its blackboards and bookshelves are still in place. This state designation adds to the property's listing to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Governor Wentworth State Historic Site, Wentworth Farm Road, Wolfeboro: In 1768, New Hampshire's last royal governor, Governor John Wentworth of Portsmouth, began clearing a 6000-acre site in Wolfeboro for a summer estate. From Wentworth's inventory records we know that a large salaried labor force built a mansion, scores of outbuildings, a game reserve, mills and a landing on Lake Wentworth. Wentworth fled New Hampshire on the eve of the Revolution, and his estate was seized and later sold at auction. The mansion house burned in 1820. In 1933, historian Lawrence Shaw Mayo gave the core of the estate – 96 acres – to the state. Today, the town of Wolfeboro prides itself on being the oldest summer resort in America, and the Department of Resources and Economic Development and the Friends of the Governor Wentworth State Historic Site care for the property.

The New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places recognizes and honors properties that are meaningful in the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or traditions of New Hampshire's residents and communities. For more information on the benefits of listing a property on the State Register and the application process, visit the Division of Historical Resources' web site, http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/, or contact the office at 19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301, 603-271-3483.

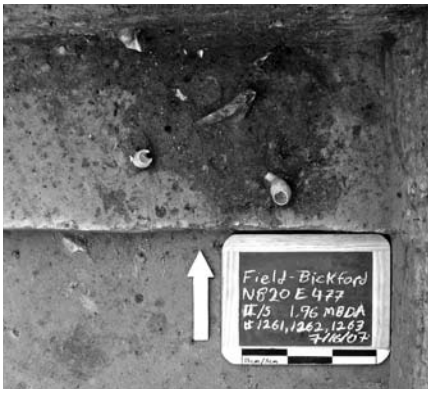
Elizabeth H. Muzzey,
State Survey Coordinator
(now the new DHR Director/SHPO)

SCRAP VIEWS

The 2007 SCRAP (State Conservation & Rescue Archaeology Program) summer field schools focused on historical archaeology (a first). One was at the Daniel Webster Farm in West Franklin, recently protected by agricultural, conservation, and preservation easements. The other field school was at the Field-Bickford Site in Durham. Richard Boisvert, State Archaeologist, and six SCRAP volunteers also traveled to Lac Megantic, Quebec, in July 2007 as part of the ongoing *Sans Frontières*/Open Borders cultural exchange program.

All photos are by Richard A. Boisvert.

Each year a special T-shirt is created for the SCRAP field schools. This year's design by State Archaeologist Richard Boisvert for the Webster Farm site featured a wreath of poison ivy-an occupational hazard of archaeology in general, and at the Webster Farm in particular.



Feature with pottery and tobacco pipes from the Field-Bickford Site.

(continued on page eight)

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS CORNER

Historic District Commissions and Public Education

Public education and outreach is one of a Historic District Commission's most important – and often most neglected – jobs. In order to foster a positive public perception of historic preservation within the community, a commission must go beyond its regulatory role and conduct broad community outreach. The benefits of doing so are numerous and long-lasting. The better informed the public is about the commission's work and its importance, the better they will understand and the more supportive they will be. The more aware people are of their community's history, the greater appreciation they will have of it and its preservation. The greater the public outreach, the greater the public confidence in the expertise of the commission. The greater a commission's public support, the greater its political support will be. Educating the public can be a challenge, but not an insurmountable one. The effort must be proactive, and commission members must be willing to commit to more than just attending monthly meetings. Lack of time, personnel, and ideas can all stand in the way, but with a little effort, these challenges can be overcome. The following tips will help your Historic District Commission to become more than just a design review board.

