



The Old Stone Wall

Volume XIV, Number 4

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

Spring 2007

2007 SCRAP FIELD SCHOOLS

Richard Boisvert, *State Archaeologist*

In the summer of 2007 the NH Division of Historical Resources will offer two archaeological field schools, one on the upper Merrimack River and the other on the Seacoast. Members of the public are welcome, with a lower age limit of 16 years old and a commitment of at least two weeks on the field school.

NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program
2007 Archaeology Field School



Webster Farm, Franklin, NH June 25 - August 3

Webster Farm, Franklin NH.

The 2007 field school will focus on several hundred acres of alluvial terraces on the Merrimack River on the Webster Farm National Historic Landmark in Franklin, NH. The Farm--recently protected with agricultural, conservation and historic preservation easements--is the location of a variety of archaeological sites including a mid-18th century fort, pioneer homesteads, Contact period Native American sites and Late Prehistoric sites. The goals of the field school include locating and mapping these archeological sites with an array of remote sensing, GPS and GIS techniques along with rigorous archaeological reconnaissance methods including systematic shovel testing.

This setting holds archaeological data that bridges the Late Prehistoric through the late 18th century historic era and has the potential to reveal one of the most dynamic transitions in the state's history.

The field school is co-sponsored by the NH Division of Historical Resources under the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) and Plymouth State University. All fieldwork and instruction will be directed by Richard Boisvert, NH State Archaeologist and Edna Feighner, NHDHR staff archaeologist. Participants can join either as volunteers under the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) or as credit students through Plymouth State University.



Craig Brown standing in probable cellar hole depression



17th Century pipe stems from Bickford Site

Oyster River Environs Archaeology Project.

A four week archaeological field school will be conducted at the site of the Field-Bickford Garrison, located on Durham Point at the mouth of the Oyster River on Little Bay in Durham, NH. The field school will be conducted under the auspices of the NH State Conservation

(continued on page two)

In this issue...

We inaugurate a new feature, the **Historic District Commissions Corner**, presented by Emily Paulus, Preservation Planner. This month's topic is "**Top Ten List of Historic District Commission No-No's**," and it has been formatted so that it can be readily copied from the print or online versions of this newsletter (<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/newsletters.html>). Also be sure to read Emily's companion piece, "**Protecting Historic Resources Through Demolition Review**." If you would like to host a meeting with Emily in your community, contact her at 603-271-6628 or Emily.Paulus@dcr.nh.gov.

HIGHLIGHTS

2007 SCRAP FIELD SCHOOLS.....	1
HDC COMMISSIONS CORNER.....	1
DHR'S NEW GRANTS COORDINATOR.....	2
RECENT NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS....	3
CURATOR'S REPORT.....	4
CONTOOCOOK BRIDGE NEWS.....	4
PUT A MOOSE ON YOUR PLATES.....	5
TOP TEN HDC NO-NOS.....	5
DEMOLITION REVIEW.....	6
EMAIL NEWS.....	7
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS.....	8

**NH Division of
Historical Resources**
<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>

James McConaha
*Director & State Historic
Preservation Officer*

P. Russell Bastedo
State Curator

Richard A. Boisvert
State Archaeologist

Edna M. Feighner
*Historical Archaeologist &
Review and Compliance Coordinator*

Deborah J. Gagne
Grants Coordinator

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian

Tanya Kress
Cultural Resources Records Coordinator

Peter Michaud
Special Projects Director

Elizabeth H. Muzzey
State Survey Coordinator

Emily Paulus
Preservation Planner

Christine Fonda Rankie
*National Register, Preservation Tax
Incentives & Covenants Coordinator*

