



**NATIONAL TRUST**  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

# NORTHEAST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter from the National Trust's Northeast Office

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[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

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#### Northeast Office

Seven Faneuil Hall Marketplace  
Boston, MA 02109  
617/523-0885  
617/523-1199 (fax)  
[nero@nthp.org](mailto:nero@nthp.org) (e-mail)  
Serving: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT

Wendy Nicholas, Regional Director  
Marilyn Fenollosa, Sr. Program Officer/  
Regional Attorney  
Kate Huff, Administrative Assistant  
Alicia Leuba, Director of Programs  
Jennifer Warren, Program Assistant

Josh Bloom, Program Officer,  
National Main Street Center

#### Northeast Field Office

6401 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
215/848-8033  
215/848-5997 (fax)  
[nefo@nthp.org](mailto:nefo@nthp.org) (e-mail)  
Serving: DE, NJ, PA

Adrian Scott Fine, Director  
Neeta McCulloch, Program Assistant

#### Shared Field Staff

Connecticut Trust for Historic  
Preservation,  
Nina Harkrader, Brad Schide  
[circuitrider@cttrust.org](mailto:circuitrider@cttrust.org) (e-mail)  
860/463-0193

Preservation Trust of Vermont,  
Ann Cousins, Doug Porter  
[ann@ptvermont.org](mailto:ann@ptvermont.org) (e-mail)  
[doug@ptvermont.org](mailto:doug@ptvermont.org) (e-mail)  
802/658-6647

#### Northeast Advisors

CT: Preston Maynard, Anita Mielert  
DE: Mary Jane Elliott, Joan Hazelton  
ME: James Day  
MA: Robert Kuehn, Marita Rivero  
NH: Martha Fuller Clark, Alice DeSouza  
NJ: Ron Magill, Maria Cerda Moreno  
NY: Richard Hawks, Anne Van Ingen  
PA: Caroline Boyce, Howard Slaughter  
RI: Karen Jessup, Richard Youngken  
VT: Elizabeth Humstone, Robert McBride

#### Statewide Partners

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,  
Preservation Delaware, PreservatiON MASS, Maine  
Preservation, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance,  
Preservation New Jersey, Preservation League of New  
York State, Preservation Pennsylvania, Preserve  
Rhode Island, Preservation Trust of Vermont.

#### Statewide Main Street Programs

CT: Connecticut Main Street Center  
DE: Delaware Main Street Program  
MA (Boston): Boston Main Streets  
ME: Maine Downtown Center  
NH: New Hampshire Main Street Center  
NJ: Main Street New Jersey  
PA: Office of Community Development,  
Pennsylvania Downtown Center  
VT: Vermont Downtown Program

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## Massachusetts Tax Credit Succeeds

The Massachusetts Historical Rehabilitation Tax Credit, now in its second year, has exceeded all expectations for success. Enacted as a part of Governor Mitt Rom-

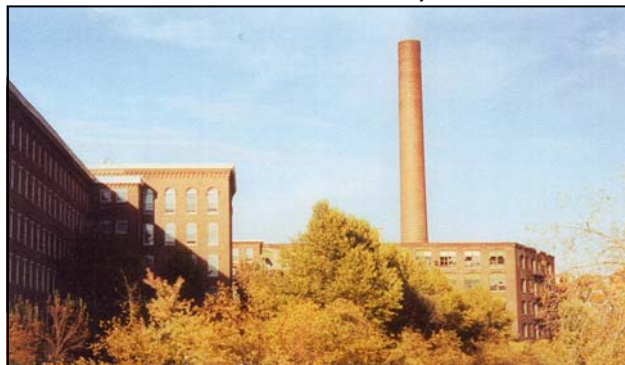
ney's emergency economic stimulus legislation in late 2003, this 5-year pilot program continues to provide much needed financial assistance to preservation projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Last year, sponsors of 27 projects from across the state applied for \$68.3 million in credits, against total project costs of an estimated \$422 million; these projects would create over 6,000 jobs as well as 1,300 units of affordable housing, and generate

over \$29.7 million in state and local taxes.

The original credit was capped at \$10 million per year, and the Massachusetts Secretary of State was recently successful

in raising the cap to \$15 million per year. But it's still not enough to meet demand, and the Massachusetts Preservation Coalition, ably led by Preser-



*Massachusetts Mills, Lowell, MA: The redevelopment of these buildings will help revitalize the neighborhood and its economy.*

vation MASS, has filed legislation to have the cap removed.

The Northeast Office is pleased to be a part of the tax credit project review and a member of the Preservation Coalition that conceived, sponsored and is now working to expand this important preservation tool.

