

THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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Looking back on 50 years of historic preservation - and looking forward to the next 50

2016 was, of course, the 50th anniversary of the [National Historic Preservation Act](#) and the NHDHR celebrated throughout the year by publishing the state's [2016-2020 Five-Year Preservation Plan](#), creating two Twitter accounts ([@NHDHR_SHPO](#)



and [@My_NewHampshire](#)) and a [YouTube channel](#), and continuing our popular [My New Hampshire](#) photo sharing campaign.

Our most high-profile initiative was "We're Golden," a day-long symposium that focused on the NHPA - specifically [Section 106](#) - and the many success stories New Hampshire has had in the historic preservation field. More than 100 people joined us for a day of presentations, a panel discussion of some of the most meaningful Section 106 reviews in the state and a keynote address by Charlene Dwin Vaughn, assistant director at the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#).

If you weren't able to join us for "We're Golden" or if you'd like to refer to the material that was presented, visit [the symposium's webpage](#), where the presentation and keynote slideshows are available for download. Each demonstrated the value and public benefit Section 106 reviews can add to a project, while also accomplishing a variety of government initiatives. A video of the panel discussion, which featured preservation veterans Gary Hume, Harry Kinter and Linda Wilson and was moderated by Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, is also available there.

The 50th anniversary celebration may be over, but historic preservation keeps moving ahead! Together, we can continue the preservation conversation started 50 years ago with the passage of the NHPA. Please continue to share your success stories with us at preservation@dcr.nh.gov and via social media, and remember to include **#MyNewHampshire** so others can learn about the places that mean the most to you.

Success Story: Historic farm now a recovery center



Kerry Norton, RN and Colene Arnold, MD OB/GYN physician.
Photo courtesy of Hope On Haven Hill.

Hope On Haven Hill, a new residential recovery center for pregnant women with substance use disorders, opened at the historic Samuel R. Hanson Farm in **Rochester** in November. Eight women, along with their children, will call the Hanson Farm home during their pregnancies and for one year postpartum while they receive counseling and life skills training.

The Greek Revival-style Hanson Farm is the best surviving example of the large prosperous farmsteads that were once common to the area. It was listed to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Hope on Haven Hill received a \$75,000 [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant](#) to help with the cost of rehabilitating the building for its new use; that award prompted review under [Section 106](#) of the [National Historic Preservation Act](#). Knowing that the community had a very short timeframe to complete the grant requirements, NHDHR staff worked closely and quickly with the project leaders to help them meet the directives of both Section 106 and life safety and building codes while creating a welcoming place for women and their children. Through everyone's hard work, final plans sensitively preserved the building's important historic features while still meeting the code requirements required for recovery facilities.

Today, the house, barn, associated yards, fences, stone walls, mature trees, open fields and family cemetery are both a well-preserved illustration of what the historic landscape once was in this section of 19th century Rochester and an important resource for its 21st century residents on their paths to recovery. For more information about Hope On Haven Hill, visit hopeonhavenhill.org.

It's that time of year! On January 30, the NHDHR's 2017 Conservation License Plate grant round opens. Our Moose Plate grants support the restoration, preservation and / or conservation of publicly owned historic buildings, sculptures, murals and archaeological or historic artifacts significant to New Hampshire's cultural heritage.

The first step in the process is to submit a Letter of Intent to apply, providing a brief description of the project - 250 words or fewer - and acknowledging that the resource seeking funding is publicly owned and is listed or eligible for listing on the New Hampshire State or National Registers of Historic Places. Letters of Intent are due March 24, 2017. Applications are due May 12, 2017 for eligible projects and resources.

Last year, the NHDHR was able to support eight projects:

- Chimney repairs at the Whipple House in **Ashland**
- Exterior stabilization of the **Bartlett** Roundhouse
- Exterior repairs and repainting at the **Center Harbor** Town House
- Rehabilitation of the **Freedom** Roller Shed
- Foundation and drainage repairs at the Kelley Corner Schoolhouse in **Gilmanton**
- Belfry repairs at the **Hebron** Academy Building
- Interior restoration at the **Milton** Town House
- Exterior restoration of the City Hall Annex in **Rochester**

More information about the NHDHR's Conservation License Plate grant program is available at nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose.

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If you think you have a project that may be eligible for a Moose Plate grant but you have questions, contact Amy Dixon, amy.dixon@dcr.nh.gov, 603-271-3485.

All funds raised through the sales of Conservation License Plates help steward New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historic resources. The Department of Cultural Resources receives a percentage of funds raised from the sales of Moose Plates and sends them directly back into communities through grant programs in three of the department's divisions: the NHDHR, the State Council on the Arts and the State Library. Each division has specific requirements, and applicants may only apply to one division in a given year. For more details, visit nh.gov/nhculture/grants.htm.

You can learn more about all aspects of the Moose Plate program, including how to purchase one for your vehicle, at mooseplate.com.



Certified Local Government communities complete, begin projects

We're always pleased to bring you news from the Certified Local Government Program, which promotes the preservation of community historic and archaeological resources through a partnership between local governments and the NHDHR.

