

MAINE PRESERVATION



Year in
Review
2023

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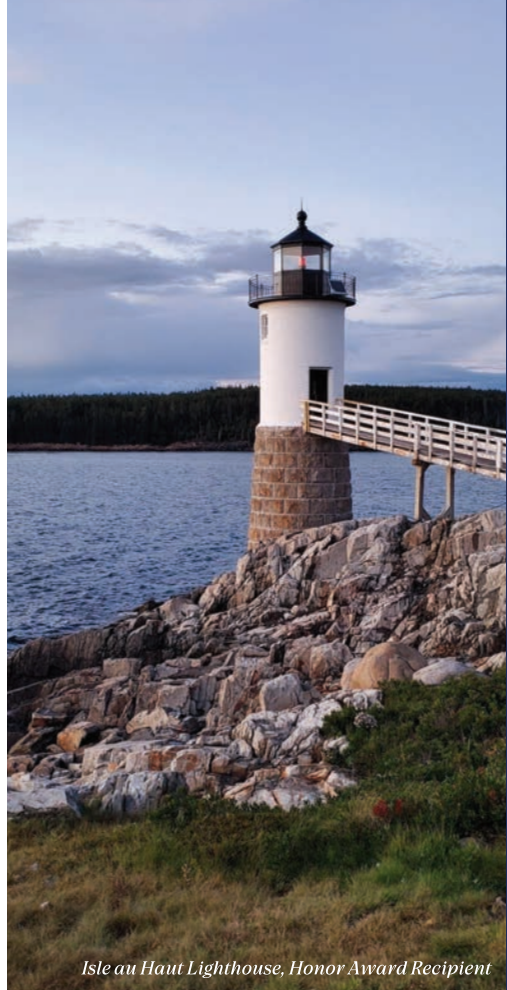
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Letter from the Director

As promised, I made my way to Aroostook and Piscataquis Counties this year through our residency program, spending a total of eight days on the ground in these communities. While each of Maine's cities, towns, villages, and territories are truly unique, the dedication to stewardship of historic fabric is always evident and inspiring.

Through our visits across the state, we learn about preservation challenges and opportunities from the Mainers doing the hard work of protecting and promoting their communities. This exchange informs our policy initiatives and program offerings—it's a two-way street.

In the last year, we have engaged with nearly 200 non-profit organizations, businesses, and individuals preserving places important to us all.

With your support, we can help countless more.



Executive Director



Letter from the President

This year, Maine Preservation welcomed six new Trustees, offering a diverse range of talents and experience and representing communities from Eliot to Bangor. Speaking for us all, we are proud to be a part of a dynamic and growing organization.

Your generous gift to our Annual Fund allows us to continue preserving and promoting historic buildings, downtowns, and neighborhoods, thereby strengthening the cultural and economic vibrancy of communities across Maine.

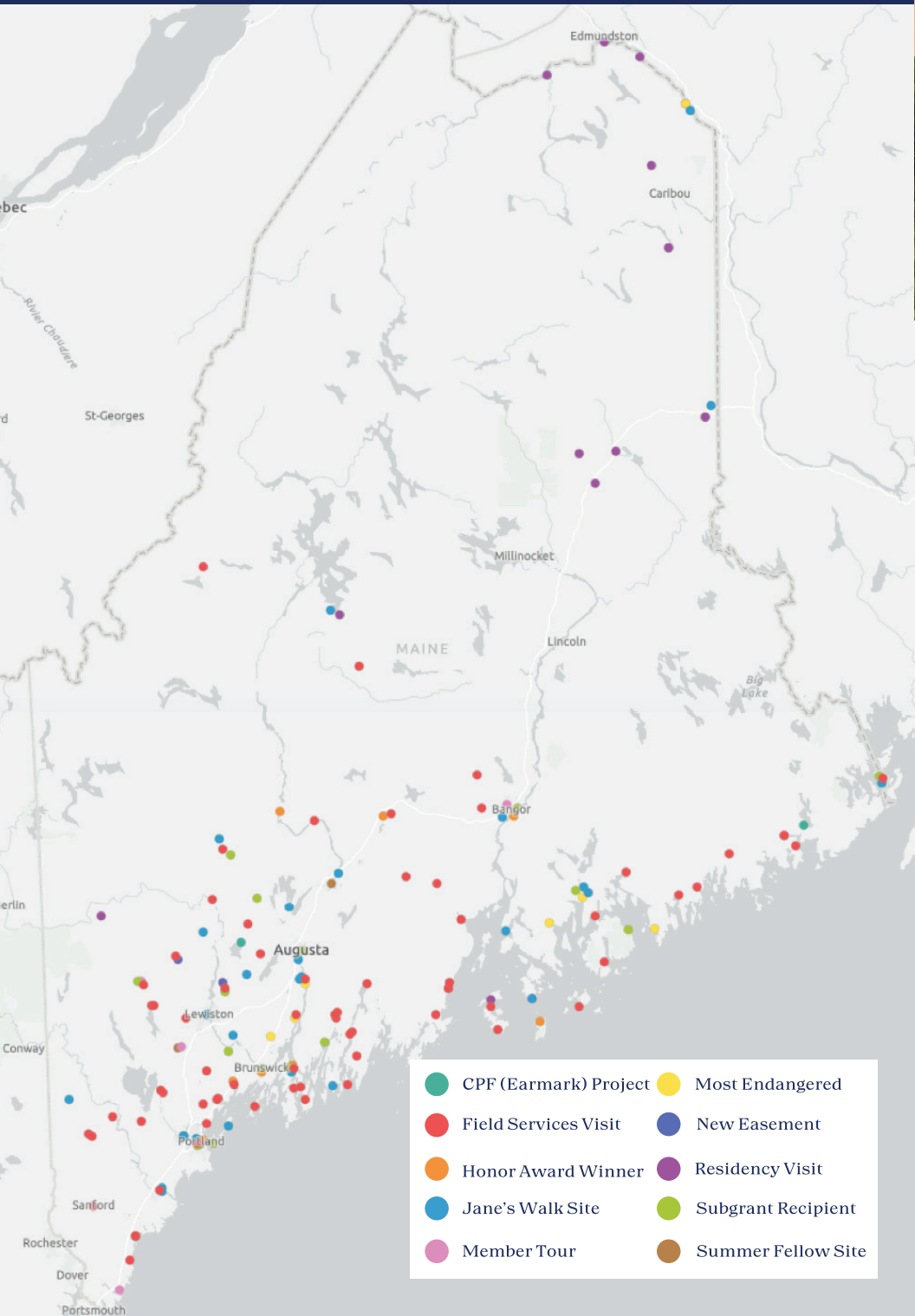
Thank you for your support!



