

# LANDMARKS OBSERVER

*Special Bicentennial Edition*

PHOTO: COREY TEMPLETON



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Preservation  
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LOOKING BACK:  
200 years of  
Maine  
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Greater Portland  
**Landmarks**




LETTER FROM SARAH HANSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAINE!

200 years of statehood looks great on you.

**W**HAT AN UNEXPECTEDLY MEMORABLE Bicentennial. While 2020 is only half over, we have witnessed an incredible amount of change. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, an economic crisis, and a long-overdue global reckoning with injustice. This historic moment is one of challenge and reflection, and in this special Bicentennial issue of *Landmarks Observer*, we offer an opportunity to learn more about our origins, reflect on our collective history and look to a future in which we better understand how Maine's diverse stories shape our identity. While we're disappointed we can't celebrate with you in person this year, we hope you enjoy this commemoration in print! ■

**In memory of Robert Krug**



This past March, former Observatory docent Bob Krug passed away at the age of 94. Bob led a record 2,067 tours of the Observatory during his more than 15 years as a docent! We are so lucky that Bob was part of the Landmarks community.

**Bob (second from left) leads his 2,000th tour of the Portland Observatory in 2015.**



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# A Brief History of Preservation in Maine

BY JULIE LARRY

The Maine Bicentennial provides an opportunity to reflect on the history of Maine's unique landscapes and architecture, and how efforts to preserve this heritage developed.

The creation of state historical societies was another early effort to preserve American history. The Maine Historical Society, founded in 1822 (just two years after Maine became a state) is the third oldest in the United States, following the Massachusetts Historical Society (1791) and the New-York Historical Society (1804).



**The Henry Wadsworth Longfellow House**  
GREATER PORTLAND LANDMARKS POSTCARD COLLECTION

The first historic house museum in Maine opened. The Wadsworth-Longfellow House (1786) is the childhood home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of 19<sup>th</sup> century America's most famous poets.

1816



**Independence Hall**  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

The modern preservation movement began in the United States shortly after the nation was founded. One of the earliest preservation efforts in the United States was to save the statehouse – now known as Independence Hall - where the Declaration of Independence was signed and the Constitution debated. In 1812, the state of Pennsylvania planned to sell off the Philadelphia building's furniture, demolish the building, and subdivide the valuable lots. Thanks to municipal leaders who saw the value of the building to our new country's civic and cultural history, it was purchased by the city of Philadelphia in 1816 and saved.

1822

1853

The Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union is generally considered the first preservation group organized in the United States. It was founded in 1853 to save the deteriorating Mount Vernon—George Washington's homestead.

1889

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the oldest statewide preservation organization in the nation, was founded with the purpose of rescuing Jamestown Island from decay.

1901

Colonial Pemaquid in Bristol, Maine became a state park. The site includes the reconstructed Fort William Henry, archaeological remains of 17th- and 18th-century village buildings and fortifications, and a museum with artifacts found on the site including musket balls, coins, pottery, and early hardware.

1903

1906

The American Antiquities Act established the first national historic preservation policy for the United States. The law provided general protection for many kinds of cultural or natural resources, including archaeological sites and battlefields.

*continued on page 4*

President Woodrow Wilson created the National Park Service and established Sieur de Monts National Monument (now Acadia National Park) in Maine.

Within the park, the Abbe Museum, named after Dr. Robert Abbe, an eminent New York physician who had assembled a collection of early Native American artifacts from the Frenchman Bay area, was founded in 1926 and opened in 1928, with support from George B. Door and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., two of the founders of Acadia National Park. That year, the Abbe Museum became the first institution in Maine to sponsor archaeological research.

Charleston, South Carolina was the first city to establish a historic district with any type of local regulatory control.

The second historic district in the nation, the old French Quarter, was established in New Orleans.

The creation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was chartered by Congress. The National Trust supports the preservation of historic properties in local communities.