## Boston Red Sox Choose Fenway Park

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, representatives of the Boston Red Sox stood before an overflowing crowd of reporters, preservationists and others to announce their decision to stay at Fenway Park. "We have lived at Fenway Park for more than three years," said President/CEO Larry Lucchino. "We

have studied it in detail. It's time to culminate this courtship with a loud, clear, long-term public commitment. We are proud that Fenway Park will be our home for years to come."

The long-awaited news was music to the ears of members of Save Fenway Park! (SFP!), which includes former Northeast Office staffer Jeffrey Harris. SFP! has worked since 1998 to save this smallest and most historic Major League Baseball park, built in 1912. The team's previous owners, who insisted it could not be preserved, made plans for a new ballpark before deciding to sell the team.

A design charrette and architectural studies conducted by SFP!, funded in part by a Preservation Fund grant from the National Trust, provided ideas for many of the changes the team is now making to improve facilities for the fans and the players.



*Northeast Office staff tour Fenway Park with Red Sox officials Larry Lucchino, far left, and Janet Marie Smith, in red jacket.*

## Ferrisburgh Grange Destroyed by Arson

One year ago, voters in Ferrisburgh, VT approved a \$350,000 bond to help transform a faded 1868 Grange hall into town offices and a community center.

The decision to save and reuse the building was the end result of a two-year volunteer campaign to show residents new possibilities for the building and town. The Vermont Field Services Representatives, a partnership program between the National Trust's Northeast Office and the Preservation Trust of Vermont, had been working on this project with the town for five years. The National Trust had provided money through its National Preservation Fund to help with architectural services. Just weeks before work was to begin, a devastating fire wracked the Italianate landmark.

Though suffering from shock and disbelief, the town has rallied once more, with many calling for a replica of the original structure to be built. Jean Richardson, a member of the Friends of Ferrisburgh Grange, was in charge of taking contribu-



*The Grange, days after a devastating fire.*

tions for the restoration project. She now finds herself receiving donations from locals and people outside the state to help with rebuilding efforts.

To donate, send checks payable to "Friends of Ferrisburgh Grange" to Jean Richardson, Fundraising Chair, Friends of the Ferrisburgh Grange Hall, 710 Old Hollow Road, North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473.

## Longtime Delaware SHPO Retires

Daniel R. Griffith, Director of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, recently retired after 34 years with the agency, 16 of which were spent as director.

During that time, Griffith spearheaded many major historic restoration and construction projects, and under his leadership, the Division assisted efforts to secure land, buildings, and preservation easements critical to keeping the historic integrity and natural beauty of important sites.

In 2001, he was asked to administer the new State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program which has awarded \$15 million in tax credits to provide incentives for privately-funded restorations of historic properties and homes in Delaware.

The state will continue to benefit from Griffith's expertise as he heads up the Lewes Discovery Historical Archaeology Project - an important study of unique 18th-century artifacts uncovered in December 2004 on Lewes Beach.

## Grants to Artist Homes and Studios

The National Trust has awarded nearly \$65,000 in planning and implementation grants to 14 sites across the country participating in its [Historic Artists' Homes and Studios](#) program, an initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.



*Weir Farm National Historic Site, Wilton, CT.*

Awards were based on the sites' planning needs, threat to the historic properties, collections, or interpretation, and how the proposed projects addressed the needs or threat. Sites in the Northeast include the Weir Farm National Historic Site, Wilton, CT; Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio, Lenox, MA; Saint Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH; Newsday Center for Dove/Torr Studios, Centerport, NY; and the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center, East Hampton, NY.

Historic Artists' Homes and Studios is dedicated to helping American art-related historic sites preserve their collections and buildings.

## Remembering James Biddle

The National Trust is saddened to report the passing of James Biddle, who served as president of the Trust from 1968 to 1980. Both the Trust and the cause of historic preservation in America have lost a great friend and ardent champion.

Biddle played a major role in shaping the Trust into today's highly professional and well-respected leader of the nation's preservation movement. But his contributions reached far beyond this organization. He once told a reporter that "preservation is for everybody" - and this conviction, coupled with his high-profile experience in the museum world and his great personal charm, enabled him to give both the National Trust and the cause of historic preservation greater visibility and credibility than they had ever known before.

He will be greatly missed, but he leaves an enduring legacy.

## Honor Awards Nominations Due

May 1 is the deadline to nominate projects or people for this year's [Preservation Honor Awards](#), which will be announced on September 29 at the National Preservation Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Each year, the awards recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations who have given new meaning to their communities through preservation, including attempts to save and maintain important landmarks, companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past, public officials who support preservation legislation in their communities, and educators who help Americans understand the value of preservation. A nomination form is available on-line.



*The Portland (ME) Museum of Art's Lorenzo di Medici Sweat Galleries, winner of a 2003 Honor Award. Photo credit: Bernie Meyers*

## Dates, Deadlines and Announcements

**April 5**—The **Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation's 30th Anniversary Celebration** at the Colt Armory in Hartford, with keynote speaker Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, please visit [www.cttrust.org](http://www.cttrust.org).

