

Basics for the Historic District & Heritage Commissions

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NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



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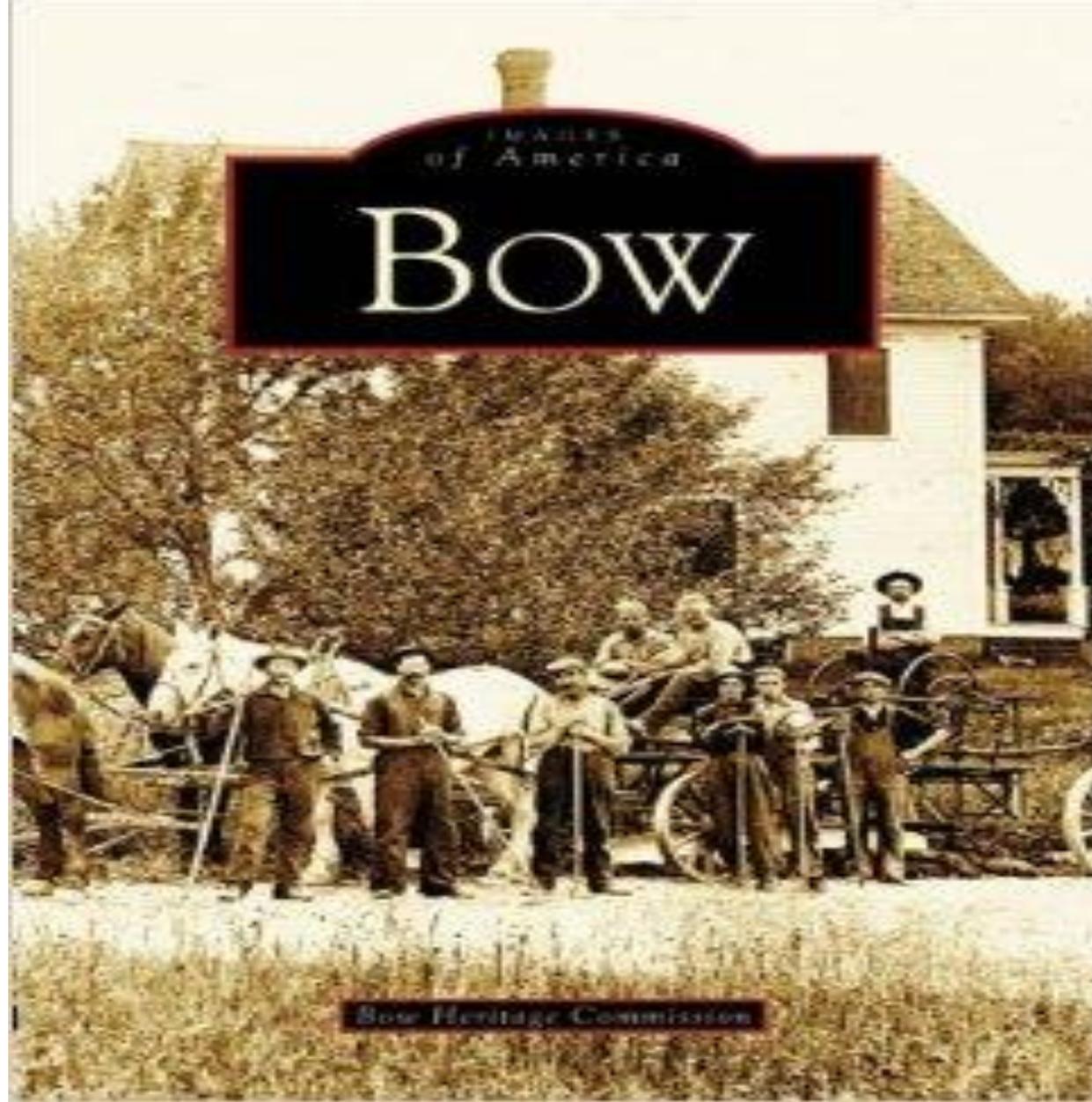


HERITAGE & HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS:
ONE OR BOTH?