The National Historic Preservation Act was passed. The NHPA created the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and Section 106 (a legal status for historic preservation in Federal planning.) The NHPA helped Greater Portland Landmarks slow some demolitions, and Landmarks sought designation of historic districts on the newly-formed National Register of Historic Places to raise awareness and influence development projects in historic neighborhoods. The Henry Wadsworth Longfellow House was the first Portland landmark added to the National Register, in October 1966.



**Exchange Street, part of Portland's Waterfront Historic District**  
PHOTO BY COREY TEMPLETON

The city of Portland adopted a historic preservation ordinance to recognize the city's rich historic architecture and landscapes. The ordinance now protects around 2,000 properties throughout the city, and Portland has 11 designated historic districts, with the 12th – the Munjoy Hill Historic District – currently under consideration.

1916

1926

1931

1934

1936

1949

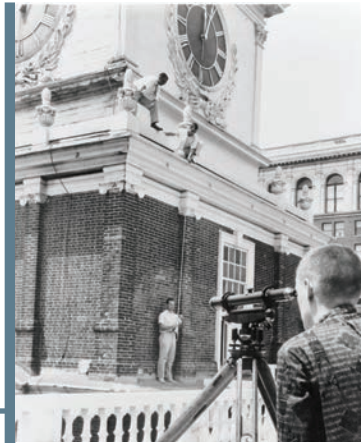
1964

1966

1971

1990

Now



**HABS workers take exterior measurements of Independence Hall**  
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The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) program was established under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration as the first and only federal program to systematically document historic buildings nationwide. The HABS program documented many important buildings in Maine, including the Portland Observatory.



**Greater Portland Landmarks newsletter raises the alarm about the Spring Street Arterial, 1969**

Greater Portland Landmarks was founded in 1964 in response to the urban renewal movement and the demolition of Portland's historic Union Station. In the 1960s, urban renewal was in full swing in Portland, and numerous residential and commercial buildings across the city were recommended to be removed to make room for projects like Franklin Arterial. The 1888 train station, beloved by people throughout the community, was immediately replaced by a strip shopping center. Edith Sills, civic leader and wife of the former president of Bowdoin College, gathered concerned citizens in her Vaughan Street living room to form an organization to advocate for the preservation of Portland's historic architecture. The fledgling Landmarks began surveying the city's historic architecture in 1965 to identify the buildings that should be saved, and then set out to save as many as possible.

The Maine Legislature established the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to preserve the state's heritage and promote the cultural and economic benefits of Maine's historic resources. In 1972, a group of citizens who helped to create the MHPC started a nonprofit called Citizens for Historic Preservation, now known as Maine Preservation.

Landmarks is now more than 55 years old and Portland's Historic Preservation Ordinance is now 30 years old. While not every community in greater Portland has a preservation ordinance, most recognize the importance of preservation and the role older neighborhoods and buildings play in strengthening their community. ■

**We've seen a lot in a half century.**

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The Bagala Window Works crew doing onsite work at Emmanuel Chapel in Portland.  
PHOTO BY BAGALA WINDOW WORKS

# Window into Maine's Past

*with Marc Bagala*

BY KATE BURCH

**M**ARC BAGALA, OWNER AND PRESIDENT of Bagala Window Works, has been restoring windows for more than 20 years. Landmarks caught up with Marc to talk about the windows he's restored from Maine's history.

## How old were the oldest windows you've restored?

The vast majority of windows restored by Bagala Window Works are from the 1800s. Myself and the company have had the privilege of restoring some or all of the windows in the following buildings:

- Private home, Kittery Point, ME (1667)
- Old Walpole Meeting House, Bristol, ME (1772)
- Wadsworth-Longfellow House, Portland, ME (1785)
- The Hathorn-Olson House, Cushing, ME (late 1700s)
- Castle Tucker, Wiscasset, ME (1807)



Removing windows for Phase II of window restoration at the Hathorn-Olson House.