President



2023 Public Engagement





River House, Norridgewock, 2023 Honor Award Recipient

Advocacy

This year, MP introduced *LD 1810: An Act to Expand the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit*. This proposal would improve the existing “small” credit by increasing the base and raising the qualified rehabilitation expenditure cap, making it easier to rehabilitate commercial buildings in historic neighborhoods and downtowns. It would also create a tax credit for historic owner-occupied residences and ancillary structures, including energy efficiency and resiliency upgrades. A bonus is available for low-income property owners, properties that include an affordable dwelling unit, or vacant properties. We will be vigorously advocating for its enactment in the upcoming session and once passed, we will play a key role in education and outreach for this new financial resource.

We also promoted the work of our peers through the **Honor Awards**, recognizing 11 projects and people for excellence in historic preservation leadership, rehabilitation and craft, and uniting representatives of the preservation industry for an annual celebration. Our **Most Endangered Historic Places** list focuses statewide media attention, boosts local advocacy efforts, and enlists engagement to save six threatened resources (right).

2023 Honor Awards

Abraham Robinson
Block, Portland
Building 12, Portland
Founders Hall,
Pittsfield
Freeport Historical
Society
The Hammond, Bangor
Isle Au Haut Lighthouse
Judy Barrington, Bath
The Lemont Block,
Brunswick
Marguerite Emerson
House, Portland
River House,
Norridgewock
Stevens Square
Community Center,
Portland

2023 Most Endangered

Bowdoinham
Town Hall
Colburn House,
Pittston
D'Amanda's Candlepin
Bowling, Ellsworth
Gayety Theatre,
Van Buren
Jonathan Fisher
House, Blue Hill
Swan Island
Winter Harbor
Historical Society
Museum

Technical Assistance

Our **Field Services** consultation activity helped 54 projects across the state in 2023, including the Morin-Sweat House in Sanford, Mousam Way Land Trust; Pilley House, Brooks Historical Society; Finn Hall, Maine Finnish Farmers Club; Old Red Church, Town of Standish; Jay-Niles Public Library, Town of Jay; and Old Hancock County Sheriff's House & Jail, Ellsworth Historical Society.

In addition to direct consultation, **Monday Meet Up**, our monthly virtual Q&A sessions explored common topics including windows, seasonal maintenance, energy efficiency, and lead paint.

Through our newly developed **Residency Program**, we spent two weeks on the road visiting locations across Maine to assist with preservation outreach, advocacy, and consultation. Preservation staff spent two days on North Haven, five days in Aroostook County (Sherman, Houlton, Presque Isle, Caribou, Van Buren, Madawaska, Lille, New Sweden, Fort Kent, and Island Falls), and three days in Greenville. The residencies help us identify challenges shared by communities statewide and develop solutions to address them. For example, we have prepared an Adaptive Reuse Guide intended to empower nonprofits, concerned citizens, and local leaders as they develop sustainable strategies for saving and repurposing vacant and underused historic buildings in their communities.

