

## Maine's Most Endangered Historic Properties—2006

*A program of Maine Preservation*

Located in the heart of downtown in the central Maine community of Guilford, the **J.K. Edes Building** stands alone in a block that once contained companions of similar scale and hand-crafted architectural interest.

Built in 1891, it is an architecturally distinctive two-story brick commercial building where the nationally-successful company *Burt's Bees* began. The Edes Building has been vacant and deteriorating for some time, and is threatened with demolition by the Town of Guilford, its owner. The Town of Guilford now owns it on back taxes, and is most interested in redeveloping the entire block to help revitalize the community. Guilford has no zoning downtown, and no local legislation regarding historic preservation or commercial development design or use.



Some believe this building is in the way—an inhibitor to potential new commercial infill development. Others, including Maine Preservation, believe distinctive historic commercial buildings like the Edes have enormous potential to help maintain the sense of pedestrian scale and design vocabulary indicative of Maine's historic downtown centers. Members of the local historical society have obtained grant pledges to stabilize and make basic repairs to the building; they have asked the Town to deed the Edes building to them for historical society use. That decision will be made by the citizens at a special Town Meeting scheduled for July 17, 2006.

Maine Preservation's Board of Trustees support the protection, preservation and reuse of the historic Edes Building, and urge the Town of Guilford and its citizens to do likewise.