Christina St. Louis
Program Assistant

Linda Ray Wilson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

[Vacant]
Program Assistant

**STATE HISTORICAL
RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Jason Hoch, Littleton, *Chair*

Mary Rose Boswell, Laconia

Gail Nessell Colglazier, Londonderry

Nancy C. Dutton, Wilmot

Robert Macieski, New Boston

Duffy Monahan, Peterborough

Carl W. Schmidt, Orford

David R. Starbuck, Plymouth, *Vice Chair*

David Watters, Dover

[Appointment pending], *Governor's Designee*

James McConaha, *Ex-officio*

Christina St. Louis, *Secretary*

**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.

DHR's New Grants Coordinator



Photograph by Richard Boisvert

Deborah J. Gagne has been selected to serve as the DHR's Grants Coordinator. Deb's responsibilities will be new, but she has already had eleven years of DHR experience. She first served as Program Assistant for the National Register and Preservation Tax Incentives programs, and more recently became the Program Assistant for the Determination of Eligibility Committee and the Review and Compliance program. Her broad knowledge of the DHR services and historic preservation needs and networks in New Hampshire will be a great asset for the DHR's own Certified Local Government and Moose Plate Grants, and for coordinating current federal FEMA, HUD/EDI, Preserve America, Save America's Treasures, and Transportation Enhancement grants administered by the DHR. Deb will also oversee the DHR's annual program grant from the National Park Service and other pending grants that the DHR is seeking. In addition, she assists the Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee, and (if HB 239 is enacted) its new barn grants.

Deb lives in Pembroke with her husband, Al, and their Lab, Riley. Son Jeremy works for an environmental protection firm in Hawaii.

OSW: How does it feel to be Grants Coordinator? **DG:** I've wanted this position for quite some time. It's great to be part of the DHR; I can't imagine working anywhere else.

I hope to make the grant programs and procedures as easy as possible. I'm anxious to serve the state and to make historic preservation even more popular.

OSW: What has surprised you most about your new position? **DG:** The first day on the job was the last day to submit Moose Plate Grant applications. We received 33--a record for our Division!

OSW: Is there anything you want to tell our readers? **DG:** We work with a lot of different agencies and grants and requirements, so I want to be accessible to help applicants and our staff. As with the Review and Compliance position, if I don't know the answer to a question I will find it right away. My new DHR phone number is 603-271-3559.

2007 SCRAP Field Schools *(continued from page one)*

and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) in cooperation with the CRM firm of Crane and Morrison with Craig J. Brown as project coordinator. The field school is open to the public and has the dual goals of investigating a highly significant early historic site while engaging members of the public in professional quality archaeology.

The Field-Bickford Garrison was initially built prior to 1638 as a pioneer homestead, ordinary (tavern) and ferry landing. It served as a key point of entry to the Oyster River Plantation, one of the first English settlements in New Hampshire. The site was one of the fortified structures attacked in the Oyster River Plantation Massacre of 1694. A preliminary inspection of the site has identified the probable house cellar and artifacts on the adjacent shore that date to the period in question. The field school will take place from June 18 through July 13 and consist of a pair of two week sessions.

For more information on either field school, contact Richard Boisvert, State Archaeologist at richard.a.boisvert@dcr.nh.gov or by mail at 19 Pillsbury St. 2nd Floor, Concord, NH 03301-3570.

Recent National Register Listings



Dimond Hill Farm, Concord NH.
Listed March 15, 2007.
Photograph by Elizabeth Hengen

Dimond Hill Farm has been recognized for its significance in Agriculture. The farm has been in continuous use as a family farm since 1827 and through six generations of the Abbott-Presby Family. The historic farm buildings, a house, shed, barn, corn crib, and shop, together with farmyards, and 112 acres of fields, pastures, and woodland, reflect the interrelationship of domestic and agricultural functions on a farm property. The farmstead is a virtually unaltered example of a connected house, shed, and barn. This arrangement of connected farm buildings was a very important phenomenon in northern New England beginning in the mid 19th century and continuing into the early 20th century. It allowed occupants to undertake a wide variety of farm activities without exposure to harsh weather. Though a late example of its type, the Dimond Hill farmstead was hailed on a regional level for its exemplary design and practical layout.



