

Keene Heritage Commission

Keene, New Hampshire



Preservation Resources Guide

*Created to inform property owners of alternatives
to the demolition of their historic structure*



The Keene Public Library, originally the Henry Colony house built in 1869, given to the City of Keene by Edward C. Thayer in 1898.

*“It would be worthwhile if in
each town there were a committee
appointed to see that the beauty of
the town receive no detriment.”*

Henry David Thoreau



Keene Heritage Commission

Information is available
on the City of Keene website:

www.ci.keene.nh.us/heritage-commission

or by contacting the Planning Department
at 3 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

Telephone: 603.352.5474

A map of the Historic District is available
at the City's website or by contacting the
Keene Planning Department (603.352.5474)
or the Keene Code Enforcement
Department (603.352.5440).

Preserving Our Heritage

In 2003, the National Trust for
Historic Preservation:

... named Keene to “America’s
Dozen Destinations” because of its
commitment to historic preserva-
tion and attractive architecture.

... called Keene a “Currier and
Ives comes to life . . . where pris-
tine local landmarks, Revolutionary
War reenactments, and bucolic
rolling hills provide a perfect spot
for family fun.”

... wrote, “Although its popula-
tion is small, Keene is a giant
when it comes to history . . . and
... because so many of the town’s
earliest structures have remained
unchanged for more than two cen-
turies, it’s easy to get lost in time.
Keene represents a truly distinctive
slice of America. That makes it an
exciting alternative to the homoge-
nization of many other vacation
spots.”

In 2005, the Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation, a White
House initiative, named Keene a
Preserve America Community, the
first in the state to be so designated.

Why Preservation?

“We are what we save from the past, and build for the future.”

Philip H. Faulkner, Jr.

The Keene Heritage Commission was created to protect and preserve all resources in Keene that are valued for their historic, cultural, aesthetic, archaeological, and community significance.

There are many benefits to preserving and revitalizing or reusing a structure when

compared to demolition. Even if the property has been unused for some time, restoration is often a viable solution. Demolition of such a structure may represent the loss of a piece of unique history that contributes to our community's heritage and identity.

The most important incentive for restoration is that demolition is irreversible. Even if demolition is the chosen route, there still might be an opportunity to recover and retain any historic features of the property. Please consider contacting the Heritage Commission or the professionals listed for assistance with your project.

Local Preservation Resources

*www.ironwd.com
603-446-3669*

Ironwood Restoration, LLC - Marlow, NH

*www.bedardpreservation.com
603-524-1773*

Bedard Preservation - Gilmanston, NH

603-783-3345

Fifield Building Restoration - Canterbury, NH

*www.historicprop.com
603-654-8970*

Historic & Distinctive Properties - Wilton, NH

603-547-6840

Historic Sash & Windows - Francestown, NH

603-585-2260

Kerry P. Gagne Restoration - Fitzwilliam, NH

*www.aianh.org
603-357-2863*

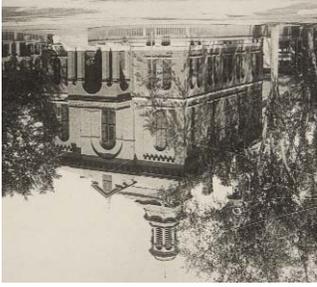
American Institute of Architects NH - Keene, NH

Financial & Technical Assistance

*NH Preservation Alliance - A non-profit organization providing technical assistance to property owners. They also keep a Directory of Preservation Products and Services.
www.nhpreservation.org
603-224-2281*

The Heritage Commission works closely with Keene's Historic District Commission by researching historic homes and buildings and by recommending areas for historic preservation.

At right, Cheshire County Court House circa 1858.



At left, Cheshire County Court House today



All structures represent embodied energy, or the sum of all the energy required to extract, process, manufacture, deliver, and install the materials needed to construct a building. The historic built environment represents a huge resource that can be conserved and made efficient for twenty-first century energy challenges - when adaptive reuse isn't an option, please consider recycling.

Commissions Work Together

