

THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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Federal Preservation Tax Credit update

News from Washington, D.C., that the federal historic preservation tax credit program had not been eliminated in last month's rewrite of the tax code came at the perfect time for New Hampshire. An all-time high number of properties are enrolled in the program, which encourages private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings. A 20% income tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings; the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Offices review the rehabilitation work to ensure that it complies with the [Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation](#).

Concerns that the program might be eliminated surfaced as early as 2014, followed by various drafts of federal tax legislation that either eliminated or reduced the

program. Supporters in New Hampshire and throughout the country successfully advocated for the program's retention. A key point was that, when weighing the program's costs against its economic impacts, the program returns a net benefit to the US Treasury.



(left to right) State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth Muzzey, Program Coordinator Peter Michaud and Department of Natural & Cultural Resources Commissioner Jeffrey Rose investigate the former company office at the Franklin Power & Light Mill. Original details -- including the coffered wood ceiling and bead-board paneling -- are now incorporated into a bedroom in one of complex's 45 new apartments.

The most recent preservation tax credit success story in New Hampshire is the rehabilitation of the Franklin Power & Light Company Mill, a 50,000 square-foot riverfront brick mill built in 1895. [CATCH Neighborhood Housing](#) now provides 45 new housing units at the mill, with nine of the units designated for income-qualified veterans.

CATCH faced some interesting and difficult challenges during the project. The building had sat vacant for several years, suffered from deferred maintenance and had a historic evolution marked by several tall narrow additions that took advantage of natural light, but made for a complicated floor plan with minimal room for the common hallways. CATCH and its design team worked creatively to craft a plan for the building's new use that was both economically viable and maintained the mill's historic features. The team continued to move forward with the same creativity when the building presented additional challenges during the construction phase of the project.

The preservation tax credit program has been credited with having a [catalytic impact](#) on historic downtowns and main streets. When the private sector rehabilitates a building utilizing preservation tax credits, positive benefits ripple throughout the community, setting the stage for additional investment and increasing business activity. In New Hampshire, Newmarket, Dover, Nashua and Claremont have all recently benefited from the momentum of multiple tax credit projects. The Franklin Power & Light Company project is located in the Franklin Falls Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. With the recent victory for the program in Washington, other properties in the historic district can also take

advantage of preservation tax credits.



Cutting the ribbon at the CATCH Neighborhood Housing' Franklin Power & Light project in November.



Image of lightning protection at the Warner House in Portsmouth.

*Photo credit: National Parks Service
(taken by the NHDHR's Peter Michaud)*

Winter is a great time to sharpen your preservation skills

Winter may slow down your hands-on preservation activities a bit, but there are still ways that you can keep your skills sharp when it's cold and snowy outside.

The National Park Service reached an important milestone when it recently released its 50th Preservation Brief: "Lightning Protection for Historic Structures." Written by Charles E. Fisher, the brief provides a short – and fascinating – history of lightning protection, provides information about maintenance and repair of old and new systems, and covers what to consider when installing new systems on historic buildings. As with all Preservation Briefs from

NPS, the information is well-researched and valuable whether historic preservationists are just starting out or have decades of experience. Each can be downloaded at nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm.

And for those who like to start planning their spring calendars now, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is bringing its brand-new "Section 106 Basics" course to Providence, RI on May 15, 2018. Small groups will apply the four-step

Section 106 review process to examples from their own experiences, practice identifying consulting parties and how to plan to involve the public, describe an Area of Potential Effect, identify strategies to avoid adverse effects, and practice documenting a mitigation commitment in a sample agreement stipulation. Learn more about all of the Advisory Council's in-person and online training opportunities at achp.gov/training.html.

Visit us at Farm & Forest

A highlight every winter for New Hampshire's preservation community is the annual Farm & Forest Exposition. In one spot you can learn a wide variety of information related to historic farms, barns and outbuildings, from "Saving NH's Old Barns" (which will include a Q&A session at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 8) to "Building Successful Market Gardens" to "Grazing Basics and Beyond." And where else can you both win at FARMO and pet baby farm animals?



This year, Farm & Forest takes place on Friday, February 8, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. Admission is \$7; there is no charge for those age 16 and under. Anyone donating at least one non-perishable item – which will go to the NH Food Bank – receives a dollar off admission.

The NHDHR, along with its partners the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the Barn Committee, will have an exhibit table at Farm & Forest, so be sure to stop by and visit us!

Learn more about the Farm & Forest Expo at nhfarmandforestexpo.org.

Time to update your NHDHR contacts...

This month, Edna Feighner retired from her position as archaeologist and Review & Compliance Coordinator at the NHDHR. Edna always brought the perfect mix to any project she worked on; she's knowledgeable, professional, and knows how to put things in perspective. We'll miss her immensely and wish her the very best!

