

THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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NHDHR's Preservation Easement Program: helping property owners and protecting history

Preservation easements protect many special places across New Hampshire. They are an important part of making sure that New Hampshire's historic character remains in

good shape for future generations.

What is a preservation easement? Essentially, it is a legal agreement between a property owner and another entity -- such as a state historic preservation office -- that specifies how a historic property should be cared for, either in perpetuity or for certain number of years. There is flexibility in how the agreement is written, so that it meets the needs of a particular historic property, the property owner and the entity that holds the easement. But all preservation easements share the same purpose: protecting the important characteristics of a historic property, such as the exterior or interior of a building, historic outbuildings or other structures on a property, or the landscape and natural features of the property.

At the NHDHR, we manage easements on nearly 30 historical places. Properties typically come into the NHDHR's program because the public has invested in them in some way. Examples include properties that have received federal or state grants, properties that were transferred from state or federal ownership to private ownership, or properties that serve as mitigation for a public project that adversely affected historical resources.



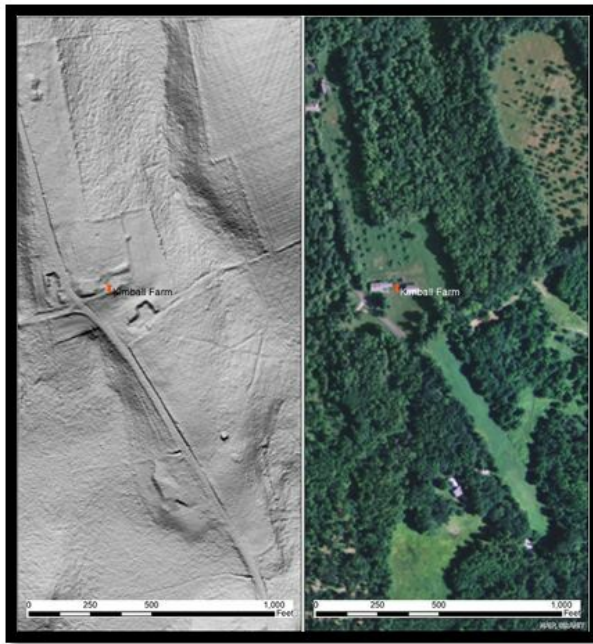
Unique historic properties like White Island Light House benefit from preservation easements.

Our easements cover the state, from Pittsburg to Nashua, New Castle to Newport, and help maintain the integrity of such diverse places as the Old Meeting House in Allenstown, Littleton's Opera House and the Hay Estate in Newbury.

Helping steward these resources through preservation easements is an integral part of what we do at the NHDHR and, in turn, is an important part of helping maintain New Hampshire's authenticity and historic fabric. If you'd like to learn more about our Preservation Easement program, visit our [website](#) or contact Laura Black, laura.black@dncr.nh.gov.

NHDHR partners with NHDES for stone wall mapping project

New Hampshire's stone walls are not only beautiful, but they also help define our state's history. Unfortunately, many of our stone walls are falling into disrepair ("not one stone on a stone," as Robert Frost wrote), have succumbed to



(left-right) LiDAR and satellite images of a farm in Temple, showing stone wall locations

overgrowth or, perhaps most sadly, have been dismantled by those who do not know they are [protected by state law](#).

The good news for our stone walls is that the N.H. Geological Survey at the Department of Environmental Services this month launched a new interactive website, [New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapper](#). The public can use the site to map stone walls, even in forested areas, using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). The map's interface is easy to use, requiring only a web browser and the internet.

"The release of the mapping application and Story Map is the product of a hard-working group of devoted individuals, including historians, educators, archaeologists, community members, GIS

professionals and representatives from regional planning commissions and state agencies," explains Tanya Krajcik, Deputy State Archaeologist. "The DHR has long advocated for stone wall stewardship. It's very exciting to be able to merge history and technology and record these unique landscape features."

UNH GRANIT developed and is hosting the crowdsourced application, which was made possible through a \$14,487 grant from the NH Charitable Foundation.

An ongoing project, the New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapper will support efforts by the state and local communities to monitor and preserve these iconic symbols of our shared heritage. Log on today -- you can make a difference!

Visit us at Farm & Forest Expo, February 1 & 2

It's that time of year when folks are halfway through the woodpile, their 2019 seed catalogs are well-worn, and everyone's itching to start on spring preservation projects. This makes it the perfect time to visit the **New Hampshire Farm & Forest Exposition**.



The NHDHR will again have booth this year, where we'll be showcasing the importance of New Hampshire's historic farms and agricultural outbuildings and the accomplishments of the state's Barn Committee over the last twenty years. On Friday at 2 p.m., we're sponsoring a panel discussion about historic barns that will provide a sneak peek at the soon-to-be released second edition of "Preserving Old Barns," which has expanded content and beautiful new photographs.

Two other [N.H. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources'](#) divisions, Forests & Lands and Parks & Recreation, will also have exhibits, and Smokey Bear will be on hand to start celebrating his 75th birthday year.

