Preserving Our Heritage

In 2003, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Keene to “America’s Dozen Destinations” because of its commitment to historic preservation and attractive architecture.

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

Henry David Thoreau

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.

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For information on Keene’s Historic Preservation Resources Guide, visit the City of Keene website: www.ci.keene.nh.us/heritage-commission or contact 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 of Keene website: wwww.ci.keene.nh.us/heritage-commission.

Keene Heritage Commission

Keene, New Hampshire

Preservation Resources Guide

Created to inform property owners of alternatives to the demolition of their historic structures.

Keene, New Hampshire

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

The most important incentive for restoration is that demolition is irreversible. Even if demolition is the chosen route, there still may 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.

There are many benefits to preserving and revitalizing or reusing a structure when compared to demolition. Even if the structure may represent the loss of a piece of uniquely historic structure, our unique history that contributes to our community’s heritage and identity.

All structures represent embodied energy, or the sum of all the energy required to construct a building. The historic built environment represents a huge resource that can be conserved and used as a model for efficient, sustainable development.

At right, Cheshire County Court House circa 1858.

Local Preservation Resources

- NH Preservation Alliance - A non-profit organization providing technical assistance and a Directory of Preservation Products and Services.
- NH Historic Preservation and Design Center
- NH Preservation Alliance
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