

THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Vd. 8 Issue 2



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We're so social!

Yes, the NHDHR has taken the plunge and jumped into the social media pool. There are now several new ways for you to keep up with what's happening in New Hampshire's preservation community.

We've started two Twitter accounts:



- [@NHDHR_SHPO](#) focuses on information directly related to our programs; most recently, we showcased New Hampshire in the nationwide social media campaign celebrating the National Historic Preservation Act's 50th anniversary.
- [@My_NewHampshire](#) is the place to go to learn more about the [2016-2020 Preservation Plan](#), our [My New Hampshire](#) website, our [NH Historical Highway Marker](#) program, and other historic preservation initiatives that are driven by the public.

We're also on [YouTube](#)! Check in to see what we're up to – including a new video from Dig Days 2016.

And please be sure to use the hashtag **#MyNewHampshire** whenever you post something preservation-related on your social media accounts. Let's get it trending!



Inspiration + Innovation = Success

Looking for a dose of inspiration as you tackle preservation goals in your community? Need a 21st century model for an age-old preservation challenge? Take a look at the [twenty success stories](#) highlighted in **My New Hampshire**, the 2016-2020 edition of the statewide [preservation plan](#).

The success stories, contributed by local advocates, planners, museums, developers, and others, are an important component of the state's new plan. Their inclusion was inspired by the goals and actions laid out in the [previous plan](#), as well as comments received in public listening sessions for the current edition.

A number of the success stories feature the work of heritage commissions and other community groups, including historical inventory projects in Lebanon, Amherst and Chichester; long-time collaborative efforts in Kingston and Danbury; and a window rehabilitation project by the Plainfield Energy Committee. Other stories focus on the preservation and stewardship of important landmarks, such as the African Burial Ground In Portsmouth, the Notre Dame School in Berlin, and the Old Allenstown Meetinghouse. The economic benefits of preservation are explored in the use of preservation tax incentives in Somersworth and Claremont, and an innovative strategy for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings at Strawberry Banke Museum.

The diverse work of archaeology in New Hampshire is displayed through stories about the rescue excavation of a 12,000 year old archaeological site in Jefferson, the educational opportunities offered by a late-18th / early-19th century dig at the Wyman Tavern in Keene, and a NH Department of Transportation investigation in Manchester that revealed the daily lives of mill workers at the turn of the 20th century. The work of the NHDOT is also showcased in a story on improvements to its archaeological collections management.

The value of partnering is a final theme in the success stories. Highlighted are advocates for conservation and preservation working together at Squam Lake, the rehabilitation of a unique resource – the Fabyan Guard Station – by the White Mountain National Forest and HistoriCorps (see photo at the top of this article), and mission-driven partnerships at Canterbury Shaker Village.

Beyond inspiration, these success stories can also be a valuable networking tool. If you need further information about any of the programs or efforts showcased, contact the NHDHR via email, preservation@dcr.nh.gov. We can provide more information and put you in touch with the local advocates behind the stories. And if you post your own success stories on social media, please be sure to include the hashtag **#MyNewHampshire**; we're already collecting ideas for the 2021-2025 edition of the statewide preservation plan.

Call for Presentations...and Save the Date

We're Golden!

Celebrating 50 Years of the National Historic Preservation Act

The NHDHR is hosting a one-day symposium on Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act and to recognize its many successes here in New Hampshire.

The symposium will offer several opportunities for presenters to share information about completed projects



that incorporated unique or creative approaches to Section 106 or a particularly successful public consultation process. Projects may involve archaeology, above-ground historic resources or a combination of both. Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes, followed by a brief question and answer session.

Abstracts, no longer than one page, single-spaced, 12-point type, should be submitted electronically no later than July 15.

More information is available [here](#).

National Register of Historic Places update

The NHDHR is proud to announce that both Centennial Hall in North Hampton and the Francestown Town Hall and Academy and Town Common Historic District have been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement on the National Register of Historic Places.



Centennial Hall; Francestown Town Hall and Academy

Centennial Hall was built in 1876 to serve as a combination school and community hall. Its Stick Style exterior with mansard roof and cupola directly above the front entrance make it distinct from other buildings in the region. Many of the original interior architectural details remain, including an oak staircase with intricate newel post and beadboard, historic light fixtures, and a dumbwaiter.

The Center School portion of the building was crowded from the very beginning. Eighty students attended classes on the first floor, which initially was divided into two rooms. Post-World War II, 130 students were enrolled and the same space had been divided into four classrooms.

