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There is still time to vote for your favorite historic place for the **Greater Boston Partners in Preservation** program. Vote by May 17!

VOTE

www.PartnersinPreservation.com

AMES SHOVEL SHOPS AND MEMORIAL BRIDGE ADDED TO 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC SITES

Two sites identified for the 2009 America's 11 Most Endangered Historical Places come from the Northeast Region. **Ames Shovel Shops in Easton, Massachusetts** and **Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine**. Over the course of the 11 Most program's 21 years, 211 sites have been identified. The list has been so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts across the country and rallying resources to save one-of-a-kind landmarks that, in over two decades, only six sites have been lost.

In southeastern Massachusetts, the **Ames Shovel Shops** complex, an eight-acre site comprising 15 granite and wood buildings dating from 1852 through 1928, is the central core of 19th-century American industrial development. The iron-bladed shovels fabricated here by generations of the Ames family literally built America. The Shovel Shops are threatened by an intensive re-development plan that proposes to construct a 177-unit affordable-housing complex with 15,000 square feet of office space. Advocates would like to see the National



Landmark site redeveloped for mixed use, but not according to the proposed plan, which requires demolition of several of the site's historic buildings and radical alteration of others.

As the first major "vertical lift" bridge in the eastern United States since it was built in 1923, **Memorial Bridge** has been a sturdy and dramatic landmark, spanning the Piscataqua River and connecting the historic coastal towns of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine. The bridge had the longest lift span in the country (297 feet), making it the prototype for later metal truss bridges. Our nation's historic bridges are being destroyed at the alarming rate of one every two or three days. Lack of maintenance and a knee-jerk preference for replacement often counters the directive of Congress that historic bridges be preserved whenever possible.

Although owned jointly by both New Hampshire and Maine Memorial Bridge is operated by New Hampshire. New Hampshire placed the bridge at the top of its priority list of bridges to be repaired. A broad coalition of seacoast area organizations supports the recent proposal by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation that both states seek competitive infrastructure stimulus funds to completely rehabilitate the Memorial Bridge. Maine DOT has not concurred and wants to study alternatives.

Not in My Front Yard: Providence Fights Gas Meters in Historic Areas

By Eric Wills

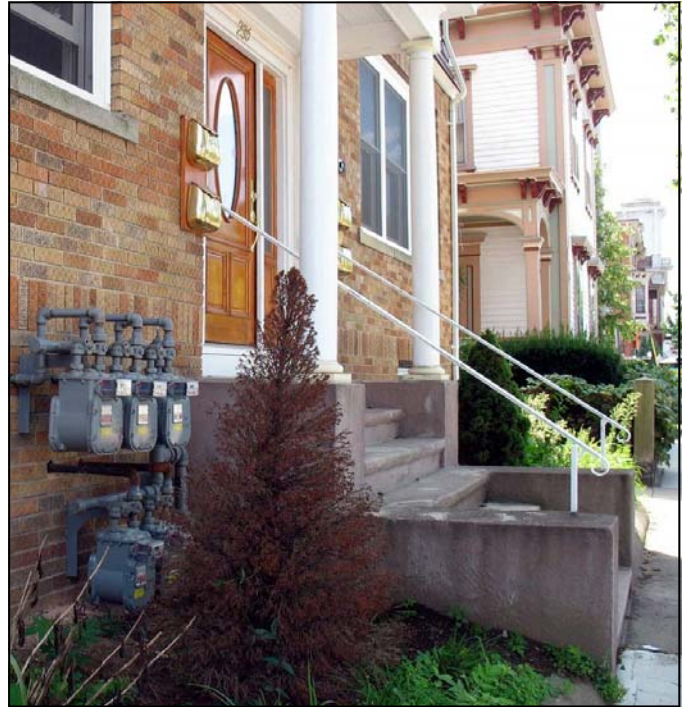
(This article appeared online on April 27, 2009. For the full report by Eric Wills, go to: www.preservationnation.org)

Ian Barnacle was angry. Make that livid. He'd returned home one evening to his historic Providence, R.I., home, only to discover workers from National Grid, a regional power company, tearing up the sidewalk. Barnacle had just purchased the Federal-style house and had started restoring it, hoping to do his part to preserve the historic character of his Fox Point neighborhood, located near Brown University. He soon learned that the power company was installing new high-pressure gas lines throughout the city, to meet increasing demand. And that the company, as part of the project, had started to install new gas meters on the front of historic houses.

"What's so devastating is that people have worked for 30 years to improve their neighborhoods," says Wendy Nicholas, director of the Boston-based Northeast Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In Broadway-Armory, a historic neighborhood on Providence's west side at the epicenter of the controversy, she says, "it's really been a labor of love, a lot of sweat equity. This isn't a wealthy neighborhood where they were just writing checks. They've been doing the work themselves."

In an attempt to alleviate tensions, last fall National Grid halted work and has now agreed to give homeowners in historic neighborhoods the option to keep meters in basements when possible, Graves says, or to work collaboratively to find a sympathetic place for the meters outside. In addition, the city council passed an ordinance last fall that prohibits utility companies from installing meters without homeowners' written permission. National Grid has challenged the ordinance because its wording unnecessarily delays projects, Graves says.