**April 6**—The **Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation** hosts a breakfast with **National Trust President Richard Moe**, who will speak on "Making Room for the Past in Hartford's Economic Future," at the Colt Armory in Hartford. For more information, call (203) 562-6312, or e-mail [breakfast@cttrust.org](mailto:breakfast@cttrust.org).

**April 7-8**—**Preservation Pennsylvania** presents the **2005 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation & Heritage Partnerships Conference** in York, PA, which focuses on what's succeeding and what needs more work across the state. For more information visit [www.preservationpa.org](http://www.preservationpa.org).

**April 15** — The **New Jersey State Historic Preservation Conference, "Smart Cities: Blending Old with New,"** in Jersey City, explores the relationship between developing good public policy, targeting incentives and recognizing opportunity in reinvesting in the rich fabric of New Jersey's past. For more information, go to [www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo).

**April 16, 30 and May 14**—**Maine Preservation** hosts "**My Old House**" **Workshops**, fun and informative sessions geared to owners of older homes. Students will learn the basics and more, tips and "best practices," and will leave with new confidence to tackle a challenging repair project. April 16, "All About Windows and Wood"; April 30, "Plaster and Masonry"; and May 14, "Stone Wall Strategies." For more information, please visit [www.maine Preservation.org](http://www.maine Preservation.org).

**April 23** — The **20th Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, "Preserving Historic Religious Places,"** in Newport, examines the challenges faced by these properties. For more, visit [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov).

**April 27-30** — The **Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference**, in Philadelphia, PA, provides four days of learning and over 200 exhibitors of hard-to-find products for those who work in restora-

tion, renovation, and traditional design and construction. For more information, visit [www.traditionalbuildingshow.com](http://www.traditionalbuildingshow.com).

**May 6** — The **Preservation Trust of Vermont** and the **Vermont Division for Historic Preservation** host the 11th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference. For details, visit [www.ptvermont.org](http://www.ptvermont.org).

**May 8-11** — The **2005 National Main Streets Conference, "Cool Cities: Old Buildings, New Attitudes,"** in Baltimore, MD, brings together over 1,500 professionals and volunteers to share successful strategies, network with others in the field, learn from experts about the latest trends in critical issues, and offer proven ideas for commercial district revitalization. For more: [www.conference.mainstreet.org](http://www.conference.mainstreet.org).

The **1772 Foundation** provides grants to non-profit organizations for bricks-and-mortar historic preservation projects throughout the country. The foundation does not fund religious institutions or schools, nor do they fund publicly-owned properties unless there is an active friends group. The foundation has a special interest in agriculture, transportation, and industry. Grants can range from \$4,000 to \$250,000. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more on the application process, which begins with a one-page letter of inquiry to the foundation, visit [www.1772foundation.org](http://www.1772foundation.org).

The **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program**, part of the **Natural Resources Conservation Services**, is a federal program that protects working lands from development by partnering on the purchase of conservation easements. Farmland containing historical or archaeological resources is a priority for protection. Sites must be listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register, or listed in a State or Tribal Register of Historic Places. For more information: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp).

The **New Jersey Historic Trust** announces the **2005 Grant Round for Historic Site Management Grants**. Guidelines and application materials are available to download from their website, or call (609) 984-0473. There is a series of workshops offered in April to familiarize applicants with this year's initiatives; applications are due in June: [www.njht.org](http://www.njht.org).

## "Distinctive" Vacation Spots

The National Trust recently announced its **2005 Dozen Distinctive Destinations**, an annual list of lovingly preserved communities in the United States. Two of the sites, chosen from nearly 80 nominees, are in the northeast region.

Though it may be best known as the site of the witchcraft trials of 1692, **Salem, MA**, is one of New England's most fascinating coastal cities. Nearly 400 years of history are reflected in an impressive display of architecture.

**Bath, ME**, on the banks of the Kennebec River, is an old seafaring town whose maritime history dates from the launching in 1607 of the first ship built in the New World by English settlers. Bath's tree-lined avenues are an outdoor gallery of humble and grand examples of classic American architecture.



*The Waterfront in Bath, Maine.*

### Join the National Trust and Keep Up with News of the Northeast

When you join the National Trust you'll join thousands of others in preserving more than just bricks and mortar. You'll help preserve the memories that live on in special places where Americans from all walks of life have lived and worked. And in doing so, you'll help share the spirit of our diverse cultural and architectural heritage with generations to come.

To learn about the latest developments in preservation and how you can become a member of the National Trust, send an e-mail to [nero@nthp.org](mailto:nero@nthp.org) to join our mailing list or to request membership information, or please visit the National Trust's Web site, [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).