On the second floor, a public hall provided versatile space for the community. A raised stage was added in 1899; popular events included dances, masquerade balls, and a whist party with a live goose as the prize.

North Hampton built a new school in 1949; in 1998, the Friends of Centennial Hall purchased the building and have since completed several renovations.

The **Fracestown Town Hall and Academy and Town Common Historic District** includes several historically important elements, including the Town Hall and Academy building, a former student boarding house known as the "Beehive," an 18-stall horse shed, a platform scale, and a granite watering trough. The district is adjacent to the Fracestown Meetinghouse, which is separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Like Centennial Hall, Fracestown's Greek Revival Town Hall and Academy building, built in 1847, served dual purposes: annual and town meetings were held on the first floor, and academic activities on the second. Features include its original wainscoting and a heavy wooden chair rail, a deep stage installed in 1879, a large hall, two classrooms, and two smaller chambers.

Built into a side of a nearby hill, the "Beehive" is one of very few mid-19th century dormitories for academy students that remains largely unchanged. Its simply detailed bed chambers, dining room and study, along with a separate kitchen and chamber for an adult superintendent, still illustrate academy life in the 1800s.

For more information about the National Register program in New Hampshire, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/national_register or contact National Register Coordinator Peter Michaud, peter.michaud@dcn.nh.gov, 603-271-3583.

New additions to the NH State Register of Historic Places

The State Historical Resources Council has added three properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places:

The **Acworth Horse Sheds** on the town common accommodated the "parking" needs of those visiting the town hall or the Congregational Church. Built in the 1820s, the nine-bay timber frame horse sheds are a rare surviving example of a building type once common in New Hampshire.



Constructed in 1908 near the Belmont Mill during the peak in popularity for local brass bands, the **Belmont Bandstand**, with its ornate design – including gingerbread details – still serves as a center for entertainment in the community. In part to celebrate the bandstand's listing to the State Register, Belmont hosted a Heritage and Preservation Fair on May 21.

The **George Washington Noyes House** in Gorham is an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture and is one of three houses built on Soldier Hill after an 1879 fire devastated the adjacent downtown. Noyes was a career railroad man who worked his way up from road builder to master engineer; this architect-designed house reflects his rise in status.

For more information about the New Hampshire State Register program and to see photos of listed properties, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_register.html or contact State Register Coordinator Mary Kate Ryan, marykate.ryan@dcn.nh.gov, 603-271-



Welcome, Erica Gish!

[Erica Gish](#) has joined the NHDHR as our new program assistant. She'll be handling phone calls, making sure visitors get to where they need to be, and ensuring everything runs smoothly for visitors and staff alike.

Erica attended Texas State University in San Marcos, where she earned a bachelors degree in history and a masters degree in public history. But history is just one of her interests; she really knows her way around European board games like "Marrying Mr. Darcy" and "Dominion," and she loves animals, including her California rabbit, Clover.

Please be sure to take a moment to say hello to Erica when you stop by our offices.

On the Road Again...

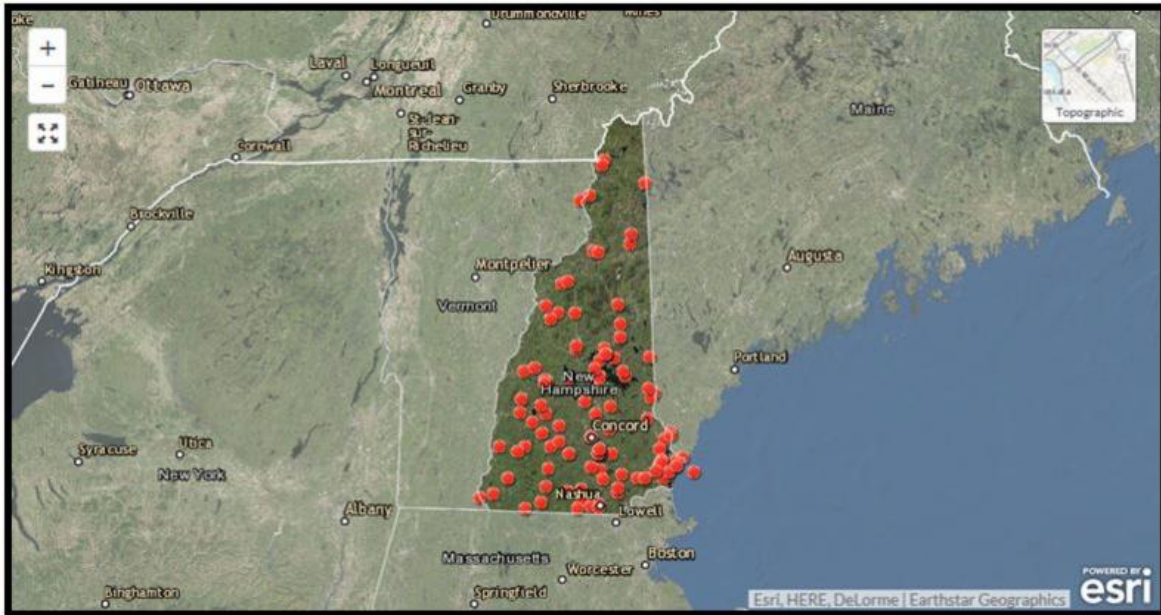
Sharing pictures with preservation friends...