Farm and Forest Expo 2019 takes place February 1-2 at the Hilton Double Tree in Manchester. Admission is \$7; attendees bringing two canned goods will receive \$1 off

admission, with donations going to the NH Food Bank.

An annual event, the Farm and Forest Expo is a program of the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and the N.H. Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food. Visit [New Hampshire Farm & Forest Exposition](#) to learn more.

SCRAP annual awards an opportunity to get together, celebrate



The SCRAP program had a wonderful turnout for its annual awards

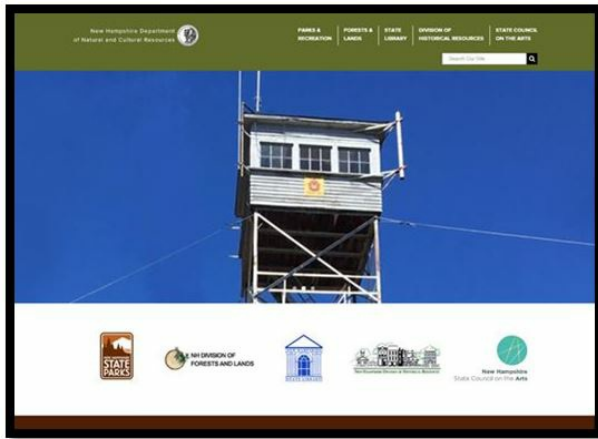
SCRAP, the NHDHR's **State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program**, held its annual awards on January 11 at the Women's Club of Concord. Volunteers from our field schools and lab, who are the backbone of the program, received certificates for completing qualifications for Excavation Technician I and II and Laboratory Technician I and II. John Porter was named Avocational Archaeologist of the Year and Michael Cory took Rookie of the Year honors. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to share stories away from test pits, brushes and trowels -- and to not worry about ticks and sunburn!

SCRAP field schools offer training on the basics of archaeological field recovery and recordation, the identification of artifacts, the fundamentals of artifact cleaning and cataloging, and archaeological ethics. Field instruction is based on hands-on participation, typically with more experienced crew working with novices.

To learn more about the many ways SCRAP assists with community archaeology, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm. We hope to soon have information posted about the 2019 field schools, so bookmark the site and keep checking in.

New DNCR website launches

Great news! Our agency, the **NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources**, has launched [a new website](#) that not only links you to all five of the DNCR's divisions, but also offers



NHDHR and the NH Division of Forests & Lands join forces on the new DNCR website with this image of a historic fire tower.

information about the many ways we serve New Hampshire, including via the [Moose Plate Program](#), [Grant Programs](#), [Online Maps](#) and more. And keeping up with what we do is even easier thanks to our comprehensive [Social Media Center](#) and [News & Events](#) pages. Check it out!

Barn Tax Incentive closes April 15

When the Concord Monitor newspaper recently asked "[How should society determine which buildings are worth saving?](#)" barns were one of the historic structures that garnered passion from responders. Saving the state's barns is one of the ways New Hampshire's identity can be preserved.

New Hampshire's **Discretionary Preservation Easement Incentive** ([RSA 79-D](#)) authorizes towns and cities to grant property tax relief to barn owners who can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barn or other historic outbuildings, and who agree to maintain them throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement.



These two are really happy to have a historic poultry barn to patrol.

Members of NH Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee (commonly called "the Barn Committee") were early advocates for the creation of the barn preservation incentive and continue to assist barn owners and community officials with questions. Today, 95 towns and cities are utilizing the incentive in order to encourage barn preservation. For more information on the program before its April 15 deadline, and for information on other tools for preserving barns, visit nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/barns.html.



Agriculture, education, commerce sites added to NH State Register of Historic Places

The NHDHR is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added eight properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The new listings represent a broad range of buildings and sites that influenced their communities as far back as the American Revolution.

The State Register has helped to promote the significance of many historic properties across New Hampshire. Benefits of being listed on the State Register include:

- Acknowledgment of a property's historical significance in the community.
- Special consideration and relief from some building codes and regulations; and
- Designation of a property as historical, which is a pre-qualification for many grant programs, including Conservation License Plate grants and New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grants.

Wilder Farm in Alstead is a classic Greek Revival example of a connected farm dating from the mid-nineteenth century; its freestanding brick smokehouse is an unusual feature. Charles Wilder, whose family owned the property from 1852-1948, was the subject of Elinor Whitney's 1930 children's book, "Timothy and the Blue Cart."

Significant for its role in educating generations of students, the **Chatham Center School**, while the largest of the town's schoolhouses, never enrolled more than 30 students at one time. Moved to its current location in 1957, the one and one-half story white clapboarded building has a corrugated metal roof and appears to have its original six-pane window sashes.

Built at the time of the American Revolution, **Folsom Tavern** hosted George Washington in 1789. Located near the center of downtown Exeter, it is part of the American Independence Museum and retains many of its original Georgian features, including symmetry, pediments, pilasters and wood paneling.