Rolfe Barn, (Penacook) Concord NH.
Listed March 15, 2007.
Photograph by Elizabeth Hengen

The Rolfe Barn, built c.1790, is architecturally significant for its distinctive characteristics and method of construction. It is an excellent example of a late eighteenth century, timber frame structure that exhibits all the hallmarks of that method of construction. It is particularly noteworthy for its over-sized framing members, unusually high caliber of workmanship, remarkable degree of structural and architectural integrity, and as a rare and well-preserved example of the double English barn that was constructed in a single building campaign. No other barn in New Hampshire is known to be comparable.



Levi Woodbury Homestead, Franconia NH.
Listed March 15, 2007. *Photograph by Elizabeth Hengen*

The Levi Woodbury Homestead is the only surviving property associated with prominent New Hampshire statesman Levi Woodbury (1789 – 1851). Woodbury was an exceptional public figure both in New Hampshire and nationally, with a record of service unparalleled by any other from his state. On the state level, he served as clerk of the State Senate, judge of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, Governor, State Representative, and Speaker of the House. Nationally, Woodbury was a two-term Senator, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Treasury under two presidents, and a justice of the United States Supreme Court.



Goffstown Main Street Historic District, Goffstown NH.
Listed March 15, 2007.
Photograph by Lisa Mausolf

The Goffstown Main Street Historic District is significant in Community Planning and Development, and Transportation, as a well-preserved example of the historical evolution of a vernacular village center. The Main Street district has been a commercial, civic, institutional, and religious hub for over two hundred years. In particular, Main Street's development through time is an interesting reflection of changing trends in transportation. When horses and stagecoaches were the prevailing means of transportation, Main Street was home to taverns and livery stables. In 1850 the railroad arrived; it was to have a major impact on the village and business district for more than seventy-five years. The electric street railway began serving the area at the turn of the twentieth century, providing transportation to nearby Manchester. Later, the automobile left its mark on Main Street. Rail service ended in the 1930s, leaving the automobile the dominant mode of transportation. It is a story retold in communities all over New Hampshire and is reflected by the buildings and structures on Goffstown's Main Street.

*Christine Fonda Rankie
National Register and Tax Incentives
Coordinator*

CURATOR'S REPORT

Among items recently accessioned into State of New Hampshire decorative and fine arts collections are three items, all of which were found in deep storage at the New Hampshire State Library.

In 1932 the nation celebrated the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington (February 22, 1732-December 14, 1799). Planning for a year-long series of events and ceremonies began in the late 1920s, when U.S. President Herbert Hoover appointed members of Congress and other distinguished Americans to the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, chaired by U.S. Representative Sol Bloom, of New York. When the Commission concluded its assignment, it submitted a five-volume report to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a copy of which is at the New Hampshire State Library.



Photograph by Russell Bastedo

As a part of its planning the Commission arranged for one thousand copies of a bust of George Washington, made in 1805 (after Washington's death) by the distinguished English sculptor Joseph Nollekens (1737-1823). The original of the bust was brought over from England, and full-size replicas were made in the United States, in bronze and in plaster painted "ivory" or left white to resemble marble.

The busts were presented to foreign dignitaries, to members of Congress and of the U.S. Supreme Court, and to the governors of the various states, on or as close to February 22, 1932 as was possible. John Winant, New Hampshire's Governor (1925-1927, 1931-1935) received a plaster copy of the Washington bust for the people of the Granite State, and it stood for a time at the State House. But the bust fell and was damaged, and it was put into storage. It was found in

March 2007 by State Library Director of Operations Janet R. Eklund, was repaired, and is now accessioned and on display at the New Hampshire State Library.

Also found in the same basement storage room at the New Hampshire State Library was a large tin box inscribed PRESIDENTIAL/PRIMARY/1916.

