Maine Preservation 50th Anniversary Timeline

1972-2022

Golden Anniversary Timeline
A group of citizens interested in the preservation of Hallowell sees a need for historic preservation advocacy and updates the local historic building survey including photos and deed records. The group also creates a narrative of the architectural history of Hallowell.
Maine Preservation begins as “Citizens for Historic Preservation” in Hallowell, initially to promote the creation of the State Historic Preservation Office, known as the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC).
With the establishment of MHPC in 1971, Citizens for Historic Preservation (CHP) formally incorporates as a non-profit organization at Buffet Restaurant in Wiscasset to continue support for historic preservation in Maine.
CHP holds its first Annual Meeting at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland and features walking tours of the local historic district.
Trustee, Christopher Glass, publishes CHP’s first newsletter.
CHP’s first Spring Conference is held in Bath and focuses on local historic districts.
1978

CHP changes name to “Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation” (MCHP).
An editorial in Kennebec Journal demonstrates a significant development in public awareness of preservation.
1982

A statewide survey leads to creation of the “Window to the Future” plan for Maine’s historic properties, determining that MCHP’s focus should be technical assistance, preservation projects, promotion and publicity, cooperative purchasing, policy development, and communications.
MCHP submits “The Capital Repair Needs of Maine’s Historic Properties” to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, surveying the condition of more than 50 significant historic properties across the state.
THE CHOCOLATE CHURCH GALLERY
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT
THE EXHIBIT
MAINE HISTORIC HOUSES IN CRISIS:
NEW STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL*
October 3 - October 14
PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE OPENING RECEPTION
Monday
October 3, 5-7 p.m.

*The exhibit Maine Historic Houses in Crisis: New Strategies for Survival is a project of Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation supported by funding from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
1984

MCHP moves into its first office space at 597 Maine Street, South Portland donated by Trustee, Robert Snow and hires its first employee to serve as Administrative Coordinator on a part-time basis.
MCHP moves its headquarters to the office of MCHP President, Tom Thomsen, at 50 Danforth Street in Portland.
MCHP publishes *Summering on the Thoroughfare, The Architecture of North Haven, 1885-1945* by Roger Reed.
MCHP moves its headquarters to a 400-square-foot, second-floor office space at 500 Congress Street in Portland.
1995

MCHP publishes *A Delight to All Who Know It, The Maine Summer Architecture of William R. Emerson* by Roger Reed.
The Protective Easement Program is established to preserve historic properties in perpetuity, the first being the Captain Charles H. Wording House (1852) in Belfast.
1996

Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation becomes “Maine Preservation”
The first “Most Endangered Historic Places in Maine” list is released.
The Jane Carpenter Poliquin Educational Grant is established to teach Maine school children about their community and built environment, promoting historic preservation.
Roxanne Eflin becomes the first full-time Executive Director thanks in part to a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
Beautiful in All Its Details, the Architecture of Maine’s Public Library Buildings, 1878-1942 by Kirk F. Mohney is published.
Maine Preservation is named a statewide partner by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and launches its first website (www.preservemaine.com).
1998

The first Honor Awards are presented, celebrating excellence in historic preservation leadership, rehabilitation, and craft.
“My Old House” workshops, a series of sessions geared toward historic homeowners and craftspeople in the building trades interested in developing their skills, is launched.
Along the Rails, A Survey of Maine’s Historic Railroad Buildings by Kirk F. Mohney is published.
The Preserve Maine Fund is established to assist Most Endangered property owners and supporters in paying for building condition assessments or emergency stabilization projects.
Every Man His Own Painter, A Guide to Victorian House Painting by Anson Gilman is reprinted from the original 1871 edition.
Pen Sketches of Old Houses
by William E. Barry is reprinted from the original 1874 edition.
In collaboration with several other groups, the “Architecture Trail Guide” is released, describing the historic architecture of Maine’s signature smaller communities.
The Maine Steeples Project is initiated to assist local efforts in preserving church steeples of historic, cultural, and community significance in Maine through a matching grant funds for condition assessments and restoration.
A preservation easement on 17 historic buildings in Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village is secured through a collaborative effort.
The Historic Preservation Revolving Fund is established to acquire significant endangered historic properties throughout the state and catalyze their rehabilitation by re-selling to private owners under preservation easements, a Maine Preservation advocacy initiative since 1985.
2008

Greg Paxton is named Executive Director.
Maine Preservation’s key legislative initiative, the Maine Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, is enacted. Pairing with the federal tax credit, this program promotes investment in historic structures with commercial uses by offering a 25% refundable credit.
The Field Services Program launches, with the Kellogg Church in Harpswell as one of the first to receive technical assistance.
Maine Preservation secures a spacious headquarters at the historic Captain Reuben Merrill House in Yarmouth and holds its first gala on site.
The Summer Fellows Program is created to provide a unique experience in both preservation non-profit work and traditional crafts for graduate students.
The first report on the economic impact of the tax credit program is released, persuading the state legislature to extend it for 10 years with unanimous bipartisan support.
2012

Maine Preservation begins providing tax credit assistance and initiates first partnership with the adaptive re-use of the Sullivan School in Berwick.
The Protect & Sell Program is established to acquire options-to-purchase significant endangered historic properties throughout Maine, selling them to new owners who agree to rehabilitation under protective easement agreements.
Maine Preservation begins a monthly column, “Ask an Old House Pro” in *Maine Homes by Down East* to help readers with maintenance of their homes.
More than $200,000 in subgrant funding is secured from the Northern Border Regional Commission for preservation projects in Belfast, Dover-Foxcroft, Lille, and Thorndike through the Northeast Heritage Economy Program, a four-state partnership.
Black History in Maine is launched, shining a light on histories and places that have often been overlooked, actively ignored, hidden, or destroyed to build a more complete history of Maine and its citizens.
The 1772 Foundation funds $100,000 in subgrants for shovel-ready historic preservation projects, supporting 18 non-profit organizations in Maine during its first year.
2021

Tara Kelly is named Executive Director.
Drive ME Historic Tours are released to celebrate the Bicentennial, highlighting pre-statehood places and the people who forged early Maine.
A partnership with Maine Archives & Museums is established to provide a feature in their quarterly newsletter, focused on stewardship of small museum and historical society building concerns.
Jane’s Walk ME takes place for the first time in Maine, with more than 300 participants in walking conversations across 20 municipalities all over Maine.
Monthly virtual office hours and multi-day residencies, the first in Washington County and Farmington, are established to provide easy access to technical assistance and consultation across the state.
Maine Preservation celebrates its 50th anniversary!!
As we look back on all we have achieved together, we ask that you please consider a year-end gift to support our ongoing efforts to protect Maine’s treasured historic resources.

Thank you for your support!

Donate