



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

NORTHEAST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter from the National Trust's Northeast Office

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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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Preserving Black Heritage along the Maine Coast

Between the 1930s and 1974, if you were an African American vacationing in the Kittery, Maine area, "Rock Rest" was the place to stay. For generations, owners Clayton and Hazel Sinclair opened their home as a guesthouse, providing comfortable lodging and delicious home cooking to travelers and vacationers. Guests gathered around the family dining room table for meals, relaxed on the enclosed porch, and enjoyed the flowers and vegetables of Mrs. Sinclair's gardens.

Rock Rest is one of a small group of such guesthouses that catered to the African-American community along the New Hampshire and Maine coasts. These guesthouses advertised mainly by word-of-mouth, and provided accommodations during a time when African Americans weren't always welcome at other hotels. Today, Rock Rest is one of the few remaining intact guesthouses, complete with all of its furnishings and personal effects. Walking into the kitchen, not only can you easily imagine the aroma of baking bread, you can see the bowl in which it was mixed and the cutting board on which it was sliced.

As Rock Rest is no longer used as a guesthouse, Clayton and Hazel's son has partnered with the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail (PBHT) and local advocates to identify a new use for this important place. Based just across the river from Kittery in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, PBHT works to preserve the history and culture of the African-American community in and around Portsmouth, and to promote awareness and appreciation of that community through preservation, education and public programs.

The National Trust recently awarded PBHT a National Preservation Fund grant to support a feasibility study which will be conducted over the course of the coming year. One of the proposals being evaluated for Rock



Above: Rock Rest, in Kittery Point, ME. Below is the kitchen, looking much as it did when owners Clayton and Hazel Sinclair lived there.

Rest is to use it as a home and research center for visiting scholars studying the area's African American history. This would maintain the physical integrity of the home as well as the spirit of the place.

Meanwhile, the Northeast Office is working with proponents to address the building's immediate needs which include repairs to the leaking roof. Together, we will ensure that Rock Rest and its story are preserved and that the spirit of community and hospitality remains on-site for generations to come.

Seeking Ideas for the 2006 Preservation Conference

The National Trust invites you to submit proposals for education and field sessions for the National Preservation Conference 2006 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Field sessions take conference attendees into the community or region for a look at local preservation projects, topics and sites, teaching lessons that attendees can apply back

home. Education sessions highlight models and strategies. Proposals which present multiple case studies or solutions are of special interest, as are proposals built around the conference theme "**Making Preservation Work!**"

The deadline for all proposals is January 13, 2006. For more information, or to download a proposal form, visit www.nthpconference.org.

National Trust Grants Deadline Approaches

February 1, 2006 is the deadline for several National Trust grants: the Johanna Favrot Fund, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns, the next round of the National Preservation Fund (formerly known as the Preservation Services Fund), and the new Battlefield Preservation Fund.

Open to non-profit organizations and municipalities, grants are designed to provide money to a variety of preservation projects including planning, education and outreach. The grants do not cover construction costs, nor are they to be used for the acquisition of property or objects. All require a dollar-for-dollar match. For full details on each of the funds, write to nero@nthp.org, call (617) 523-0885, or visit www.nationaltrust.org.

New Fund Announced

In 2005, the National Trust received a generous bequest from the estate of Dorothy McGee for the preservation of battlefields in the United States. We are pleased to announce the creation of a new Battlefield Preservation Fund, with the first grants being awarded in February 2006.

Grants will serve as a catalyst to stimulate efforts to preserve battlefields, viewsheds, and related historic structures, and to leverage fundraising activities. While efforts involving battlefields associated with the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the French and Indian Wars, and other battles fought in the United States are eligible for funding, priority will be given to those that have limited access to other specialized battlefield funding programs.

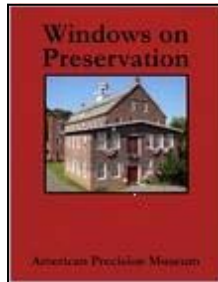
Typical uses of grants from the fund include legal and research fees to mitigate development threats, fund-raising and media plans, feasibility studies for endangered buildings and sites, archeological studies, landscape research and planning, viewshed protection, easement planning, and interpretation and heritage education activities.

The grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match, and there will be three grant rounds yearly: October 1, February 1 and June 1. For more, contact nero@nthp.org.

New Book about Preserving Wood Windows

Housed in the original Robbins & Lawrence Armory in Windsor, VT, the American Precision Museum preserves the heritage of the mechanical arts.

The Museum recently concluded a Phase I restoration project which included a new slate roof and restoration of 70 of the building's 166 historic wood windows. Based on their efforts and experience, the museum has recently published titled "Windows on Preservation: Re-



storing Windows at the American Precision Museum."

The book includes an account of the Phase I project, a description of window making, and an extensive how-to section by restoration specialist John Leeke, who has conducted window preservation workshops across the country. He explains fifteen specific step-by-step treatments to repair weathered sills and deteriorating sash.

The book is available through a contracted print-on-demand service at <http://books.lulu.com/content/152736#>, and you can also contact the museum directly by calling (802) 674-5781 or visiting www.americanprecision.org.

Dates, Deadlines and Announcements

January 13, 2006—Deadline for applications for the **American Battlefield Protection Program's Battlefield Preservation Grants**, which help communities identify, assess and protect battlefield sites across the country. Projects generally focus primarily on land use, site management planning and public education. For more information call Grants Manager Kristen Stevens at (202) 354-2037 or visit www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hpp.

January 18, 2006—Deadline for nominations for the **National Trust's 2006 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places List** which identifies and raises awareness of historic sites at risk from neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. For more information about the application process and to download the application, visit www.nationaltrust.org or contact your regional office.

February 1, 2006—Deadline for applications to the **National Endowment for the Humanities' We the People Challenge Grants in U.S. History, Institutions and Culture**, which are designed to help organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for humanities activities that explore significant themes and events in American history. For more information, visit www.neh.gov/grants.

February 3, 2006—Deadline for the **National Park Service's 2006 Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives and Native**

Hawaiian Organizations, which assist Federally recognized tribes in preserving and protecting their significant cultural and historic resources. For more information, and to download an application, visit www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hpg/tribal.

February 6—Deadline for applications to three **National Endowment for the Humanities' Implementation Grants: Humanities Projects in Libraries and Archives**, which support public humanities programs that interpret and use collections in libraries and archives; **Museums and Historical Organizations**, which support interpretive museum exhibitions and the interpretation of historic sites; and **Special Projects**, which support a variety of public humanities program formats including public discussion forums and hand-on learning experience. For more: www.neh.gov/grants.

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

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 to join our mailing list or to request membership information, or please visit the National Trust's Web site, www.nationaltrust.org.