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| |  | | --- | | ***Maine Preservation Announces "Most Endangered Historic Places" List***  Statewide Nonprofit’s Annual List Shines a Light  on Five Historically Significant Sites    **Yarmouth, ME - September 29, 2022.** Maine Preservation, a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization, announced its annual list of the Most Endangered Historic Places in Maine.  The 2022 list of Most Endangered Historic Places underscores the diversity of buildings and sites significant to Mainers and the myriad challenges faced by passionate individuals and communities in saving, restoring, and repurposing these special places. From highlighting a potentially catalytic adaptive reuse of a former canning facility Downeast to supporting the relocation of a one-room schoolhouse to avoid demolition, the endangered list aims to amplify local grassroots efforts.  “No two solutions will be the same for the five imperiled places on this year’s list, but we can call upon our experience and support network to aid efforts,” explained Tara Kelly, Executive Director of Maine Preservation. “We have to look no further for formulas of success than one of last year’s endangered places, the First Congregational Church of East Machias. Faced with catastrophic structural failures and a shrinking congregation, the local Friends group has rallied partners, pursued funds, and has accomplished an extensive stabilization of the church’s iconic steeple.”  **The 2022 Most Endangered Historic Places in Maine are:**  [**American Can Company Building, Eastport**](https://www.mainepreservation.org/most-endangered-2022/american-can-company-building-eastport)  An iconic building located on the edge of Passamaquoddy Bay in Eastport, the American Can Company Building is one of the few remaining structures of the world class Downeast Maine sardine industry. Erected by the Seacoast Canning Company in 1908, it was later renamed the American Can Company, the site was home to the Continental Brand of roll key opening can – an innovation that became the gold standard in the global sardine industry.  [**Fort George, Castine**](https://www.mainepreservation.org/most-endangered-2022/fort-george-castine)  A Revolutionary War-era fortification built by British forces in 1779, Fort George was strategically located near the Penobscot and Bagaduce Rivers, making it a main objective of America’s failed Penobscot Expedition to recapture Mid-coast Maine from British forces. The British re-occupied Fort George during the War of 1812, abandoning it for the last time in 1815. After the war, residents of Castine salvaged materials and, in the late 1800s, the fort served as the home field for Eastern State Normal School and Castine High School baseball teams.  [**St. Louis Church, Auburn**](https://www.mainepreservation.org/most-endangered-2022/st-louis-church-auburn)  Formed in 1902 to serve the mostly French-Canadian neighborhood in New Auburn, St. Louis Church first welcomed parishioners in its modest basement before they could raise enough money to carry out their full building campaign. The cornerstone for the Gothic Revival-style church, designed by architect Timothy G. O’Connell, was laid in May 1915. O’Connell designed numerous Catholic and Episcopal churches across New England, including at least fifteen in the state of Maine and most notably the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston.  [**Pigeon Hill Schoolhouse, Oxford**](https://www.mainepreservation.org/most-endangered-2022/pigeon-hill-schoolhouse-oxford)  Little is known about the one-room Pigeon Hill Schoolhouse, constructed around 1867 and serving Oxford youth until the last teacher, Barbara Elliot, and her students used the building in late 1940. The Pigeon Hill Schoolhouse is reportedly the only remaining school building of nine that has not been demolished or altered for a new use. While relatively small in size and simple in its design, the schoolhouse still carries all the characteristics of one-room, rural schoolhouse complete with its original wall-mounted blackboards.  [**Washburn Memorial Library, Livermore**](https://www.mainepreservation.org/most-endangered-2022/washburn-memorial-library-livermore)  Built in 1883, the Washburn Memorial Library features a traditional wood-framed structure enveloped in six-inch granite ashlar from North Jay, Maine. Architect Alexander Currier is credited with the Gothic Revival-style design, intended to emulate a church. Governor Israel Washburn, Jr. was inspired to build and dedicate the library to honor his father, Israel Sr., and mother, Patty. Shortly after completion, Governor Washburn presented it to the Livermore community as a public lending library in 1886.  [**CLICK HERE FOR PICTURES**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wLHA8N6n3Ha0lxhrRh5KRTY5LnipwaYG)  For more information on each of the listings, please visit: <https://www.mainepreservation.org/most-endangered>  **About the Most Endangered Historic Places List**  The Most Endangered Historic Places List began in 1996 for the purpose of identifying and raising public awareness about preserving threatened historic properties. Sites previously listed and successfully rehabilitated include the Great Bowdoin Mill in Topsham, Eastport Savings Bank, Abyssinian Meeting House in Portland, Seguin Island Light, Capt. Samuel Holden House in Moose River, Wood Island Lifesaving Station in Kittery, and Lincoln Street School in Rockland. However, several sites remain threatened, including the Skowhegan Drive-In Theatre (2014) which faces mounting repair costs and declining attendance.  **About Maine Preservation**  Chartered in 1972, Maine Preservation is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving historic places, buildings, downtowns and neighborhoods, and strengthening the cultural and economic vitality of Maine communities. | |