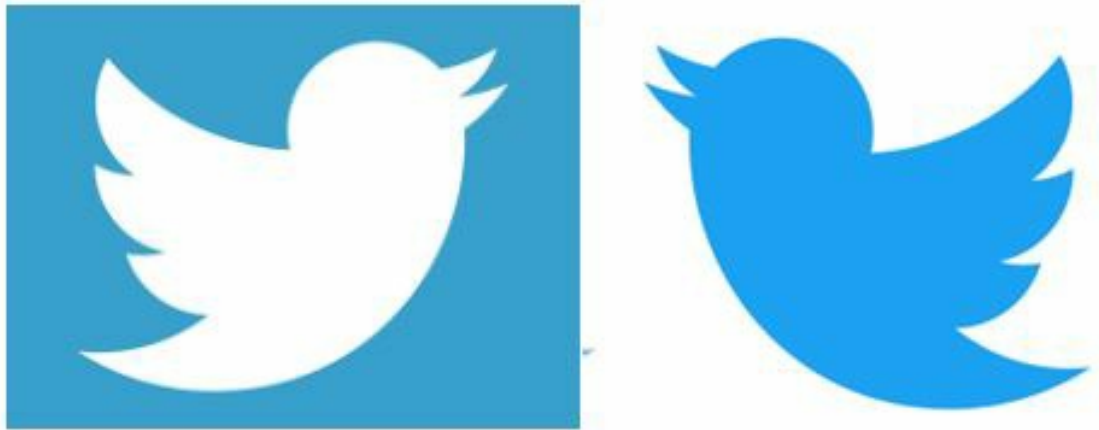
Dave Trubey, who had been working as GIS program specialist at the NHDHR, has been hired to fill Edna's position. If you need assistance with Review & Compliance issues, please contact Dave at david.trubey@dncr.nh.gov, 271-2813.

NHDHR turns 100 -- or our Twitter accounts do, to be precise

When the NHDHR decided to step into the world of social media, we approached it the way we do most things: with thoughtful research and planning. As a result, we started two Twitter accounts: [@NHDHR_SHPO](https://twitter.com/NHDHR_SHPO) focuses on our work as a state

agency and [@My_NewHampshire](#) shares information from the **Five-Year Plan**, the **My New Hampshire** photo-sharing project and the **NH Historic Highway Markers Map**.

We're pleased to let you know that this fall we passed the important "100 followers" mark for each account! If you'd like to find out more about what's happening at the NHDHR between issues of the *Old Stone Wall*, you can check out our Twitter accounts. And if you're a bit shy about social media, don't worry. You don't have to have your own account to see what's happening – just go to the addresses listed above and you'll get right there.



NHDHR's two Twitter accounts have two preservation personalities, but each has lots of fans.

NH State Register of Historic Places continues to add properties that help define our state

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

The **Brentwood Meetinghouse**, built in 1815 to serve as both a church and town meeting place, stands as a symbol of meetinghouse design transition in southeastern New Hampshire. Its distinctive two-story central pavilion topped with a three-stage tower help make it an important architectural landmark.

Built circa 1820 on the east side of what is now Route 3, the **Stratford Grange** served as the town's meeting house until it was moved to the west side in 1896. It was then the home of the New Hampshire State Grange of the Order of Patron of Husbandry Stratford 238, which, unlike many organizations of the time, was open to both men and women.

A substantial farm complex, the **Adams**

Homestead in Newington dates to approximately 1717, soon after Rev. Joseph Adams – a relative of President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams – became the first member of the family to settle in the area. Eight generations of the Adams family have owned and farmed the property.

The **Wiggin-Raynes Barn in Exeter** is part of a property that has been farmed since the late 17th century. Chase Wiggin built the massive 95-by-42-foot barn prior to the Civil War and developed a sizable cattle market for livestock that were being driven from northern New England to Boston.

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 an individual inventory form from the NHDHR. Having a property listed in the State Register offers a number of benefits but does not impose restrictions on property owners. Learn more about the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places at nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_register.html or by contacting Megan Rupnik, megan.rupnik@dncr.nh.gov, 271-6435.



(top-bottom) Detail from Brentwood Meetinghouse, Stratford Grange, archive image of the Adams Homestead, the Wiggin-Raynes barn.

Hebron is now a Certified Local Government

The National Park Service has designated the Town of Hebron as a Certified Local Government, joining 21 communities in the state to have already achieved this distinction.

First settled in 1765 and incorporated in 1792, Hebron remains an iconic small New Hampshire town. Its Village Historic District was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985; seven of those properties were listed to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places in 2016.



*A view of Hebron's picturesque Village Historic District.
Photo credit: Hebron Historic Society*

The Certified Local Government program in New Hampshire promotes the preservation of historic buildings and districts, archaeological sites, structures, landscapes and objects by establishing a partnership between local governments, the NHDHR and the National Park Service.

A municipality wishing to become a Certified Local Government 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.

Created by the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Certified Local Government program requires the NHDHR to designate at least 10 percent of its annual federal Historic Preservation Funds to support Certified Local Governments. These grants can be used to fund community preservation activities such as historic survey and inventory of buildings and archaeological sites, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, preservation planning, heritage education, historic structures reports and other pre-development work, and brick and mortar projects. Other benefits of the program include technical assistance from the NHDHR on local planning issues, special training opportunities, and a role in commenting on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

Learn more about the NHDHR's Certified Government Program at nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/cert_local_govt.html or by contacting Nadine Miller, nadine.miller@dncr.nh.gov, 271-6628.

Moose Plate grant round to open this spring

Long-time *Old Stone Wall* readers may remember that we usually announce the opening of the Conservation License Plate ("Moose Plate") grant round in January, and that grants are awarded in the fall. For some, the time between applying for a grant and learning results from the grant panel made managing projects difficult.

We've listened to your feedback. This year, we'll be opening the grant round on March 5. Letters of Intent will be due by April 27 and full applications due on June 15. Grants will be awarded in the fall.

We'll send out a special grant round reminder in early March. And remember: you can still purchase your Moose Plate all year long!

Learn more about how Moose Plates support New Hampshire's cultural heritage at mooseplate.com.



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 the Blair Bridge in Campton and was submitted to ["My New Hampshire"](#) by Richard J. Kipphut.



Working together to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through education, stewardship and protection.

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preservation@dncr.nh.gov | nh.gov/nhdhr
[@NHDHR_SHPO](#)
[@My_NewHampshire](#)
YouTube: [NH Division of Historical Resources](#)

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status, physical or mental disability or national origin. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington DC, 20240.