CREATION



HERITAGE COMMISSION PURPOSES





HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION PURPOSES

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AUTHORITY





BUILDING PERMITS

ENFORCEMENT POWERS





PRESERVATION EASEMENTS &
TAXATION OF HISTORIC
BUILDINGS

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping pattern of US dollar bills, including \$100 and \$10 bills, scattered across the entire area. The bills are slightly faded and oriented in various directions.

FUNDING



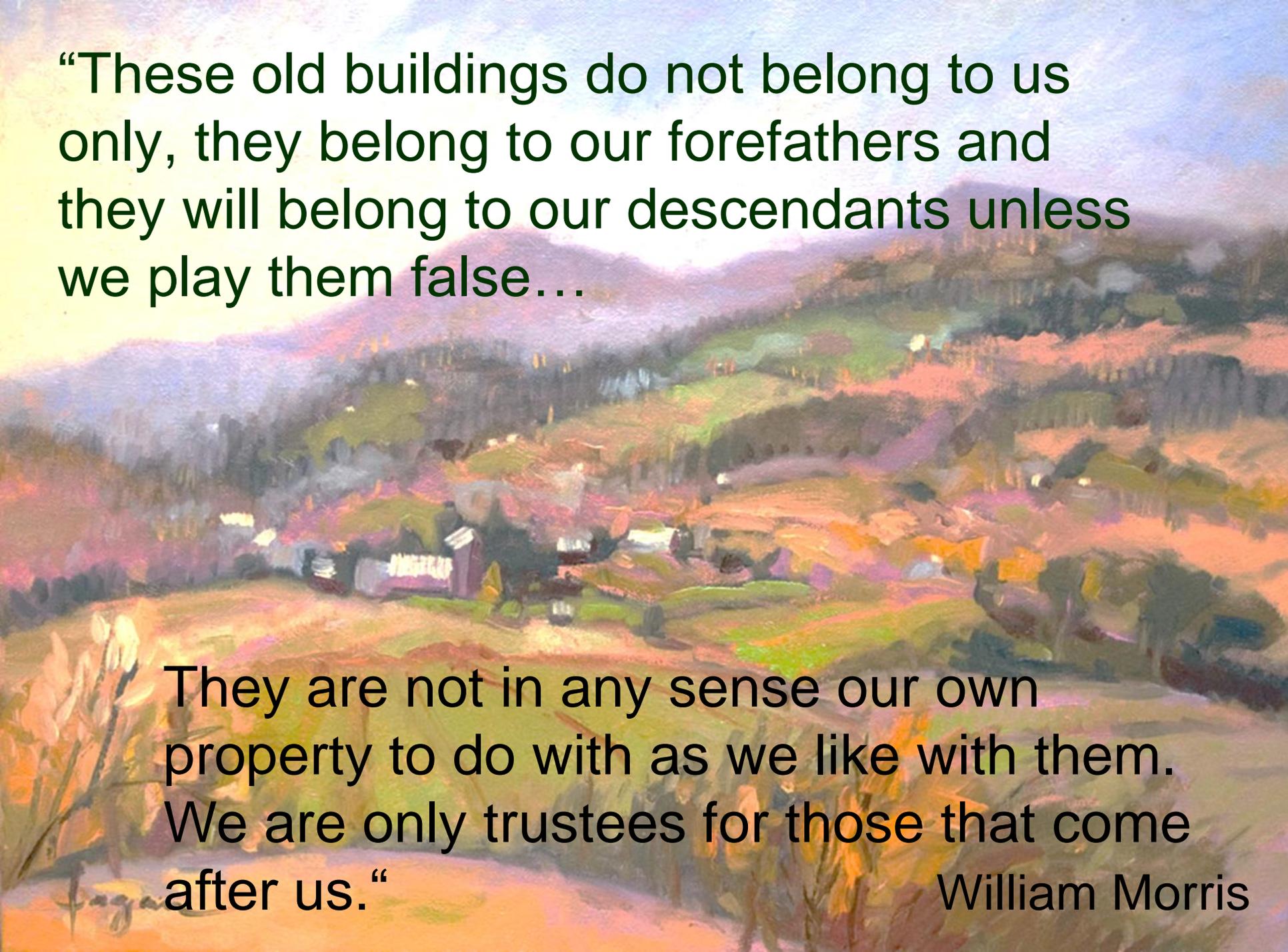
*for attending
this presentation
today!*

Mission Statement

The New Hampshire Municipal Association is a non-profit, non-partisan association working to strengthen New Hampshire cities and towns and their ability to serve the public as a member-funded, member-governed and member-driven association since 1941. We serve as a resource for information, education and legal services. NHMA is a strong, clear voice advocating for New Hampshire municipal interests.

