



# NORTHEAST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter from the National Trust's Northeast Office

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## 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, 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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## Quarantine Station's Future is Uncertain (Again)

Five years ago it seemed that one of the few remaining examples of quarantine stations that once protected the nation's ports from the introduction of "imported" communicable diseases, like yellow fever and cholera—the Lazaretto in Tincum Township, PA— might be lost forever. The National Trust's Northeast Field Office became involved in the fight to protect the site when it joined the Lazaretto Feasibility Committee, comprised of local citizens and preservationists, including representatives from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, the National Park Service, and the Delaware County Planning Department.

The Lazaretto was commissioned and built by Philadelphia's board of health in 1799 on the banks of the Delaware River just downriver from the city. The site was originally part of a 1643 Swedish settlement, the first permanent European settlement in Pennsylvania.

Established in response to the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, the complex included a large main building, several outbuildings, and a burial ground. Philadelphia-bound ships stopped here for cargo to be inspected and passengers to be screened. Infested cargoes were fumigated or destroyed completely. Ill passengers were brought ashore to the main building, the hospital, for quarantine to await recovery or death. By some estimates, as many as 1 out of 3 Americans today are descended from those whose first exposure to the New World was here.

The then-privately owned property was sold in 2000 to Island Marine Partners which proposed various development schemes, all of which would have resulted in the demolition of the Lazaretto.

Since Tincum Township has no protective preservation ordinance, demolition was a real possibility. Local residents and officials joined with preservationists from the region to develop strategies to save the property.

The turning point came when the Tincum commissioners concluded that purchasing the Lazaretto property from the developers was the only sure way to protect it. State Representative Ron Raymond got behind the acquisition plan and, with the active support of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Chairman Wayne Spillove, eventually secured \$2 million in state funds toward the more-than-\$3 million pur-



*The river-front elevation of the Lazaretto. photo: Will Stacey*

chase price.

The township came up with the matching money, and in July 2005 bought the Lazaretto. The main building and several smaller outbuildings were stabilized and "mothballed," while the National Park Service continued documentation of the history and existing conditions of the site. Plans also proceeded to build a much-needed new fire station for the township on a long-cleared portion of the Lazaretto property. It was thought that there would be a sufficient buffer zone between the new construction and the historic buildings so as not to have an intrusive visual impact.

Recently, though, the township unveiled its plans for the new fire station, which is a 38,500-square-foot structure that will occupy five street-front acres of the ten-acre site. An adjacent 202-space parking lot will enable the firehouse to serve the community with a 300-person banquet facility and bingo hall.

A recently organized [Lazaretto Task Force](#) – which includes many individuals from the original Lazaretto Feasibility Committee – is trying to prevent the site from being overwhelmed by the construction of the proposed firehouse complex. Though the historic buildings will still be there, much of the historical context will be lost.

The new complex could severely impact the aesthetic appeal of the historic buildings and obscure the public's principal view of the site, as well as disturb the historic ground of the remains of the smallpox hospital and other structures –

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## New Field Rep for NH Northeast Preservation Leadership Meeting

The **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance** (NHPA) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Northeast Office are pleased to announce that Maggie Stier has been hired to lead a new shared preservation field services program to help New Hampshire communities advance historic preservation projects.



Modeled on similar partnerships in Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, and Vermont, the Field Services Program will build on current, successful NHPA and National Trust programs and resources to support and encourage preservation of New Hampshire's many historic places and provide information, advice and small grants, workshops, and new networks of advocates for historic preservation. The program is generously funded by Jane's Trust and private contributions.

Stier has 30 years of experience in the fields of historic preservation, museums and education and most recently directed a major feasibility study to explore a new business model for chronically underfunded historic sites. During her eight years as executive director of The Fells in Newbury, NH, she created a new management structure, doubled operational revenues and executed a strategic plan that included \$1.5 million in renovation projects.

Her passion for teaching and writing has resulted in publications including *Into the Mountains: Stories of New England's Most Celebrated Peaks* and an adjunct faculty appointment at Plymouth State University to teach preservation courses beginning this summer.

