



NORTHEAST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter from the National Trust's Northeast Office

Volume 6, Number 4

www.nationaltrust.org

April 2007

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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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Historic Meetinghouse Finds a New Home

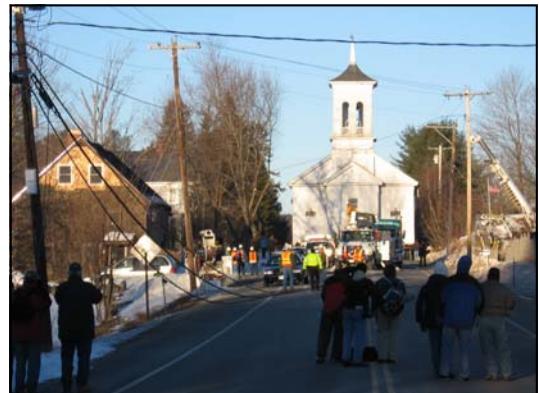
Like a good thriller story, the tale of the Free-will Baptist Meetinghouse in Epsom, NH, had its share of chills, near misses, and heart-racing moments. In the end, however, perseverance paid off and this historic meetinghouse will not be demolished after all.

In the summer of 2005, a resident of Epsom called the National Trust's Northeast Office with concerns over the Meetinghouse's proposed demolition. The congregation had outgrown the building and had sold the site to Cumberland Farms, which needed the site cleared in order to construct a convenience store and gas station. Local efforts began to find alternatives to demolition.

Through the new shared field service program of the National Trust and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (NHPA), Maggie Stier provided the Epsom Meetinghouse Friends group with key support in fundraising and public relations. The NHPA also made two small grants to the project.

This past February, Epsom voters endorsed a plan for the town to acquire the 1861 structure and move it to a new location. This huge preservation success is the result of a multi-year effort that involved many groups including the Friends of the Epsom Meetinghouse, the NHPA, the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), the Town of Epsom and the National Trust's Northeast Office, and many, many others.

The tenacious Friends group worked tirelessly



The electric wires are lowered as the Free-will Baptist Meetinghouse in Epsom, NH, makes its way down NH State Route 4 early in the morning to its new location.

to convince voters to accept the gift of the structure, and raised nearly \$100,000 to cover the costs of the move, which was coordinated by Christine and Charles Rankie. Cumberland Farms generously donated the building, as well as \$10,000 toward moving costs, and extended several deadlines to accommodate the fundraising schedule and the special town meeting.

The Meetinghouse traveled down NH State Route 4 in the wee hours of the morning of February 25th, finally coming to rest next to the new town library. This town of 4,500 people plans to use the building as meeting space and town offices. With an estimated \$900,000 yet to be raised for rehabilitation, the Epsom Meetinghouse story isn't yet finished, but its future is brighter.

Gibraltar Easement Amendment Up for Public Comment

After a lengthy 10-year effort, a plan is in place for the re-development of Gibraltar, the Hugh Rodney Sharp estate in Wilmington, DE. The proposal involves amending the easement the State of Delaware holds on the property in order to strengthen preservation of the outbuildings and garden, and allow an adaptive reuse of the site that is also economically viable.

As part of the review process, the Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs has initiated a 30-day public comment period for this request. From now until May 2, you can submit comments directly by visiting <http://history.delaware.gov/preservation/protection/gibraltar.shtml>. We encourage you to contact the state to voice your opinion on this matter.

For more information about the easement amendment or reuse proposal, contact Trent Margrif, Executive Director of Preservation Delaware at director@preservationde.org or 302/651-9617.



The property includes this main house and exquisite gardens designed by Marian Coffin. Preservation Delaware has been working since 1995 to protect the property. While the gardens have been restored, an appropriate reuse is being sought for the house.

Celebrating Preservation All Month Long

Commemorating the third annual National Preservation Month in May, the National Trust and its thousands of partners across the country will demonstrate the importance of our nation's heritage as they focus on many aspects of the preservation movement, including historic travel, heritage education, historic-home ownership and community revitalization. Local celebrations will highlight the unique culture and traditions of different areas of the country, and the National Trust strongly encourages people to participate in events being held in their communities.

The Trust has posted several resources on its website to help with planning and marketing efforts: www.nationaltrust.org. Groups can also get their events listed on an on-line calendar by contacting Daphne Gerig at daphne_gerig@nths.org.



A sign commemorates the building of the historic Lincoln Highway in Ligonier, PA. Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Dates, Deadlines and Announcements

April 14—The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission presents the **22nd Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference** in Pawtucket. “**Something OLD, Something GREEN**” will demonstrate that preserving old buildings, historic downtowns and traditional land use patterns ensures a level of land, energy and material consumption that is sustainable for the future. For more information: www.preservation.ri.gov/conference.

April 15—Deadline for nominations to **Landslide 2007**, a biennial list that focuses attention on culturally significant landscapes and landscape features at risk for alteration or destruction. Sponsored by the **Cultural Landscape Foundation** and **Garden Design Magazine**, this year’s list, “**Heroes of Horticulture**,” seeks to highlight threatened significant horticultural features. More at: www.tclf.org.

April 19-21—The National Barn Alliance presents its **2007 Annual Workshop and Barn Tour** in Albany, NY. Topics include barn stabilization and restoration techniques, conducting barn surveys and forming and maintaining a barn preservation group. For more information, visit www.barnalliance.org.

April 26—Receipt deadline for applications for **Save America’s Treasures** grants, which provide funds for preserva-

tion and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts, historic structures and sites. More at www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/index.htm.

April 27—The Connecticut Main Street Center continues its **Downtown Revitalization Institute Workshops**, with “**Visualize Change in Downtown: Using Design as a Revitalization Tool**” in Hartford. For more on this session, and to see the full schedule of workshops, visit www.ctmainstreet.org.

May 1—Deadline for applications to the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Keystone Preservation Grant Program**, which supports preservation or restoration of historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register. For more information, visit www.artsnet.org/phmc.

May 11-12—Maine Preservation hosts the **2007 Maine Preservation Conference** in Bangor. Featuring tours, roundtables on a variety of topics such as green buildings, heritage tourism, town character and historic barns, and plenty of networking opportunities. For more information: www.mainepr.org.

May 16—Preservation Trust of Vermont holds its **Annual Preservation Conference** at the Union Institute in Montpelier. The conference will include

their biennial awards luncheon, honoring exceptional preservation efforts in the state. More information available at their website: www.ptvermont.org.

May 22-23—The **Historic Preservation Office** of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection presents the 2007 Annual Historic Preservation Conference, “**Our Towns, Our Land, Our Heritage: Sustaining New Jersey’s Legacy**” in Madison. The conference seeks to remember an accomplished past while charting a comprehensive course for the state’s future. For more information, www.nj.gov/dep/hpo.

June 1—The Maine Downtown Center hosts “**Small Town Success**,” its **7th Annual Maine Downtown Conference** in Houlton, featuring keynote speaker Kennedy Smith. The conference will also offer a number of education breakout sessions, including Developing Downtown Farmers Markets, Cultural Tourism and Service Center Redevelopment. For more, visit www.mdf.org/downtown.

June 3-6—The **Pennsylvania Downtown Center** presents its annual conference in Bethlehem, PA. This year’s theme, “**Partnering for Regional Success: A Two-Way Street**.” For a conference schedule and additional information, please visit www.padtown.org.

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