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“These old buildings do not belong to us only, they belong to our forefathers and they will belong to our descendants unless we play them false...

They are not in any sense our own property to do with as we like with them. We are only trustees for those that come after us.”

William Morris

What is your mission/purpose?

A written declaration of an organization's core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time.



Properly crafted mission statements serve as filters to separate what is important from what is not and clearly communicate a sense of intended direction to the entire organization.

Public Relations

- Foster a professional relationship with other Town Commissions
- Collaborate with local Historical Society on projects of joint interest
- Be accessible to the general public and ensure all of your procedures are made available via the internet or local repositories

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



What the Master Plan Chapter includes

- Brief history of the community
- Historic resources identified through survey and other means
- Map of identified historic resources
- Summary of past preservation activities
- Goals and implementation strategies
- Make survey one of your goals and identify funding sources.

Disaster Planning



Historic Resources Survey

Inventory of a community's historic buildings, structures, sites, and objects - the resources that define a community

Essential tool for any form of preservation planning - every community should have one

Provides sound basis for establishing preservation priorities

Lays the groundwork for decision making and policies related to historic resources

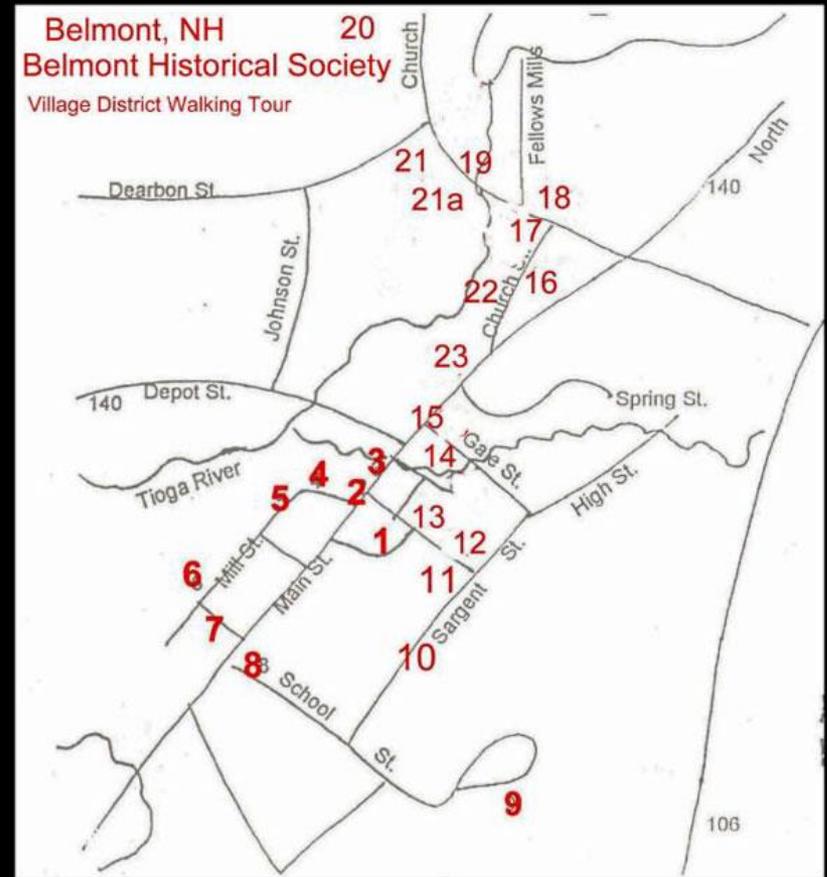


Threatened areas
Threatened resources
Building types
Districts, areas, neighborhoods
Important trends/themes
Community goals

You know what you have. Now what?

