



# The Old Stone Wall

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

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE'S INTERSTATE HIGHWAY LANDMARKS

**T**wo outstanding features of the Interstate Highway System in New Hampshire have been identified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as exceptionally significant resources that will receive special consideration during the planning of future projects. The Ash Street Bridge (Robert J. Prowse Memorial Bridge) in Londonderry (1962) and the Franconia Notch Parkway (1987) were accorded the protections of historic preservation review, even though most of the Interstate System has been excluded from future consideration as a historical resource.

The Prowse Memorial Bridge was renamed in 1973 as a memorial to its designer, engineer Robert Prowse (1906-1969) of the New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways. The 1962 overpass bridge used innovative steel cutting and welding technology to span I-93 in a single span, with no pier in the median. It was regarded as the first example of an all-welded steel rigid frame bridge on the Interstate System or on the primary roads system in the United States. Structural design of the bridge in the pre-computer age required the testing of a model, using special equipment. A prototype design for the bridge won Prowse a national prize in 1959, and the completed span received a design award from the American Institute of Steel Construction in 1964.



Photograph by James L. Garvin

The bridge is located north of Exit 4 in Londonderry, and is visible from both the northbound and southbound lanes.



Photograph by James L. Garvin

The Franconia Notch Parkway is the only two-lane highway in the entire Interstate Highway System. A four-lane extension of I-93 through Franconia Notch would have marred the beauty of this dramatic White Mountain pass. Construction could also have endangered the Old Man of the Mountain, New Hampshire's

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## Expanding DHR Services to the Public

**T**he DHR is pleased to announce that Tanya Kress, Records Coordinator, is now available on a full-time basis for research appointments and access to the DHR's archaeological and historical inventory files. The files are open by appointment to consultants and researchers Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please make and confirm appointments in advance with Tanya at 603-271-6568 or [Tanya.Kress@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:Tanya.Kress@dcr.nh.gov).

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## JUST PUBLISHED: NH'S DAIRY HISTORY, IN PRINT AND PICTURES!

**P**ublication of *The History and Economics of the New Hampshire Dairy Industry* by UNH Cooperative Extension is itself a historic event for agriculture and historic preservation in New Hampshire. The book represents the collective expertise of ten authors and was edited by John Porter, professor and dairy specialist, Emeritus, UNH

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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 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.*



**APPLY FOR A  
DHR MOOSE  
PLATE GRANT!**

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31

The Conservation License Plate Program (RSA 261:97) provides funds from new purchases and renewals of the “Moose Plate” license plates to conserve or preserve New Hampshire resources, from scenic lands and wildlife to historic sites.

The funds allocated to the DHR each fiscal year are reserved for **PUBLICLY OWNED historic resources** whose conservation and preservation will benefit and be accessible to the public. They are available for state and county agencies, local municipalities, and non-profit organizations that operate or manage publicly owned and accessible historic properties and historic or archaeological artifacts.

Applicants for the DHR grants may request up to **\$10,000**, and **no matching funds are required**. Application forms for the DHR’s 2008 Conservation License Plate Grant and instructions for completing the applications are now available by direct mail and telephone requests, or by e-mail at [preservation@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:preservation@dcr.nh.gov), or by downloading the application materials from the DHR’s web site, <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose/>.

Completed applications must be returned to the DHR on or before **March 31, 2008**. **No application will be accepted after this date and no faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted.**

The DHR funds are for projects that provide the public with visible proof of how the “Moose Plate” money is being used to preserve and conserve

significant public resources that contribute to New Hampshire’s history and cultural heritage.

Be sure to keep buying and giving and renewing Moose Plates – <http://www.mooseplate.com> – so there will be sufficient funds for worthwhile projects!

Deborah J. Gagne  
*Grants Coordinator*

**Now Online — Conservator  
Report for the First New  
Hampshire State House**



*Photograph by Peter Michaud*

The First New Hampshire State House is now featured on the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) web site. As we move forward with the project studies, we want to ensure that the information collected is available to the public in a timely manner. Our conservator report, hot off the press, is now available online as are photos of our conservators working on the elements of the First New Hampshire State House. We have also added links to the project in the news section of our site. As more reports become available, we will place that information on our web site and send out e-mails announcing the updates.

To access our web site please log onto <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>.

To go to the First NH State House pages, click on “First NH State House Project” on the “Quick Links” box on the right side of our home page.

Peter Michaud  
*Special Projects Director*

## Just Published: NH's Dairy History, in Print and Pictures!

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Cooperative Extension. Granite State Dairy Promotion sponsored the publication of the book at the request of the New England Family Dairy Farms Cooperative.

Extensively illustrated with color photos, historic images, and detailed charts and graphs, it explains the historical significance and growing value of one of New Hampshire's (and New England's) most important industries.



John Porter autographing books at the DHR Brown Bag Lunch Series.

