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Letter from the Director

Since joining Maine Preservation last year, I have traveled to 14 of Maine’s counties. (See you soon Piscataquis & Aroostook!) Time and again, I have witnessed tremendous dedication to preserving this great state’s historic fabric. There is no need to convince Mainers that old buildings are worth saving—they just need the tools to do so. We are working hard to provide those services through our advocacy, technical assistance, financial support, stewardship, and education initiatives.

This year, we have helped hundreds of non-profit organizations, businesses, and individuals preserve places important to us all, from Kittery to Fort Kent. With your support, we can help countless more.

We appreciate your contribution to this mighty effort!

Tara Kelly
Executive Director

Letter from the President

Maine Preservation was founded in 1972. We began as a group of hearty individuals who were passionate about protecting Maine’s special places in the face of enormous societal change fifty years ago—as we are today.

We count on your support to help us protect Maine’s treasured historic resources as we look ahead to the next 50 years. Your generous gift to our Annual Fund allows us to continue preserving and promoting historic buildings, downtowns, and neighborhoods, strengthening the cultural and economic vibrancy of communities across Maine.

Thank you for your support!

Cale Pickford
President
Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Projects

Mt. Merici Convent, Waterville
2022 Honor Award Recipient

Scruton Block, Lewiston
2022 Honor Award Recipient

Purington Brothers Block, Augusta
2022 Honor Award Honorable Mention

Project Type
- Green: Commercial
- Orange: Residential
- Blue: Mixed-Use
- Pink: Unknown
Advocacy

We advocate on the state and national level for sound preservation policy to support the rehabilitation of Maine’s historic resources. We represent Maine as advocacy captains for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Offices. To date, we have commissioned four studies that prove the substantial economic impact of Maine’s Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program (left). Most recently, our efforts resulted in a positive review from the State’s Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability, opening the door to expansion of the program. We are actively lobbying to strengthen the state credit for income-producing properties and create a new program for historic homeowners.

We also promote the work of our peers through the Honor Awards, which recognizes excellence in historic preservation leadership, rehabilitation and craft, and unites more than 150 representatives of the preservation industry in Maine for an annual celebration. Our Most Endangered Historic Places list focuses statewide media attention, boosts local advocacy efforts, and enlists engagement to save threatened resources (right).
Maine Preservation offers a range of planning advice, property condition evaluations, building assessments, and energy efficiency reviews. We help direct individuals and organizations to allied preservation professionals and targeted financial resources. To date, we have helped more than 1,650 projects across Maine.

This year, we provided in-depth consultation to the First Congregational Church of East Machias, which was listed among our Most Endangered Historic Places in 2021. We worked closely with Friends of EMCC and Maine Steeples Fund, along with foundations, private donors, contractors, and Parlay Television who filmed stabilization efforts for Magnolia Network.

In addition, we launched “Monday Meet Up,” a free and flexible opportunity for organizations and building owners from across the state to bring questions to our preservation field staff. The virtual “office hours” format serves as a consistent space to discuss best practices, project planning, and fundraising. In another effort to improve our statewide presence, we established a new “Residency” program, where preservation staff spend a few days in an area to assist with preservation outreach, advocacy, and consultation on location (below).
2022 Grant Recipients

Araxine Wilkins Sawyer Foundation, Greene
Barnestown, Mt. Vernon
Chebeague Island Historical Society
Educational Bureau of Ocean Park
Farmington Historical Society
Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland
Fifth Maine Regiment Museum, Peaks Island
First Amendment Museum, Augusta
Friends of First Congregational Church of East Machias
Friends of L.C. Bates Museum, Hinckley
Friends of the Greenville Depot
Maine Art Gallery, Wiscasset
Maine Maritime Museum, Bath
Monson Historical Society
Old Berwick Historical Society
Old Bristol Historical Society
Phippsburg Historical Society
Poland Springs Preservation Society
Readfield Union Meeting House Corp.
Swan’s Island Historical Society
Tate House Museum, Portland
United Society of Shakers, Sabbathday Lake Inc., New Gloucester
Wells Reserve at Laudholm, Wilson Museum, Castine

Financial Support

Since 2020, Maine Preservation has administered more than a half million dollars in preservation grants to 62 projects throughout the state. This funding was made possible through funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission and The 1772 Foundation.

This year, we awarded another $125,000 from The 1772 Foundation to support capital improvements to historic buildings that house local historical societies, regional museums, and community-driven nonprofit organizations (left). We also submitted an application and have been shortlisted for a $3 million grant from our congressional delegation to fund rehabilitation of the First Congregational Church of East Machias and Wayne Masonic Hall—two of our 2021 Most Endangered Historic Places.
Stewardship

Maine Preservation monitors and reviews alterations to 34 privately held properties through preservation easement agreements. These significant sites include Scribner Mills in Harrison, Robbins-Anderson Homestead in South Thomaston, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, and the George Washington Lodge in Pembroke, among others. We also work with property owners throughout Maine to help them sell their special places to new owners who agree to rehabilitate and maintain them through our Protect & Sell program.

Education

Our in-person and online public programs have been a resource for preservation professionals and property owners alike, tackling topics such as seasonal maintenance, historic structures reports, conditions assessments and inspections, architectural photography, National Register nominations, and the Secretary of the Interior Standards, to name a few.

This year, we collaborated with state and local partners to increase public engagement with their communities and the built environment through Maine’s first Jane’s Walk weekend, a global festival of free, volunteer-led walking.
conversations inspired by community activist Jane Jacobs. With more than 20 walks in 11 towns and cities and more than 300 participants, it was a great day to walk, learn, and connect with community.

In addition to educating professionals and members of public, we are dedicated to development of the next generation of preservationists through our Patricia Anderson Summer Fellowship Program. In partnership with Bagala Window Works, The Heritage Company, and Preservation Timber Framing, we provide a unique, hands-on introduction for students in historic preservation, a related field, or a qualified trades program.

This summer, we welcomed two fellows (right) who, along with immersive skills training, had invaluable opportunities to network with peers in the preservation field and learn more about potential career pathways. They accompanied Maine Preservation staff on site visits, gaining exposure to the real-world challenges facing small nonprofits, rural communities, and historic homeowners.
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Citizens for Historic Preservation formally incorporates as a nonprofit organization.

First annual meeting held in Rockland and features walking tours of the local historic district.

A statewide survey leads to a strategic plan for Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation.

Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation open first office in South Portland.


The Protective Easement Program is established.

The first "Most Endangered Historic Places in Maine" list is released.

First Honor Awards presented.

The Maine Steeples Fund is initiated.

The Maine Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit is enacted.

The Field Services program launches.

The Summer Fellows program is created.

The Protect & Sell Program is established.

Subgrant programs through the Northern Border Regional Commission and 1772 Foundation are created.

Maine Preservation celebrates 50th Anniversary!!

Visit mainepreservation.org for full history.