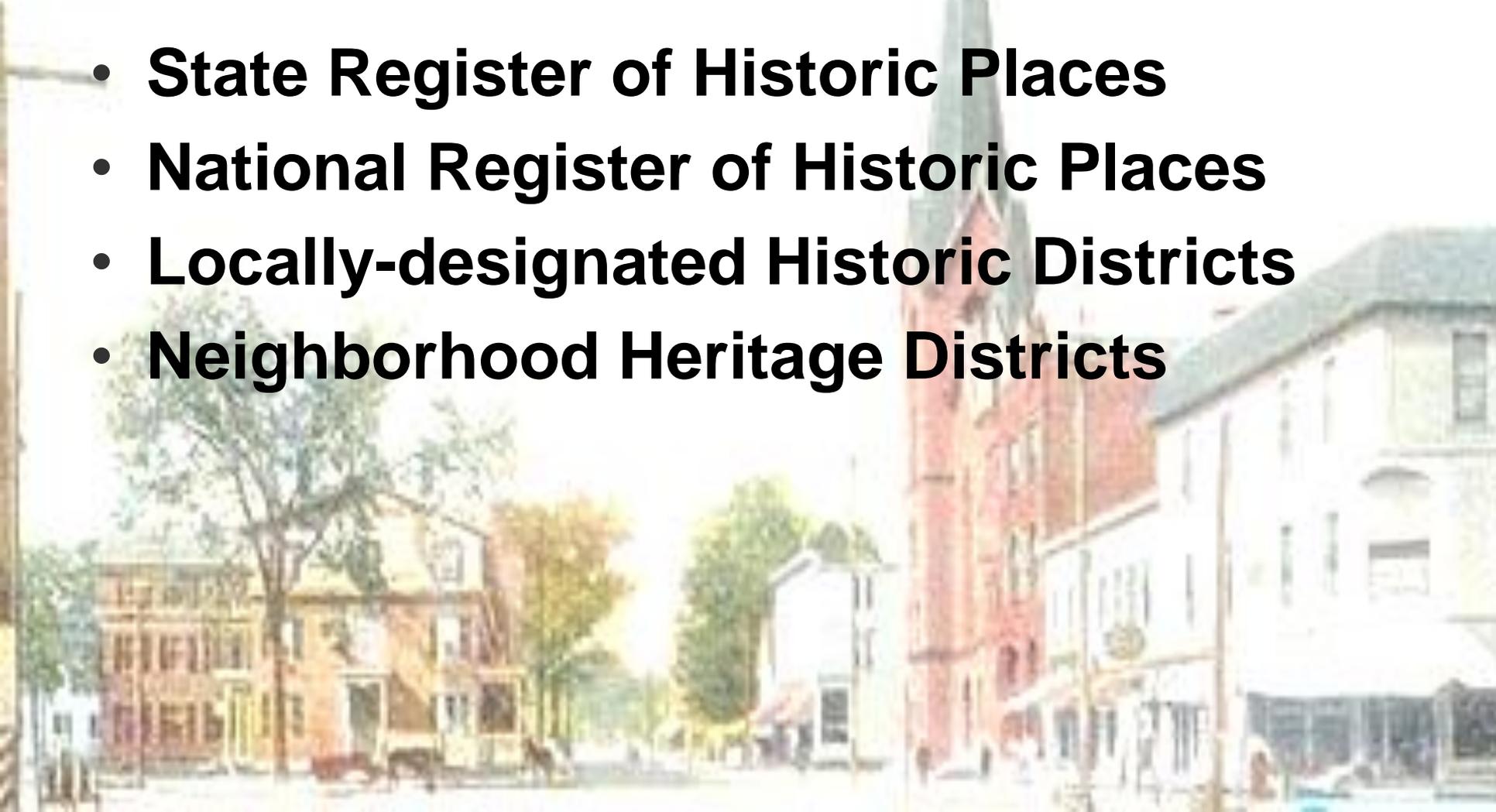
Promote your survey through educational or informational efforts:

- Walking tours
- Interpretive signs
- Exhibits
- Collaboration with teachers/ students



Consider designating important properties and areas:

- **State Register of Historic Places**
- **National Register of Historic Places**
- **Locally-designated Historic Districts**
- **Neighborhood Heritage Districts**





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

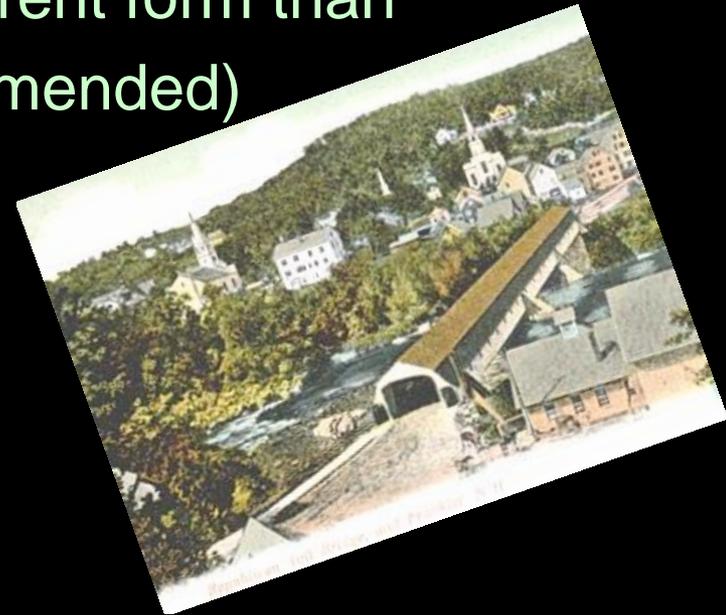
Honors a property without imposing restrictions

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 (professional consultant recommended)

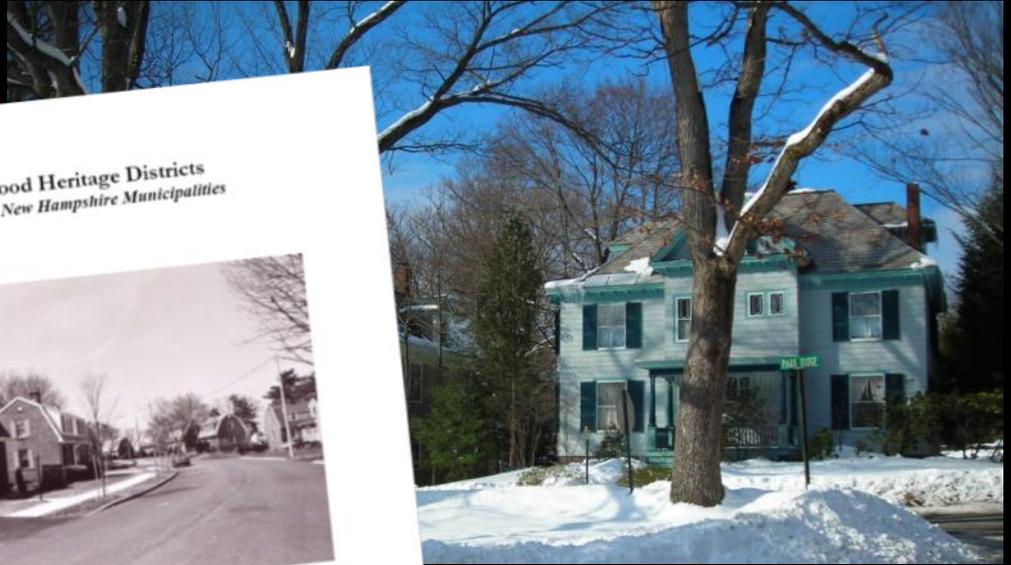
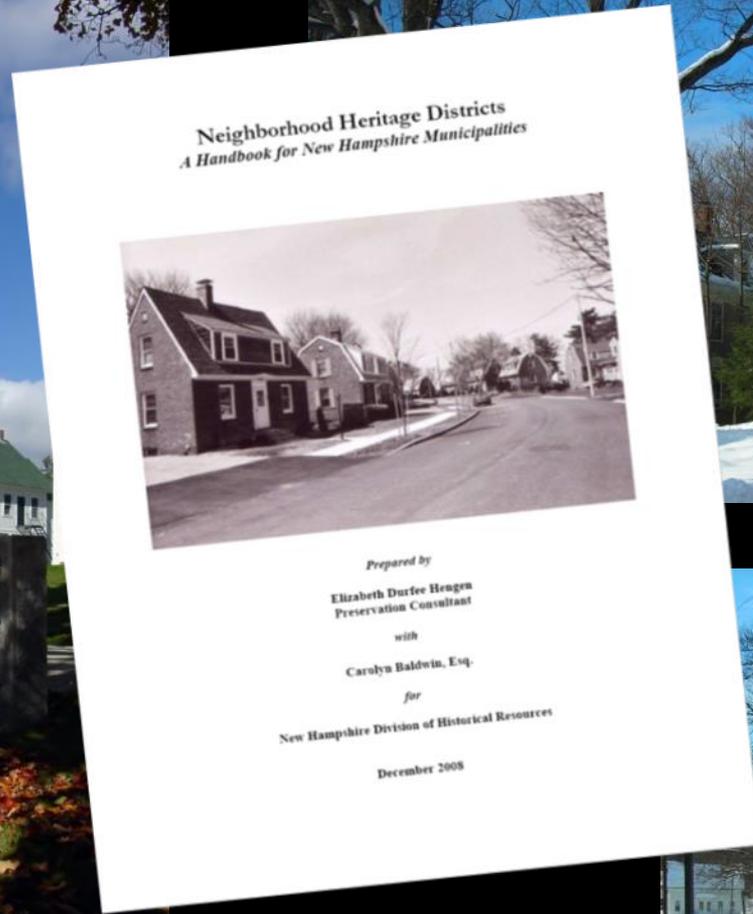