This memento of the election that saw Woodrow Wilson reelected to the presidency for a second term is now housed at the New Hampshire Museum of Political History, a part of the New Hampshire State Library.



Photograph by Russell Bastedo

A third item in New Hampshire State Library collections now being researched is a gold medal presented to U.S. Senator John P. Hale (1806-1873) in 1853. The medal is inscribed: "PRESENTED/TO/THE/Hon. John P. Hale/by the CREW OF THE/SLOOP OF WAR GERMANTOWN/as a /mark of their appreciation/of His/Meritorious Efforts/in securing the ABOLITION OF FLOGGING/in the U.S. Navy/Sept. 28, 1853."

The medal was given to the New Hampshire State Library in the 1916 will of Lucy Chandler, the daughter of John P. Hale and the wife of U.S. Senator William Chandler (1835-1917). The medal has been newly appraised, and we are in communication with the U.S. Navy's Historical Center about this item. A history of "Flogging in the US Navy" is available online at <http://www.history.navy.mil/library/online/flogging.htm>.

Russell Bastedo
State Curator

Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge, Hopkinton, N.H.



Photograph by James L. Garvin

National Society Completes Contoocook Bridge Underpinning

In December, 2006, Tim Andrews of Barns and Bridges of New England completed the process of lifting and underpinning the four corners of the Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge in Hopkinton. The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc., donated the cost of hired labor and materials from its Eastman-Thomas Fund. Andrews donated his own labor on the job. The combined value of the Society's contribution and that of Barns and Bridges of New England was approximately \$100,000.

Built in 1889 for the Concord and Claremont Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, the double Town lattice bridge is the oldest covered railroad bridge in the world. High waters tilted the bridge off its abutments twice, in 1936 and 1938. On each occasion, the B&M Railroad quickly jacked the resilient span back into place and restored rail service, but the corbel beams that supported each of the four corners of the bridge had deteriorated in the seventy years since the floods. These long, balanced timbers distributed the stresses created by the 280,000 pound weight of the structure (140 tons), and the additional weight of passing trains, along the ends of the lower chords of the trusses. Lack of maintenance and an accumulation

(continued on page eight)

Top Ten List of Historic District Commission No-No's

from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

10. **Not handling “conflict of interest” matters properly.** To understand what constitutes a conflict of interest in New Hampshire, see RSA 673:14. When in doubt, it is always better not to participate. Even if no conflict exists, reveal any relationships you may have with the applicant to avoid suspicion.
9. **Not acknowledging the “public” at your public hearings.** Do not participate in side conversations with other Commission members during a meeting and remember to acknowledge the public in the audience. This is the first important contact that many people in the audience will have with the administration of their community – make it as open and professional as possible.
8. **Forgetting that it is the application under review, not the applicant.** Consistently base your decisions on facts and your review standards, not personalities.

Always keep decisions within the scope of the Commission's authority.

7. **Not participating at the meeting.** You were appointed because you have something to offer the decision-making process – don't be the person that always seconds the motion but otherwise doesn't say anything. Conversely, don't ask irrelevant questions or make unnecessary comments just for the sake of appearing to participate.
6. **Coming to the meeting unprepared.** Your process is not going to be credible to the applicant or public if it appears you are making uninformed decisions. Know your regulations and guidelines, visit the property, and prepare in advance.
5. **Asking questions and finding facts about areas outside the Commission's purview.** Remember that the Commission's review powers are limited and defined in your ordinance. Don't inquire about or voice concerns about matters that do not relate to the Commission's authority, such as land use or interior space.
4. **Reviewing incomplete applications.** The burden is on the applicant to provide enough detail for you to render a decision. If sufficient information is not provided, defer the decision and get exactly what is needed for your consideration.
3. **Structuring motions that are complex or misleading.** Decisions should be clearly communicated. The facts that have led to the decision and the guidelines that were used to make the decision should be explained to the applicant, public, and made part of the public record. Avoid adding numerous conditions and vague directions – better to be straightforward and deny, or defer with specific instructions on changes to be made.