PHOTO BY BAGALA WINDOW WORKS



PHOTO BY BAGALA WINDOW WORKS

Bagala crew member Kyle applies whitening to glazing on a window.



PHOTO BY BAGALA WINDOW WORKS

Bagala crew rebuilds the sills at the H.H. Sawyer Building in Portland.



Interior (above) and exterior (left) views of the completed window restoration at the H.H. Sawyer Building in Portland.

PHOTOS BY BAGALA WINDOW WORKS

### Do you get to learn the histories of the houses for the windows you're working on?

This is probably the best part of my job, whether it be a private home or building, or a National Register-designated landmark or museum. I'm the lucky person that gets a private tour and hears and discusses the history of the building with another old house enthusiast. Not only do I learn about the building, I also get a tour of windows from the basement to the belfry. Then I get to share the information with my staff about where I've been and what I've learned about a particular building. For instance, the windows in the Old Walpole Meeting House were made in England, shipped to Bristol, Maine, and cost the equivalent of one cow per window.

### What is the most challenging type of restoration to do?

Restoring bowed (sometimes called bent) window sash, or anything with curved muntins or rails will add a layer of difficulty and challenge to the process of restoration. When bent or curved pieces of a window sash need replacing, we reproduce the bent or curved piece using the same species and age of lumber. This procedure allows the patched or replaced new/old wood to expand and contract together with the old original wood, making for a lasting repair. Detail, detail, detail... And I get to hang out with the people that do this stuff!

### Are there any window restoration challenges particular to Maine?

Maybe just the climate. Window restorers in the southern states do not have to consider cold temps and snow while window sash are out of their opening during the winter months. I'm cold just thinking about it...Brrrr. But we have our ways!

### What is your favorite style of window to work on?

I'm partial to the Queen Anne style window sash. Especially when colored glass is set in the perimeter in a random manner. This has a more artsy look to me. Love the randomness of placement. Hi my name is Marc, and I'm a window geek...

### What is your favorite aspect of restoration work?

Doing restoration work is definitely a feel-good business. The transformation from an aging, non-working window, to a pretty, functional, and energy efficient window ready for another 100 years on the planet is extremely gratifying.

### It's Maine's 200th birthday. Will you be doing anything to celebrate the Bicentennial?

I'd have to admit, I've been a bit distracted as of lately, but now that you mention it - anything on the planet that's 200 years old deserves a celebration! ■

# Legacy Business Awards

As we celebrate Maine's 200th birthday, Greater Portland Landmarks is thrilled to be presenting our inaugural Legacy Business Awards.

Greater Portland is home to hundreds of extraordinary local businesses that have helped define our character, culture and architectural heritage. We want to honor Maine-owned businesses that were founded more than 100 years ago and have come to symbolize greater Portland over the last century. We'll be presenting these awards at our Annual Meeting this fall.



Founder John Bundy Brown

## J.B. Brown & Sons

Founded by legendary entrepreneur John Bundy Brown in 1830, J.B. Brown & Sons is a local company with a rich history that started in sugar manufacturing, food retailing and hotels. With substantial land holdings and properties in all sectors of the Portland real estate market, Brown eventually developed much of Congress Street, the Waterfront, and the West End. To this day, the Company remains active in Portland's real estate market with Brown's successors forming an unbroken chain that has owned, developed, and managed residential, commercial, and industrial properties since 1830. Still largely family-owned, J.B. Brown & Sons is characterized by its stable ownership and conservative long-term outlook.