"We are so glad to welcome Maggie to our corps of field reps bringing preservation expertise and resources to help people save the places they care about in their communities," indicated Wendy Nicholas, Northeast Regional Director. "Our goal is to have shared field service programs in all ten northeastern states if possible. We want to blanket the region with a network of seasoned preservation experts to aid community preservation efforts. Maggie's arrival helps achieve that goal in New Hampshire."

In April, the Northeast Office hosted the Northeast Regional Preservation Leadership Meeting, "Working in Partnership to Create Livable Communities," in Portsmouth, NH.

Meetings by affinity group kicked off the event on Sunday afternoon, and included Main Street Program Coordinators, Smart Growth Organizations, State Historic Preservation Offices, and Statewide and Local Non-Profit groups. The meet-



*On a mobile workshop, attendees listen to Valerie Cunningham, President of the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, discussing the discovery of the remains of an African American burial ground during work to repair a sewer pipe. Plans are underway to close the street to traffic and erect a memorial to the hidden cemetery. From l. to r.: John Gallery, Gordon McClure, Karen Jessup, Brent Leggs, Richard Candee, Valerie Cunningham, Todd Levine and Joan Youngken.*

ings provided an opportunity for groups to gather and discuss issues important regionally. The National Trust Northeast Board of Advisors held its business meeting that day as well. The meetings were followed by a lively trolley tour of Portsmouth, narrated by New Hampshire Advisor Martha Fuller Clark and Richard Candee, former Director of Preservation Studies at Boston University.

Monday morning opened with a lecture by Neal Peirce, a columnist syndicated by the Washington Post Writer's Group and chairman of the Citistates Group, who spoke on "Sustaining Our Region's Communities: Regionalism and Collaboration Imperatives." Following the presentation, Vermont Advisor Elizabeth Humstone facilitated a discussion on the topic.

The rest of the day featured small workshops highlighting collaborations and partnerships. Participants broke out into one of five sessions featuring such topics as "State Funding Mechanisms: Passing and Defending Them" and "Fostering Historic Commercial District Revitalization."

Tuesday morning brought roundtable discussions over breakfast, followed by a choice of activities. Two mobile workshops were offered: "Portsmouth's Black Heritage Trail," led by the organization's

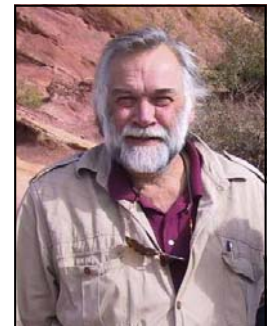
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## Remembering Advisor Robert Kuehn

The National Trust lost a dear friend and preservation lost a strong advocate when Massachusetts Advisor Bob Kuehn died suddenly on June 15.

Bob brought enormous experience and knowledge to the Trust as a very sensitive developer of historic properties. He was President of Keen Development Corporation and one of New England's foremost preservation developers. He married his commitment to creating affordable housing with his passion for historic buildings and love of the land, both in his work and in his civic engagements. Bob was a founder and driving force behind the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coalition, which brought together all three of his passions. He was a longstanding member and former chair of PreservatiON MASS' Board and the current chairman of the Citizens Housing & Planning Association (CHAPA).

Additionally, the Northeast Office, the Museum of Afro-American History and the region's Advisors have benefited greatly from his wisdom, generosity and friendship for many years. In the words of National Trust President Richard Moe, Bob was "a model developer and a model preservationist, and more than anyone, he made the two commitments work together. Most importantly, he was a model human being and great friend, and we will miss him very much." National Trust Board of Advisors President and Rhode Island Advisor Karen Jessup added, "Bob Kuehn's legacy is all around us. We need only to look, and remember him as an Advisor who exemplified what we all aspire to: by individual example, making a positive difference in the work we do together."



## Dates, Deadlines and Announcements

**July 19-22**—The **League of Historic American Theatres** presents the **30th Anniversary Conference & Theatre Tour**, celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the movement that's saving historic American theatres and movie places, in Hollywood, CA., featuring professional development sessions on theatre operation and restoration topics, peer group discussions, historic theatre tours and the 2006 Awards ceremony. For more information, visit [www.lhat.org](http://www.lhat.org).