2. **Making decisions that might be perceived as arbitrary.** Using language that makes it appear as if a decision is based on personal opinion, rather than the guidelines, is one of the most common and damaging things a Commission member can do. Stating “I don't like that,” or “it's not attractive” leaves the applicant and public with the impression that the Commission's decisions are a matter of taste. Always relate your statements to specific provisions of your ordinance or guidelines.
1. **Redesigning the application at the hearing.** Do not hesitate to make suggestions that help bring an application into compliance with your guidelines. However, if a design is totally inappropriate it is better to deny or defer with specific instructions as to why it is unacceptable, and request that the applicant return with revised plans.

Emily Paulus,
Preservation Planner

For Additional Reading

Maryland Historical Trust. *Defensible Decision Making: Preservation Commissions and the Law*. See <http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/video.pdf>.

Riggins, Fred. *The Riggins Rules: Suggested Do's and Don'ts for the Conduct of Public Hearings and the Department of Members of Boards, Commissions & Other Bodies*. The Planning Commissioner's Journal, 1994. See <http://www.nh.gov/oepr/resourcelibrary/referencelibrary/r/rulesofprocedure/TheRigginsRules.htm>.

Stipe, Robert E. *A Letter to George: How to Keep the Preservation Commission Out of Court and Avoid Being Sued*. National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, 1994. See http://www.sed.uga.edu/psoprograms/nacp/pdfs/a_letter_to_george.pdf.



Put a Moose on
YOUR Plates
to preserve our
New Hampshire heritage!

For more information, go to
<http://www.mooseplate.com>

Protecting Historic Resources through Demolition Review

Earlier this year, a local New Hampshire paper reported a Massachusetts developer's plans to demolish an early 19th-century house that was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While it turned out the developer was only planning to demolish a 1950s barn on the property, the brief scare was enough to awaken residents to the fact that any historic building in the community could be torn down on a whim – even those listed on or eligible for the National Register. This scenario has played out in countless communities across the state, and has led many to take proactive steps to prevent the demolition of historically significant buildings. One approach is through the establishment of a demolition review process.

What is Demolition Review and How Does it Work?

Demolition review is a preservation tool that ensures potentially significant buildings and structures are not demolished without notice to the community and review by a heritage or historic district commission. A demolition delay ordinance can be adopted as an amendment to the building code, implemented as a stand-alone ordinance, or as a bylaw in an existing historic preservation or zoning ordinance. This legislation can be a very effective tool in helping to protect historically significant resources in the community. A demolition delay ordinance or bylaw cannot prevent demolitions indefinitely, ensure that demolition will be avoided, or prevent demolition of any and all “old” buildings or structures within a given community. Rather, the process allows for review of proposed demolitions to assess a building's historical significance. If the building is determined to be historically or architecturally significant, the issuance of the demolition permit is delayed for a specific period of time – typically anywhere from 30 to 90 days, but in

some cases up to 12 months. While this may sound like a lengthy period for an owner to wait, a major construction project typically involves many months of planning before actual demolition will occur; most construction projects take a year or more to get through concept and site planning, design and drawing, local reviews and approvals, and finally permitting before even getting to the construction phase. If demolition review is conducted during the early conceptual stages of project development, alternatives can be explored in earnest and without undue hardship to the applicant.

During the delay period, a public hearing is scheduled where the review body, building owner, and members of the community can consider alternatives to demolition and options for preserving the building. Successful alternatives might include incorporating the building into the design of the project, selling the property to a purchaser interested in rehabilitating the building, or finding alternative sites for the proposed project. If no feasible alternatives can be found, the delay period can allow the building to be documented and for architectural features to be salvaged.

What Actions Trigger Demolition Review?