Last summer, the NHDHR launched the **My New Hampshire** [website](#) so that people could share stories, photos and locations of their favorite historic places in the state.

Well...our little map idea has really taken off and we're sticking with it! At press time, there are more than 130 listings, covering all counties and featuring archaeological sites, mills, town halls, landscapes, bridges, and more.

As you travel around this summer, be sure to take note of your favorite historical places and share them on **My New Hampshire**.

Need inspiration? Check out the [video](#) we made using just some of the sites posted in 2015.



REMINDER: Coastal Risks report comments are due June 30

The New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission's full draft report and recommendations, [*Preparing New Hampshire for Projected Storm Surge, Sea-Level Rise, and Extreme Precipitation*](#), are available for public review and comment. The draft report reviews future flood risk in coastal New Hampshire, identifies key areas of vulnerability – including cultural resources – and makes recommendations to improve resilience and reduce risk.

The NHDHR served on the legislative study commission that assembled the draft and is now asking community preservation advocates to weigh in with their comments and suggestions.

Comments should:

- Identify the name and contact information of the commenter
- Clearly identify the section, page number and specific text being referenced (if applicable)
- Explain the reason for a suggested change.

Comments may be emailed to crhc-comments@rpc-nh.org or sent via mail to Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commissioner, 156 Water St., Exeter, N.H. 03833.

For additional information, visit nhcrhc.stormsmart.org and / or contact Cliff Sennott, commission chair, 603-778-0885. Copies of the report are also available for review at public libraries and town and city halls located in coastal municipalities.

The comment period is open through 4:00 p.m. EST on **June 30, 2016**.

Upcoming NHDHR events

Public Information Meeting:

Portsmouth Downtown Historic District National Register Nomination

Seacoast Repertory Theatre

125 Bow St., Portsmouth

June 28, 2016; 6:30-8 p.m.

Discussion:

"My New Hampshire: NH's Five-Year Preservation Plan, 2016-2020"

Peterborough Town Hall

1 Grove St., Peterborough

July 12, 2016; 5:30-7 p.m.

Discussion:

"My New Hampshire: NH's Five-Year Preservation Plan, 2016-2020"

Randolph Town Hall

130 Durand St., Randolph

August 9, 2016; 5:30-7 p.m.

Symposium:

We're Golden: Celebrating 50 Years of the National Historic Preservation Act

NH Department of Transportation

7 Hazen Dr., Concord

October 28, 2016

For updates, visit our website, nh.gov/nhdhr.

Stay involved in historic preservation

Between issues of **Old Stone Wall**, you can remain active in New Hampshire's preservation community. Good places to start are the NHDHR's Twitter accounts [@NHDHR_SHPO](https://twitter.com/NHDHR_SHPO) and [@My_NewHampshire](https://twitter.com/My_NewHampshire), the [NH Preservation Alliance website](http://nh365.org), nh365.org (choose "History" in the "All Categories" drop-down menu) and your local community's historic and preservation organizations.

*This lead photo for this edition of "Old Stone Wall" was taken at the quarry at Meriden Hill in Columbia and was submitted to **My New Hampshire** by Bill Schomburg. "Columbia Pink" granite harvested from this quarry has been used at the Pentagon, the Smithsonian and other famous buildings.*



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preservation@dcr.nh.gov | nh.gov/nhdhr

STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

[@NHDHR_SHPO](#)
[@My_NewHampshire](#)
YouTube: [NH Division of Historical Resources](#)

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