**July 28**—**Connecticut Main Street Center** presents "**Economic Realities of Downtown Revitalization**," part of its **2006 Downtown Revitalization Institute**. This one-day workshop features speaker Donovan Rypkema teaching how to restructure your downtown economy by helping existing businesses and reconfiguring the mix of good and services so that downtown is economically balanced, adaptable and competitive. For more on the institute, visit [www.ctmainstreet.org](http://www.ctmainstreet.org).

**July 28**—Deadline for applications for the **2006 Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission State Preservation Grants**. The Commission will award \$1 million in matching grants to fund capital preservation work at public historic sites, museums, and cultural art centers located in historic buildings, with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000. For more information, contact Sarah Zurier at [szurier@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:szurier@preservation.ri.gov), or [www.preservation.ri.gov/grants/spg.php](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/grants/spg.php).

**August 3-5**—The **African American Preservation Alliance** presents the **National African American Historic Preservation Conference**, "**Keeping Your Eyes on the Prize**," in Memphis, TN. For more information, contact Nancy Jane Baker: [nancyjane.baker@memphistn.gov](mailto:nancyjane.baker@memphistn.gov) or (901) 576-7170.

**August 14**—Deadline for applications to the **National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence** grants. This grant is loosely divided into two areas, of which historic preservation falls under the "Stewardship" mantle. This refers to projects that protect, share, or celebrate our collective design heritage. Applications are accepted from nonprofit organizations, state or local government or federally-recognized tribal communities. For more

about the eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit [www.nea.gov](http://www.nea.gov).

**September 15**—Deadline for grant applications to the **New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (NEGEF)**, whose purpose is to increase engagement and participation in grassroots environmental initiatives and to build and connect healthy, sustainable communities in New England. The Fund interprets the word "environment" broadly and supports a wide range of activities. For more information, visit [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org).

**October 13-14**—The **American Association for State and Local History** in partnership with the National Trust, presents "**Historic Landscapes**," an Advanced Training Workshop for Historic Site Managers, in Washington, D.C. Participants will receive in-depth training and new ideas for conserving and improving the cultural landscape of their historic site. For more, visit [www.aaslh.org/workshop](http://www.aaslh.org/workshop).

**October 19-21**—**PlaceMatters06**, a living laboratory where a national network of practitioners come together to learn, share, inspire and seed innovation in place, collectively elevating the art and science of planning of vibrant and sustainable communities, in Denver, CO. For more information, visit [www.placematters.org](http://www.placematters.org).

**October 30**—The **Green Building Alliance** and the **Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation** host a National Summit on the greening of historic properties, immediately preceding the **National Preservation Conference** in Pittsburgh, PA. The Summit will feature experts in the disciplines of both green building and historic preservation in a discussion regarding existing LEED certification requirements as they relate to historic preservation. For more information, visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org).

**October 31-November 5**—The National Trust hosts the **National Preservation Conference** in Pittsburgh, PA. Providing all-important know-how, innovative ideas, and inspiration for people saving America's historic places and revitalizing communities, the conference is the premier educational and networking event for those involved with the preservation movement. For more information, please go to [www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org).

## Quarantine Station, cont.

where scores of immigrants seeking a new life in America were buried – and possibly disturb buried pathogens thought eradicated generations ago, with unknown consequences.

Working with the township, publicizing the potential damage to and the historic importance of this site, and advocating for alternatives, the group hopes that this time a solution will be found that will honor the role the Lazaretto played in Philadelphia's and the nation's history.

Visit [www.ushistory.org/laz](http://www.ushistory.org/laz) for more information and images, and to see the architectural site plan for the proposed firehouse/rental facility. *Portions of this story were used with permission from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia and ushistory.org.*

## Northeast Meeting, cont.

President, Valerie Cunningham, and "Urban Renewal to Historic District Infill: Portsmouth's Preservation Story," led by Martha Fuller Clark and John Grossman of the Portsmouth Advocates.

In lieu of the workshops, attendees could meet for discussions on the topics of the "creative economy," preservation training, local historic commission effectiveness and advocating for good transportation decisions.

The three-day meeting concluded with an entertaining and thought-provoking presentation by land-use attorney Dwight Merriam on "Eminent Domain: What the Controversy Really Means."

## 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.

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).