Most demolition review procedures are triggered by the filing of a demolition permit, but they can also begin in other ways, such as when an application for site plan review has been submitted and the intent to demolish a building is indicated, or when the building or code inspector receives a letter of intent to demolish. An effective demolition review ordinance defines what constitutes a demolition. In most cases, demolition is generally defined as the act of either demolishing or removing fifty percent or more of the roof area or exterior walls, or any exterior wall facing a public street.

Resources for Demolition Review

Hengen, Elizabeth Durfee. *Preserving Community Character: A Preservation Planning Handbook for New Hampshire*. New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, 2006. See page 9.

Miller, Julia H. *Protecting Potential Landmarks Through Demolition Review*. National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2006. See www.nationaltrust.org/teardowns/Demolition_Review.pdf.

Norton Historical Commission, *Demolition Delay By-Law Q&A*. See <http://www.nortonma.org/documents/Norton%20DemoDelay%20FAQ.pdf>.

What Properties Are Subject to Review?

A demolition review ordinance should spell out specific criteria for determining which properties are subject to review. Most communities require some level of review for all buildings or structures at least fifty years old, but others have restricted review to those at least one hundred years old. Other communities have applied demolition review to properties previously identified through a historic resources survey or listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. Finally, some communities decide to apply protection to a specific geographic area, such as a downtown or Main Street. In most cases, the historic resources survey or tax assessment records can verify the age of a building proposed for demolition. If no survey information exists, the burden of establishing the date of construction can rest on the applicant, or can be left to the review body. Once a building or structure has been determined to meet the age or geographic criteria,

(continued on page seven)

Protecting Historic Resources (continued from page six)



Photograph by James McConaha

the review body – often with the assistance of municipal staff – typically determines whether it is significant. Significance can be determined by analyzing the building's association with historic persons or events, or with the architectural, cultural, economic, or social history of the community. The review process works best when a historic resources survey exists to verify a building's age, as well as its architectural and historical significance, or where there is properly trained municipal staff to assist with the necessary research. In both Keene and Concord, for example, the demolition review committee, which is comprised of three members of the Heritage Commission, is responsible for conducting the initial review, making the official determination of significance, and holding the meeting to explore alternatives.

Why Do Communities Need Demolition Review?

Many communities in New Hampshire are experiencing rapid population growth. This growth can lead to development pressure in older neighborhoods and unanticipated “teardowns,” which can slowly erode community character and identity. A demolition review ordinance allows a community to proactively prevent the demolition of historically significant buildings. Demolition review works best when it is paired with other preservation tools and policies, such as heritage or historic district commissions or completion of a historic resource survey. In cases where a community can not garner the local

or political support for a local historic district, demolition review can be the only viable means for preventing the loss of significant buildings. Communities with demolition review in place, such as Concord, report wide success in preventing the loss of significant buildings.

How Does a Community Get Started?

Start by talking to the Division of Historical Resources, who can answer specific questions and assist in mapping out a successful education and outreach effort. Research and talk to communities with successful demolition review programs, and review their ordinances (though avoid copying an ordinance verbatim – it should always be tailored to the specific needs of the community). New Hampshire communities with demolition review in place include Concord, Keene, Weare, and Stratham. Set up an informational meeting with your local Heritage or Historic District Commission and Planning Board, and invite an expert to answer questions. Remember that the Preservation Planner at the Division of Historical Resources is available to meet with your organization at any time and provide technical assistance. Prepare a handout with frequently asked questions, and photos of significant buildings in your community. Grants may also be available to hire a preservation consultant to assist in drafting the ordinance.

Copies of this article formatted for 8 1/2” x 11” reproduction are available on request from the NH Division of Historical Resources, 19 Pillsbury Street, Concord NH 03301-3570; telephone 603-271-3483; Fax 603-271-3433; e-mail preservation@dcr.nh.gov; <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>.

*Emily Paulus
Preservation Planner*

New Hampshire now has TWO historic preservation e-mail networks...