Locally-designated Historic Districts

One of the most effective and comprehensive tools for managing change in a historic area;
Ensure that new construction and significant alterations are respectful of existing character;
It is estimated there are more than 2,500 local historic districts nationwide.



Neighborhood Heritage Districts



Demolition Review Ordinance



Demolition review is a legal tool that provides communities with the means to ensure that potentially significant buildings and structures are not demolished without notice and some level of review by a preservation commission.

Preservation Easements

Preservation easements are a tool often used to insure the preservation of the character defining features of a property for the public's benefit.

The term “preservation easement” is commonly used to describe a type of conservation easement – a private legal right given by the owner of a property to a qualified nonprofit organization or governmental entity for the purpose of protecting a property's conservation and preservation values.

Some easements protect just the façade of a building. Other easements protect the larger preservation values including but not limited to the exterior and interior architectural features, materials, landscape features, outbuildings, fences, and archeological resources of a property.



How do we fund this work?



- Certified Local Government program
- Municipal appropriation
- Heritage Commission can accept private donations
- Other grants

Certified Local Government

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is designed to provide an opportunity for local governments to become more directly involved in identifying, evaluating, protecting, promoting and enhancing the educational economic value of local properties of historic, architectural and archeological significance.



Matching grants available to municipalities that have become Certified Local Governments can be used to fund community preservation activities such as survey, National Register, preservation planning and educational projects. In some years, grants are also available for architectural plans and specifications, engineering reports, and even “bricks and mortar” work on National Register properties.

Pre-Disaster Planning Grants

Pre-Disaster Planning Grants for Communities in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham and Sullivan Counties

Priorities include:

Identification and inventory of particularly vulnerable or significant historic and archaeological sites

Town-wide, district or neighborhood inventories, or inventories that benefit the greatest number of resources

Updates to previous historic inventories

Listing eligible properties or districts to the National Register

Disaster mitigation plans for properties or districts

Other innovative projects that can serve as a model for other communities or property owners

Grant materials will be on the DHR website in early June and applications are due August 10, 2015.

For more information contact Amy Dixon at 603-271-3558 or amy.dixon@dcr.nh.gov