Photograph by Tanya Kress

The NH Division of Historical Resources proudly sponsored John's first public presentation on the book at a DHR Brown Bag Lunch

Series on January 28, 2008. John is also a member of the NH Historical Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee ("Barn Committee") and in 2001 co-authored *Preserving Old Barns* with Francis Gilman.

A week later, at the annual Farm and Forest Expo in Manchester, the "Barn Committee," the NH Preservation Alliance, and the DHR were honored to have John at their booth to sell and autograph the book. If you missed that opportunity, the book may be purchased online from UNH CES at <http://extension.unh.edu/Pubs/Pubs.htm>, from the NH Preservation Alliance, or at bookstores and other retail locations throughout the state.



Francis Gilman (left) and John Porter (right) with *Preserving Old Barns* and *The History and Economics of the New Hampshire Dairy Industry*.

Photograph by Linda Ray Wilson

## SUMMER 2008 ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOLS

The State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) of the NHDHR will hold three archaeological field schools in the state this summer.



A survey and testing of prehistoric Paleoindian sites (circa 12,000 years old) will be held from June 23 through July 18 in the Jefferson and Randolph area.

Historic site excavations will be conducted from June 16 through July 11 at the Field-Bickford Garrison House site (circa 1638 - 1800) on Little Bay in Durham.

A survey of historic farmsteads and mill sites will be carried out from August 4 through August 29 in Pisgah State Park in the towns of Winchester, Chesterfield and Hinsdale.

For more information, contact Richard Boisvert, State Archaeologist, NHDHR at [Richard.A.Boisvert@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:Richard.A.Boisvert@dcr.nh.gov) or on the web at <http://www.nhscrap.org>.

Richard A. Boisvert  
State Archaeologist

## Have YOU joined New Hampshire's 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. List members are encouraged to post "how to" and "what if" questions, and to participate

in discussions on historic preservation topics.

If you are interested in joining this forum, you can subscribe by sending an e-mail to [psu-heritage-commission@toto.plymouth.edu](mailto:psu-heritage-commission@toto.plymouth.edu) with just the word "subscribe" in the body of the text.

If you have any questions, please contact Nadine Peterson, Preservation Planner, at 603-271-6628 or [Nadine.Peterson@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:Nadine.Peterson@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](mailto: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.

## New Hampshire's Interstate Highway Landmarks

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beloved symbol and a designated National Natural Landmark until it fell from Cannon Mountain in 2003. After prolonged and impassioned negotiations, a special provision of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 permitted this segment of I-93 to be designed as a two-lane highway, made safe for entering and exiting traffic through innovative features. The parkway is considered a pioneering example of what is now called "context sensitive design."

The **Interstate System** was established by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, and celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2006. Resources that are fifty years old, or older, are potentially subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the U. S. Department of Transportation Act. These regulations require federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings when planning or funding any maintenance, construction, or other change to potentially historic properties.

Recognizing that compliance with these laws would impose an immense

review burden on the Federal Highway Administration and on State Historic Preservation Offices, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation exercised one of its statutory options in 2005. The Council exempted the majority of the Interstate Highway System from consideration as an historic property under Section 106. But the Council's action provided that special features of the Interstate System would remain subject to the standard reviews if they possessed exceptional significance. The current Federal Aid Highway Act contains similar provisions for 4(f) review.

Acting on the challenge of identifying the exceptionally significant features on New Hampshire's portion of the Interstate System, representatives of NHDOT, FHWA, and DHR worked together during 2005 and 2006 to document such resources. In December 2006, FHWA confirmed the Prowse Memorial Bridge and the Franconia Notch Parkway as "nationally and exceptionally significant." The full, nationwide list of such resources can be seen at [http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/highways\\_list.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/highways_list.asp).

James L. Garvin  
State Architectural Historian

## Expanding DHR Services to the Public

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Christina St. Louis has been promoted to Program Specialist for Review & Compliance. Chris serves as the DHR's first point of contact for project applicants and can answer questions regarding appropriate submission materials and project review status. She can be contacted at 603-271-3558 or [Christina.St.Louis@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:Christina.St.Louis@dcr.nh.gov).

For more information, go to the DHR home page, <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>, and click on "Researching the DHR Files" in the "Quick Links" box. Please also visit our updated Review & Compliance online resources at <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/review/>.

Elizabeth H. Muzzey  
Director, Division of Historical Resources  
and NH State Historic Preservation Officer

## PSU certificate in historic preservation:

<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/news/documents/PSUe-pressrelease.doc>

## 25th Anniversary Farm & Forest Expo



Nadine Peterson (left) and Christine Fonda Rankie (right) reviewing technical assistance materials at the Farm & Forest Expo.

Christine Fonda Rankie (left) and Deborah J. Gagne (center), greeting booth guests at the Farm & Forest Expo.

Photographs by Linda Ray Wilson



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