- **Attend annual training events.** Before commissioners begin to consider educating their community and public officials, they must first educate themselves. In addition, all commissioners should be good spokespersons for preservation and be able to defend and make the case for historic preservation. Annual training can help commissioners stay apprised of new preservation methods and issues, and maintain their knowledge and expertise. Look for programs sponsored by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, and National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.
- **Build a good relationship with the realtors in your community.** Many realtors don't know or understand what local designation means or how it works, and some might have the perception that it makes a property less attractive to prospective buyers. Pay them a friendly visit or invite them to a commission meeting, and inform them of the benefits of being in a historic district. Give them a map showing the district boundaries and any regulations or design guidelines that apply.
- **Consider signage for the historic district.** A few attractive signs at the entrances to the district can let people know they are not in just any neighborhood. It can also help deter violations within the district.
- **Welcome newcomers** with a letter from the commission, and make sure they know where to go for copies of historic district maps, regulations, design guidelines, and applications.
- **Be a visible part of local government.** Attend town or city council or selectmen's meetings and keep informed on all of the issues and projects undertaken by the community. Testify at meetings and public hearings on the importance of integrating preservation into larger community planning and zoning issues.
- **Consider a preservation workshop series.** Host local or regional talks on various preservation issues, and invite experts to present. Consider partnering with a Main Street organization, chamber of commerce, or local businesses (such as the local hardware store).
- **Host guided walking tours** of the historic district, or create a self-guided walking tour brochure.
- **Make sure technical assistance is available and accessible.** Prepare contractor lists and fact sheets for where to find recommended materials, and make them available online and at the building permit counter.
- **Create a website for the commission.** Include the ordinance, regulations, rules of procedure, design guide lines, applications and instructions, calendar of meetings, minutes from previous meetings, and educational materials.
- **Do an annual report.** This is a necessary part of educating elected officials about the work of the preservation commission. This is also an opportunity to give the elected officials credit for the accomplishments of the commission.
- **Make a slide show or PowerPoint presentation of positive projects** that have been successfully completed in the district, and emphasize the commission's role. Present the slide show to other land use boards and elected officials, and make it available to the public and local media.
- **Recognize good preservation work** in the community – both large and small. Start an awards program with the local non-profit preservation organization, or join one already in place.

Emily Paulus

Emily inaugurated the Historic District Commissions Corner while she was at the DHR. Although now working in Frederick, Maryland, she remains an essential member of the DHR team.

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S TWO HISTORIC PRESERVATION E-MAIL NETWORKS

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the DHR share a free e-mail network for news and messages. Anyone may join. To respect the privacy of list members, messages are sent as a "blind" or "undisclosed recipient" copy. To subscribe, send an e-mail to linda.wilson@dcr.nh.gov.

With the assistance of Plymouth State University, the DHR also has a free e-mail forum (or listserv) for heritage and historic district commission members in New Hampshire. The more people who join and exchange questions, suggestions, and views online, the more we can learn from each other. Subscribe by sending an e-mail to psu-heritage-commission@toto.plymouth.edu with just the word "subscribe" in the body of the text. If you have any questions, contact Linda Wilson at 603-271-6434 or linda.wilson@dcr.nh.gov.

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DHR Grants in Action

(continued from page one)

funding. If your community applied for this round or is considering it in the future, please don't be discouraged.

My advice to everyone is to get the word out that the amount of funding is dependent on the number of Conservation License Plates sold in the State of New Hampshire every year.

Please display the information about the program in town offices where people come in to renew their plates.

Projects awarded 2007 Moose Plate Funds are the **Haverhill-Bath Covered Bridge**, to replace the existing metal roof with a new standing seam metal roof; the **Laconia Public Library** for its stained glass window restoration project; **Center Sandwich** for the cleaning of painted decorative door panels on the historic **Sandwich Coach**; the Danville Town House for its second-floor heating, air conditioning & electrical systems; **Chester's Stevens Memorial Hall** for repairs to copper gutters and leaders; and restoration and cleaning of headstones at the **Mt. Washington Cemetery in Bethlehem.**

On June 1, 2007 all applications for this year's **Certified Local Government Grant** awards were received. There were eight applications from CLG communities for a variety of projects. This year's awardees for Priority I applications are **Hollis** for its historical and architectural survey of pre-1960 structures; **Jaffrey** for its web-based historical and cultural resources interactive database; **Concord** for a survey of farmsteads, barns and agricultural outbuildings; and **Wakefield**'s first project, as a new CLG community, for the historical resources survey of Union Village. There are now 15 CLG communities in New Hampshire. We want to welcome **Londonderry** as our newest Certified Local Government.

Deborah J. Gagne
Grants Coordinator

PSU Announces Certificate in Historic Preservation

(continued from page one)

University to enrich and strengthen Plymouth's new historic preservation concentration."

More information about the certificate program can be found at: http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/heritage/historic_preservation.html.

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian

Scrap Views

(continued from page six)

"Field" work at the Webster Farm.

L to R: (background) Allan Robertson, Sunet Rubalcava, Principal Investigator Edna Feighner; (foreground) Brooke Nicholson, Dawn Lassman, Rebecca Courser.

SCRAP volunteers Linda Feuderer (L) and Laura Jefferson (R), sifting under the supervision of Claude Chapdelaine, Professor, Dept. D'Anthropologie, Université de Montréal (C).

COME AND SEE US!

The NH Division of Historical Resources, NH Preservation Alliance, and NH Historical Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee will have a booth at the

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER/NH MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW

Radisson Hotel • Manchester, New Hampshire • November 7-8, 2007

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. Part of the cost of this newsletter has been paid by the DHR's annual federal program grant. However, its contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. Regulations of the US 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 D.C. 20240.