

Economy, Community, and Environment: Maintaining Sustainable Communities

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Mary Kate Ryan, NHDHR

Nadine Peterson, NHDHR

Kathleen Northrup, Hooksett Heritage Commission

Bev Edwards, Temple Energy Commission

Lucille Noel, Chichester Heritage Commission

Michelle Plunkett, Chichester Heritage Commission

Master Plan Basics

While not required, a historical resources chapter is recommended by state statute

Used as a means of organizing local preservation activities and integrating preservation into broader land use and planning efforts

Forms the basis for policies and ordinances that the community develops to manage growth, development, and change

Key Elements of a Historical Resources Master Plan Chapter

1. Overview history
2. Resource identification
3. Summary of past preservation activity
4. Preservation issues & challenges
5. Goals and implementation strategies



Overview History

1. What trends and events have shaped your community's history?
 1. Trends: transportation, industry, agriculture, immigration
 2. Events: county seat, prolific builder, flood
2. Helpful to break into chronological periods or historical themes
3. Each town's history is reflected in its built environment and contributes to its distinctive character
4. Provides context for evaluating resources

Historical Resources Survey

1. What are the resources that tell the story of your community's history?
2. 50+ years old
3. Consider the full range of resources – local history far more than handful of icons
4. Town-wide Area Form



Recognition for Significant Properties

Resources can be buildings, districts, sites, landscapes, structures or objects

New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

- Recognizes and encourages the identification and protection of resources significant to New Hampshire residents and communities
- Generally, a resource must be at least 50 years old and retain sufficient integrity
- Can easily result from an historic resources survey

National Register of Historic Places

- Part of a national program to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archaeological resources
- Resource must be significant in American history, architecture, engineering, or culture
- Requires additional research and different form than NHSR

Preservation Issues & Challenges

Examples:

- Loss of setting due to development
- Disconnect with other planning efforts
- Franchises moving into downtown/villages
- Favorite buildings disappear overnight
- Zoning ordinance sometimes in conflict with historic preservation goals

Goals & Implementation Strategies



Examples:

- **Build public awareness of local historical resources**
 - Put the historic survey on municipal web site
 - Walking tours
 - Heritage Commission
- **Strengthen Village Center**
 - Village District Ordinance
 - Adopt RSA 79-E incentive
- **Reduce loss of historical resources**
 - Establish demolition review ordinance

Goals & Implementation Strategies

- Ensure town-wide improvements respect historic character
 - Articulate the character of town
 - Develop design guidelines
- Integrate preservation goals into municipal planning
 - Ensure site plan applications include historical resources
 - Review zoning ordinance to remove any impediments to preservation or sensitive reuse of historical resources