## Springer's Jewelers

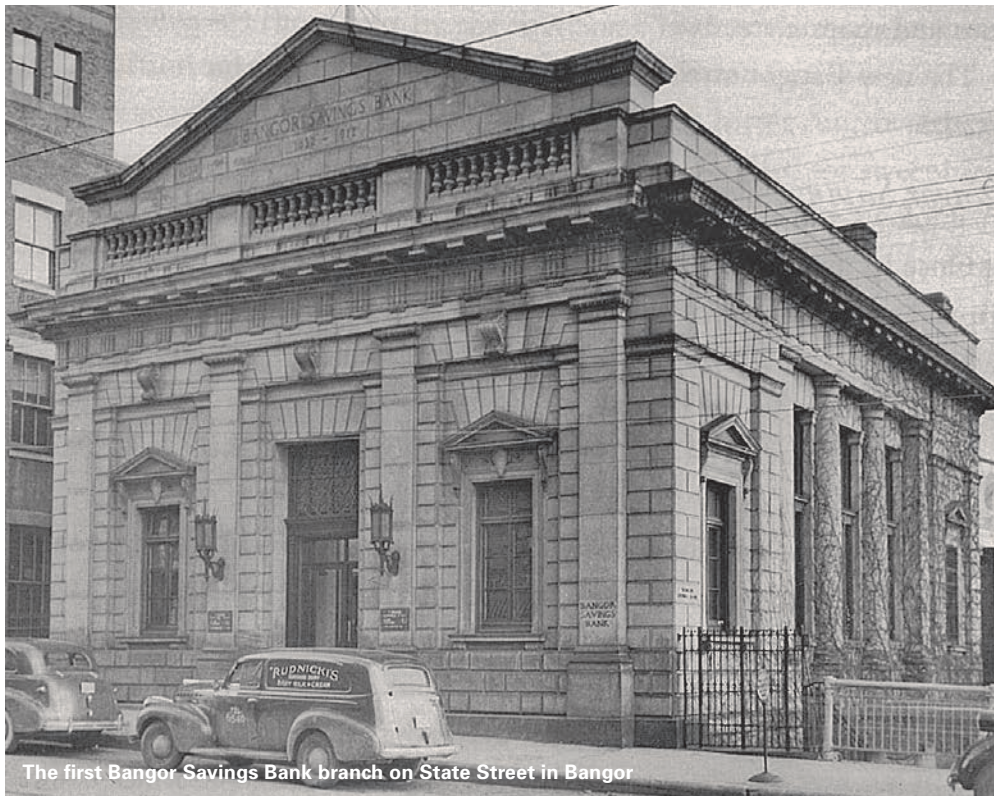
Springer's is Maine's oldest operating jewelry store and is one of the oldest fine jewelers in the United States. For 150 years, Springer's Jewelers has celebrated their clientele's most important life moments. Established in 1870 by George T. Springer in nearby Saccarappa (now Westbrook, Maine), Springer's offered a wide range of optical goods, stationary, artists' materials, "fancy goods", and of course, fine jewelry. By the turn of the century, the company had moved from nearby Saccarappa to 515 Congress, where Edmond Beaulieu Sr. acquired the store. In 1947 Ed Beaulieu Jr. joined his father in the business and Springer's moved to one of its current locations at 580 Congress Street in Portland. Springer's Jewelers has remained a family-owned business for four generations. Springer's prides itself on the relationships they maintain with local organizations and leaders in their work to give back to the communities that have supported them over all these years.





## H.M. Payson

Founded in 1854, HM Payson is one of the oldest privately-owned independent investment firms in the U.S. still operating under its original name. Founder Henry Martyn Payson was born in 1821. He went to work right out of school, and in 1846, at 25, he and a partner opened a hardware store on Exchange Street. Within three years, the store would fail, Henry's six-month-old son and wife would both die, and Henry would be left bankrupt. Henry set off in 1849 to join the California Gold Rush, but returned empty-handed five years later. While away, he learned the importance of reliable financial agents in long-distance trade, he saw an opportunity in burgeoning trade with Canada through Portland. He opened a small stock brokerage on Exchange Street, and got to work. With over \$4 billion in assets and more than 1,200 fiduciary clients including individuals, trusts, foundations, endowments and government agencies, HM Payson understands that they are stewards of a 166-year legacy built on the highest ethical standards, and their continued commitment to integrity, independence, and intelligent investing would likely make Henry Martyn Payson very proud today.