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, with the assistance of Plymouth State University, has developed a free e-mail forum (or listserv) for heritage and historic district commission members in New Hampshire. It is an excellent resource for sharing information, ideas, questions, and experiences related to historic preservation in New Hampshire.

If you are interested in joining this forum, you can 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, please contact Emily Paulus, Preservation Planner at 603-271-6628 or Emily. Paulus@dcr.nh.gov.

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the DHR also share a free e-mail network for news and messages. Anyone may join. To subscribe, send an e-mail to linda.wilson@dcr.nh.gov.

To respect the privacy of the list members, messages on the NHPA/ DHR list are sent as a “blind” or “undisclosed recipient” copy.



Cover image by Caroline Robinson

Creating an Agricultural Commission in Your Hometown,

by Lorraine Stuart Merrill for the NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture, is a new online manual published by University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. To download a copy, go to the NH Division of Historical Resources' web site, "Tools for Preserving Barns," <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/barn.html>, and click on the link under "Other Resources."

As Lorraine explains in the manual, agricultural commissions are an effective mechanism for communities to take positive action to remain or become more farm-friendly. They advise other town boards and they advocate for farming, but they do not have any regulatory authority or enforcement powers. They can also collaborate with other boards and commissions, such as the Conservation Commission and the Heritage Commission, to work on projects or initiatives of mutual interest. The NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture--an informal network of farmers, agricultural, environmental and historic preservation organizations, government agencies, UNH Cooperative Extension, and others committed to sustaining agriculture in our state--is working to make New Hampshire citizens aware of this new tool for sustaining agriculture in their own communities.

The NH Farm Viability Task Force, created by the legislature and appointed by the Governor, included establishment of agricultural commissions as one of the ten key recommendations in its 2006 report. As a result, HB 293, which would allow municipalities to establish agricultural commissions, is part of the current legislative session. It was passed by the House in April by a vote of 306-9, and at press time the Senate Committee on Public and Municipal Affairs has reported it "Ought to Pass" for a vote by the full Senate.

Meanwhile, the NH Division of Historical Resources continues to be involved with other agriculturally-related activities. We are proud to note that the Dimond Hill Farm and the Rolfe Barn in Concord have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places (see story on page three), and that the SCRAP summer field school in West Franklin will take place at the historic Webster Farm (see story on page one).

We are also very grateful to the Board of Directors of the NH Farm & Forest Expo for providing the NH Historical Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee with a highly visible location at the Farm & Forest trade show, for its exhibit booth staffed by the DHR and the NH Preservation Alliance. With the assistance of the Lee Agricultural Committee and Lee Heritage Commission, the Advisory Committee, the DHR, and the Preservation Alliance also presented a well-attended workshop on "Tools for Preserving Barns and Historic Farms" as part of a session organized by the Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture. If you would like to learn more about the Coalition, or to be added to its e-mail list, contact: Nada Haddad, Extension Educator, Agricultural



(L to R) Christina St. Louis, Elizabeth Muzzey, and Deborah Gagne of the DHR at the NH Farm & Forest Expo. Photograph by Linda Ray Wilson

Resources, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Rockingham County, 113 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833-6623; telephone 603-679-5616; Fax 603-679-8070; e-mail Nada.Haddad@unh.edu.

Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge, Hopkinton, NH.

(continued from page four)

of damp soil and debris had damaged the corbel timbers at all four corners and had begun to affect the structural lower chords of the trusses.

With the bridge now made plumb and level by the contributions of the National Society and Barns and Bridges of New England, DHR is proceeding with the second phase of protection for the bridge. Using Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds, DHR will contract for the design and installation of fire detection and protection systems in the bridge. Using the same grant, DHR hopes to repaint the Contoocook Bridge, using the original linseed oil-based formula that was first applied in 1889.

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian

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

19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3570

603-271-3483 or 603-271-3558 • FAX 603-271-3433 • Voice/TTY Relay Access 1-800-735-2964 • preservation@dcr.nh.gov

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.