The dispute may ultimately be resolved by sister bills currently on the floor of Rhode Island's house and senate. "We're walking on egg shells right now," says Jessica Jennings, a member of the Broadway-Armory Neighborhood Association, as residents wait to see if the bills will pass. "I'm scared to go to work," she says, concerned that National Grid may install a new gas meter on the front of her home while she's gone. Jennings has heard from residents in a small Wisconsin town who are struggling with the same issue. And she's been heartened to learn that Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Indianapolis have stipulations about where meters can be placed in historic neighborhoods.



NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PARTNERS AND ADVISORS IN THE NORTHEAST REGION

Statewide Partners

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation; Maine Preservation; New Hampshire Preservation Alliance; Preservation Delaware; Preservation League of New York State; Preservation Massachusetts; Preservation New Jersey; Preservation Pennsylvania; Preserve Rhode Island; Preservation Trust of Vermont

Local Partners

CT: Hartford Preservation Alliance, New Haven Preservation Trust ME: Greater Portland Landmarks MA: Boston Preservation Alliance, Historic Boston, Inc., Preservation Worcester, Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) NY: Landmark Society of Western New York, Municipal Art Society of New York, The New York Landmarks Conservancy, Preservation Buffalo Niagara PA: Lower Merion Conservancy, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia RI: Providence Preservation Society

Statewide Main Street Programs

Boston Main Streets (Boston, MA); Connecticut Main Street center; Delaware Main Street Program; Main Street New Jersey; Maine Downtown Center; New Hampshire Main Street Center; Office of Community Development (PA); Pennsylvania Downtown Center; Vermont Downtown Program

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VT: Elizabeth Humstone, Robert McBride
At-Large: Gretchen Sorin (NY), Keith Stokes (RI)

UPCOMING DATES, DEADLINES AND EVENTS

MAY

May is National Preservation Month! The theme for 2009's National Preservation Month is This Place Matters! Preservation Month is designed to raise awareness about the power historic preservation has to protect and enhance our homes, neighborhoods and communities - the places that really matter to us. Check out www.preservationnation.org to learn more.

The **New Bedford Preservation Coalition** is holding a **Window Restoration Seminar** on **Saturday, May 9, 2009** at the Corson Maritime Learning Center in New Bedford, Massachusetts. To register and for more information, click [HERE](#).

May 9, 2009 is the **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's Town-wide Barn Survey Workshop** in Bedford, New Hampshire. The NH Division of Historical Resources will explain requirements for their statewide barn survey database. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Don't miss the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's first Citywide Conference** for community leaders helping to preserve and celebrate the city's neighborhoods. Register today for **A Sense of Place: Preserving Philadelphia Neighborhoods, Friday, May 15, 2009**. If you are a neighborhood/community leader, you won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about the many resources available to strengthen and build upon the successes in your community by incorporating historic preservation into your tool kit. Click [HERE](#) to register and for more information about the conference.

Pennsylvania's Statewide Conference on Heritage will be held **May 19th-22nd, 2009** at the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The conference will feature workshops, sessions and speakers from the historic preservation, archaeological, heritage tourism, transportation, legislative, and planning communities. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Attend the **Maine Preservation Green Rehab Conference on Friday, May 22, 2009** at the Masonic Temple in Portland, Maine. For more information, click [HERE](#).

JUNE

Discuss practical applications of using green building strategies for historic structures when the New York **National Preservation Institute** presents **Green Strategies for Historic Buildings** in Rochester on **June 4, 2009**. For more information click [HERE](#), or to register click [HERE](#).

JUNE (CON'T)

The **National Trust's matching grants program** will be awarding funds in the next round on **June 1, 2009**, so get your applications in. For more information go to www.preservationnation.org.

Save the date for the **Maine Downtown Conference** being held in Rockland, Maine on **June 5, 2009**.

Register today for **Vermont's Historic Preservation Conference and Honor Awards Luncheon** in Isle La Motte on **June 12, 2009**. Isle La Motte is rich in Native American, geological and architectural history, all of which will be explored at the conference.

Applications for the **Diversity Scholarship Program (DSP)** are due **June 15th 2009** to attend the National Preservation Conference in Nashville, Tennessee October 13-17, 2009. The Diversity Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, economic and cultural backgrounds to increase the diversity of participants at the annual National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. Applications for the 2009 conference are available online [HERE](#). Questions? Please contact Brent Leggs in the Northeast Office for more information. brent_leggs@nthp.org

Nominations are now being accepted for **Preservation Pennsylvania's 2009 Historic Preservation Awards**. Nominations are due **June 22, 2009**. For more information, check out Preservation Pennsylvania's website [HERE](#), or for the nomination application, click [HERE](#).

On **June 27, 2009** the **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is holding an Old House & Barn Detective Workshop** in Brentwood, New Hampshire. They will be offering guidance and best practice tips for do-it-yourselfers, covering architectural styles and their common color palettes, lead paint safety practices, proper preparation techniques and choice of paint products. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On May 4th, 2009, John Milner Architects was awarded a **2009 Arthur Ross Award for Excellence in the Classical Tradition**. The firm's work encompasses diverse projects such as historic houses, churches, railroad stations, downtown residential and commercial districts, and a variety of institutional and industrial buildings. John Milner's business partner, **Mary DeNadai**, is an advisor and trustee emeriti for the National Trust. Congratulations to John Milner Architects!