



Updates on New Hampshire's 2007 Seven to Save

The Preservation Alliance created the endangered properties list to draw attention and resources to irreplaceable New Hampshire landmarks. Advocates need a range of technical and financial resources as well as roll-up-your-sleeves help to advance their preservation projects.

The Acworth Meetinghouse, Acworth, built in 1821, overlooks the village green. It is one of the finest examples of a Neo-Classical meetinghouse in New England. By 2006, structural deterioration had prompted the removal of the steeple, and advocates expanded their vision beyond the immediate emergency and undertook an award-winning restoration. Contact: Pegi Kish, 835-6000 www.acworthmeetinghouse.org (photo 1)

Ashland Historic School, Ashland, built in 1877, sits prominently on a hill overlooking the village. It is a notable example of a Victorian brick schoolhouse. The school closed in 1990 and fell into extreme neglect. The School Board planned to demolish the building, but the Historical Society and others advocated for its sale to Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. LCHIP made a 2001 grant for this purchase. After many hurdles, Tri-County CAP opened the completely rehabilitated building in October, 2010. Contact: Miriam Brown, Tri-County CAP, 603-752-7001. (photo 2)



Whittier Covered Bridge, Ossipee, constructed 1870, is one of just twenty surviving examples of the Paddleford Truss. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is in severely deteriorated condition. The town, which owns the bridge, worked vigorously to do emergency stabilization, applying for federal and state grant money and calling on local volunteers. In early July, 2008, the bridge was successfully moved off its abutments; it is now on solid ground, awaiting restoration. Contact: Robert Gillette, 603-539-4742. (photo 3)

St. Anne Church of Manchester, dedicated in 1850, was the state's third Roman Catholic parish and the rallying point for early Irish immigrant groups in the city. In 2003, it was closed and put up for sale. The Friends of St. Anne Church, which formed to try to keep the church open, shifted their focus to finding a sympathetic buyer. The property was purchased and repaired by Brady Sullivan, which subsequently donated it to the N.H. Institute of Art. Contact: Sean Markey, 603-361-2018. (photo 4)

Burley-DeMeritt Farmhouse, Lee, built in 1874, is typical of the large family farms that characterize the town of Lee. It has been owned by the University of New Hampshire for decades. The university is presently operating an organic dairy farm on the site, but had no definite plans for preserving the farmhouse. The Lee Heritage Commission is working with the University to explore reuse of the house as a farm-related residence. Contact: Laurel Cox, 603-868-1822 or Laura Gund 603-659-2044. (photo 5)

Manchester's First High School, built in 1841, served the city's educational needs until the 1980s, then it was boarded up and became largely neglected. In 2002, the city sold the building to the Sargent Museum, but they filed for bankruptcy without making any building or site improvements. In late 2007, the NH Institute of Art purchased the building, moved it forward on its lot and added a six-story tower behind it, using the original building as classrooms. Contact: David Beauchesne, Manchester Heritage Commission, 603-624-6450. (photo 6)

Upper Village Hall, East Derry, a two-story Italianate building in the town's National Register Historic District, was dedicated in 1876. It housed various town functions and served the community as a meeting place for decades. Advocates have come together to prevent its demolition, develop reuse scenarios, and are now fundraising and repairing the structure. Contact: Richard Holmes, 603-434-6042. (photo 7)



The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is the statewide membership organization dedicated to preserving historic buildings, communities and landscapes through education and advocacy.

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