2023 Residency Visits

Caribou
Fort Kent
Greenville
Houlton
Island Falls
Lille
Madawaska
New Sweden
North Haven
Sherman
Presque Isle
Van Buren



MP Staff and Jane Hall, President of the Greenville Junction Depot Friends

2023 Grant Recipients

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Bangor Historical
Society, Bangor

Bar Harbor Historical
Society, Bar Harbor

Bearnstow, Mount
Vernon

Colonial Theater, Inc.,
Augusta

Ellsworth Historical
Society, Ellsworth

Farmington Historical
Society, Farmington

Fifth Maine Regiment
Museum, Peaks Island

Friends of the West
Durham Methodist
Church, Durham

Laudholm Trust,
Wells

Maine Art Gallery,
Wiscasset

Mechanics' Hall,
Portland

Norway Landmarks
Preservation Society,
Norway

Pejepscot History
Center, Brunswick

Sagadahoc
Preservation, Inc.,
Bath

Tides Institute &
Museum of Art,
Eastport



*Gingerbread House, 2023 Grant Recipient
Norway Landmarks Preservation Society*

Financial Support

This year we awarded another \$125,000 in preservation grants to 17 organizations across the state (left). Projects included window restoration at Augusta Colonial Theater, porch reconstruction at the Gingerbread House, and masonry repairs at Old Hancock County Sheriff's Home and Jail. Funding is made possible thanks to The 1772 Foundation. Projects were evaluated by Maine Preservation field services staff, who also manage the grants.

Stewardship

In this past year we welcomed the donation of two preservation easements that will protect early 19th century Cape farmhouses in perpetuity. Judith Marden ensured the long-term stewardship of Alpine Farm and its c. 1835 Greek Revival-style brick Cape house in Greene, while Patricia and David Ledlie moved to forever protect the c. 1844 E.C. and M.I. Record Homestead and its exceptional wood ornamentation in Buckfield. Staff monitors and reviews alterations to 34 other privately held buildings through our easement program, including involvement with ongoing construction campaigns at the Robbins Anderson Homestead in South Thomaston and Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester.

2023 Jane's Walk ME

Auburn
Bangor
Bath
Belgrade
Biddeford
Boothbay Harbor
Castine
Chebeague Island
Eastport
Ellsworth
Farmington
Gardiner
Greenville
Hallowell
Hinckley
Houlton
Lisbon
Livermore
Monmouth
Parsonsfield
Portland
Saco
Stonington
Van Buren
Wells
Westbrook

Education

MP's 2023 virtual **Old House Forum** program featured Michelle Hauser on her photography project, "Meeting Hall Maine;" Catherine Cyr on her Master's thesis, "Sporting and Leisure Camps of Central and Western Maine;" and Tim O'Brien on his book, "The Maine Roadshow: A Roadside Tour of the State's History, Culture, Food, Funk & Oddities."

Jane's Walk ME, our annual festival of walking conversations, grew in all aspects this year. More than 400 people participated in 39 walks in nearly 30 towns and cities across the state (left).

We also began offering **in-person tours** with behind-the-scenes experiences at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery and Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester and explored the historic downtowns of Norway, Stonington, and York.

In 2023, we had the privilege of hosting three young preservationists as part of our **Patricia Anderson Summer Fellows Program**. All pursued our nine-week offering, which starts with four weeks of non-profit advocacy and programming work with Maine Preservation staff and then transitions to five weeks of



Portland's Ghost Signs, Jane's Walk



Summer Fellows tour Bagala Window Works ME

hands-on, immersive training with a Maine-based trades firm.

In addition to this immersive training, the fellows had invaluable opportunities to network with peers in the preservation field and learn more about potential career pathways. They visited with staff at Greater Portland Landmarks, talked about economic redevelopment with Maine Downtown Center, met with the executive directors of Northeast statewide preservation organizations during a retreat in Maine. The fellows also accompanied Maine Preservation staff on site visits, exposing them to the real-world challenges facing small non-profits, communities, and homeowners.

This spring, MP released **Understanding and Advancing the Preservation Trades**, a collaboration with statewide partners in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont that demonstrates the dearth of historic preservation professionals across our rural regions. MP, along with project partners, will continue to advocate for policies that support workforce development in the preservation trades.

2023 Summer Fellows

John Rutecki

- Roger Williams University, MS in Preservation Practices Program
- Contributed chapters on exterior rehabilitation to our Strathglass Park homeowner's guide, researched preservation strategies for historic dams, and assisted with our annual easement inspections.
- Heritage Co. Coppersmiths

Brianna Schmidt

- Clemson University, MS in Historic Preservation Program
- Researched historic preservation curriculum for children, contributed chapters on interior rehabilitation to our Strathglass Park homeowner's guide, and assisted with our annual easement inspections.
- Preservation Timber Framing

Caitlin Teare

- University of Vermont, MS in Historic Preservation Program
- Researched and developed a historic building reuse guide for communities, updated our program engagement map, and assisted with our annual easement inspections.
- Bagala Window Works

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MP staff joined the summer fellows and Arron Sturgis, Preservation Timber Framing and MP Trustee, for a work day and tour at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in July. Here, Sturgis shows the progress of the 1830 Ox Barn currently undergoing a major restoration.

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