Lancaster's **Parker J. Noyes Building** was home to one of the leading drug manufacturers in New England in the early twentieth century. A familiar building type on New Hampshire Main Streets, with commercial space on the first floor and offices and apartments above, its Italianate details reflect the ambition of Noyes, who invented the sugar-coating process for pills in 1894.

Littleton Public Library has been instrumental in providing programming for the community's children and adults, along with circulating books and other media, for generations. As part of his philanthropic support of libraries, Andrew Carnegie donated \$15,000 to build the two-story brick Georgian Revival building, which opened to the public in 1906.

Ira Miller's General Store was once the largest general store in Milton Mills, stocking groceries, shoes, oil, drugs, hardware and farm implements. Its lunch counter, with stools, bead board siding on the walls and ceiling and wood floors, is still in place, as is a marble slab reading "IRA MILLER" in a pediment above the second floor.

The **District 9 Schoolhouse** in Sutton was built in 1863 to replace another school that was lost to fire that same year. It was the center of education for grades one through eight

until 1945 and was used by seventh and eighth graders from 1949-1954, when a central school opened in Sutton Mills. Today, it serves the community as a museum open for Old Home Day and other special occasions.

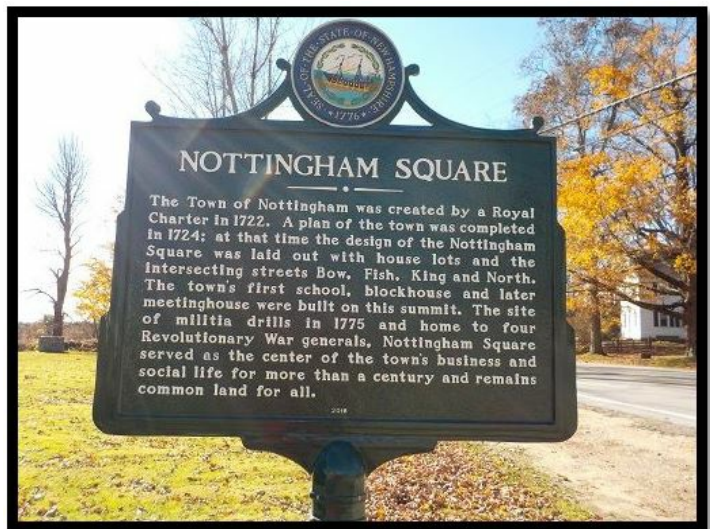
West Concord's **West Congregational Church** has been in continuous use since it was completed in 1871. Built with granite from a local quarry, its Gothic Revival features include a corner tower entry with original round-arch double-leaf wooden doors and granite steps, as well as stained glass windows.

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 N.H. 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.

On your winter travel list: Nottingham's first NH Historic Highway Marker

New Hampshire's Historic Highway Marker program continues to grow. This fall, another marker was added, this time honoring **Nottingham Square**. It reads:

"The Town of Nottingham was created by a Royal Charter in 1722. A plan of the town was completed in 1724; at that time the design of the Nottingham Square was laid out with the house lots and the intersecting streets of Bow, Fish, King and North. The town's first school, blockhouse and later meetinghouse were built on this summit. The site of militia drills in 1775 and home to four Revolutionary War generals, Nottingham Square served as the center of the town's business and social life for more than a century and remains common land for all."



This is the first New Hampshire Historical Highway marker in Nottingham. You can visit it - and take a selfie - on Route 156 on the Square.

Do you have a topic that you think would make a great marker? You can learn more about the process at nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/index.html.

NHDHR Consultant Workshop: great content, terrific practitioners

As part of its work to help New Hampshire's preservation industry continue to perfect their skills, the NHDHR held an **Architectural History Consultant Workshop** in December. Presentations included "The New Old: Evaluating the Recent Past," "Is it a Cottage or a Camp? The Cultural Landscape of Squam Lake" and "Defining and Evaluating Cultural Landscapes." The day concluded with a panel discussion by our presenters, Virginia Adams, Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Laura J. Kline and Lisa Mausolf. The presentations

are now available on the NHDHR's website at nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/ppt.htm.

We always look forward to providing opportunities like these, both as a way to promote best practices and as an opportunity to network with others devoted to historic preservation. Hope you can join us next time!

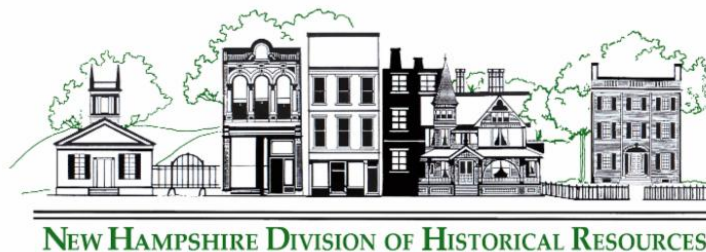


It was standing room only for our Architectural History Consultant Workshop in December.

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 River Road Covered Bridge in Pittsburg was submitted to [My New Hampshire](#).



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

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