The following grant projects were completed in recent months:

- The Town of **Exeter** published new, illustrated, user-friendly design guidelines for its regulated historic districts
- The City of **Lebanon** completed a citywide neighborhood character survey
- **Somersworth's** Forest Glade Cemetery was nominated - and named - to the National Register of Historic Places (see *National Register story, below*).

Grant projects currently underway in 2016-2017 are:

- Completing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Gasholder Building in **Concord**
- A Phase IV archaeological survey of the Goat Island-Piscataqua Bridge in **Newington**
- Restoration of the City Hall Annex façade in **Rochester**
- A survey of the Sanbornville Historic District Area in **Wakefield**

Annually, the NHDHR offers CLG communities the opportunity to apply for grants to assist with preservation initiatives as part of the office's commitment to designate at least 10 percent of its annual federal Historic Preservation Funds to the CLG Program. Currently, there are 21 CLGs in New Hampshire; only those communities are eligible to apply for this grant funding.

A municipality wishing to become a CLG must fulfill certain requirements indicating its commitment to local preservation, including establishing either a historic district commission or a heritage commission with historic district responsibilities.

For more information about the CLG program, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/cert_local_govt.html or contact Nadine Miller, nadine.miller@dcr.nh.gov, 603-271-6628 or Amy Dixon, amy.dixon@dcr.nh.gov, 603-271-3485.



The popular [NH Historical Highway Marker program](#) - which the NHDHR coordinates with the [NH Department of Transportation](#) - was recently featured on NH Chronicle. One young marker fan, Emma Lacey, is on a mission to see them all. Missed it? You can [watch it online](#) on the [NH Chronicle website](#).



Railroad site, municipal buildings named to State Register

The NHDHR is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added four individual properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

The Letter S Road Railroad Trestle Supports in **Alton** were constructed for the Cocheco Railroad line that brought Boston and Maine rail service from downtown Dover to Alton Bay from the mid-19th century into the Great Depression years. Although the trestle itself has been removed, the abutments, pier and railbed are still in place and remain a local historic landmark.

Originally a one-room schoolhouse with separate entrances for girls and boys, **Center Harbor's** Village School was built in 1886 in response to New Hampshire's town system school law that abolished the district school system. Additions include a second classroom in 1902, "chemical closets" in 1921 that replaced the original privies, and a kitchen, retaining wall and playground in 1929.

Mont Vernon's Greek Revival Old Meetinghouse has provided space for town,



religious and community activities throughout its history. Built in 1781 with oak timbers from parishioners' farms, it was moved from the opposite side of the street to its prominent hilltop location in 1837.



Since it opened in 1894, Ingalls Memorial Library has been the only dedicated public library in **Rindge**; it was predicted to "prove an inestimable benefit to the town" at its dedication. An excellent example of Romanesque architecture, the library was funded in memory of Thomas Ingalls, son of a Revolutionary War soldier and himself a prominent citizen of Rindge.



Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on individual inventory forms from the NHDHR. Having a property listed in the Register offers a number of benefits but does not impose restrictions on property owners. For more information, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_register.html.



A birds-eye view of archaeology



If you've ever been to an archaeological field school, you've spent a lot of time looking down, looking at measurements, looking for a trowel you had a minute ago, looking at that fragment to see if it has a story to tell, looking, looking, looking....

Here's a different look. At the NHDHR's [State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program](#) (SCRAP) field school this October, Peter Lynch brought along his drone and got a whole new perspective on what it means to do archaeology. As attendees were investigating a 12,000 year old Paleoindian site, they had 21st-century technology documenting a small part of their lives too!

For more information about SCRAP, including this summer's field schools, contact Dr. Richard Boisvert, richard.boisvert@dcr.nh.gov, 603-271-6433.

NH State Library celebrates 300th anniversary in 2017



THE FIRST STATE LIBRARY IN AMERICA

Celebrating 300 years

The **New Hampshire State Library** - the first state library in America - will be celebrating its 300th anniversary throughout 2017. The State Library, like the NHDHR, is a division of the [Department of Cultural Resources](#).

In January 1717, New Hampshire's 27th General Assembly met in Portsmouth, passing several orders and resolves. On the 25th of that month, it declared that:

"Law books be distributed among ye severall towns of this Province in proportion according to their last Prov : tax, except two books wch shall be for ye Govr & Councill & house of representatives."

Those books were the beginning of the New Hampshire State Library.

Throughout the year, the State Library will post 300 "fun facts" of information about the library, as well as New Hampshire library history and New Hampshire literary history, on its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. It will also distribute articles about today's New Hampshire State Library to media outlets and add a new section to [its website](#) devoted to the anniversary.

Please join us as we celebrate this important anniversary!

Stay involved in historic preservation

Between issues of **The Old Stone Wall**, you can remain active in New Hampshire's preservation community. Good places to start are your local community's historic and preservation organizations, the [NH History Network](#) and the [NH Preservation Alliance website](#).

The lead photo for this edition of "The Old Stone Wall" is of Cheney's Farm in Center Tuftonboro and was submitted to [My New Hampshire](#) by Lorna Colquhoun.



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

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