The first Bangor Savings Bank branch on State Street in Bangor

## Bangor Savings Bank

Founded in 1852, Bangor Savings Bank is one of the oldest banks in Maine and proudly celebrates its 168<sup>th</sup> birthday this year by reflecting on its long history as a strong community supporter. Since expansion into the Portland market in 1998, Bangor Savings has partnered with many local non-profits through corporate sponsorships and grants, and just as importantly, through the tireless enthusiasm of its employees who volunteered over 13,000 community service hours in 2019 alone. "At the heart of the Bank, resides the company's promise – *You Matter More*; differentiating us in the marketplace and throughout the communities we serve," said CEO, Bob Montgomery-Rice. ■

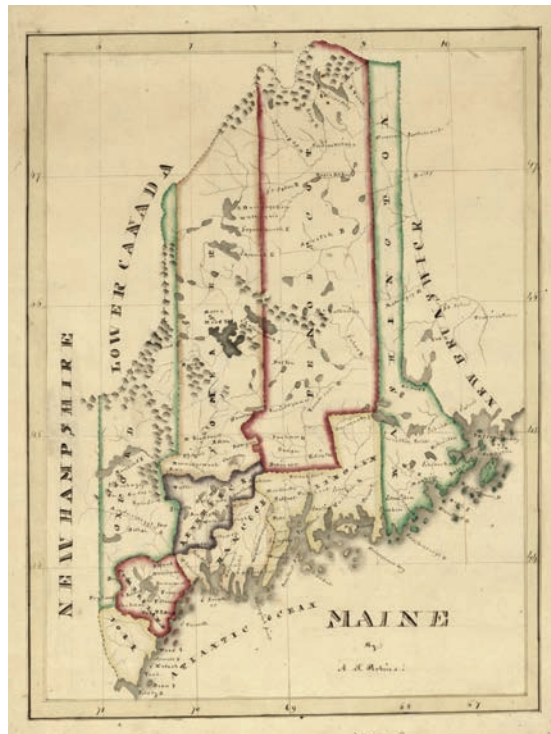
# Looking back at 200 years of Maine Statehood with Herb Adams

BY KATE IRISH COLLINS

**M**AINE BECAME A STATE 200 YEARS AGO amidst a backdrop of turmoil about the rights of African Americans, and celebrated its 100th anniversary in the aftermath of a major pandemic – parallels reminiscent of events in 2020 as we mark Maine’s Bicentennial. In an interview this summer, Herb Adams, noted Maine historian and longtime friend of Landmarks, shared the story of Maine’s path to statehood and what our state was like 100 and 200 years ago.

## MAINE STATEHOOD

Maine entered the union under the Missouri Compromise, which allowed one free state – Maine – to be admitted, along with one slave state – Missouri. The goal was to maintain an equal number of slave and free states, in a short-lived bid to keep the balance of power between the North and the South even. Tying Maine’s statehood to the expansion of slavery almost pre-



Map of Maine c.1820 by A.T. Perkins  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION

vented Maine from becoming a state. Though Maine’s economy was deeply connected to commodities produced by slave labor such as cotton and sugar, many people in Massachusetts and the District of Maine were opposed to slavery. That may be one reason the drafters of Maine’s Constitution gave the right to vote to free black men – a “revolutionary step” according to historian Adams. There’s no doubt, Adams said, that Maine “was born in a very bloody cradle.”

Maine’s push for statehood was an uphill battle from the start, with “many forces arrayed against it,” according to Adams. So when it finally happened, the official celebration, held March 16, 1820, was raucous. It began with cannons thundering at dawn and ended with a grand Statehood Ball that evening. The celebration also included harbor

forts firing salutes and all the ships in port flying colorful flags and loud cheers for Maine’s acting governor, William King.

In describing the ball, local newspapers of the day said it was “filled to overflowing with all that Portland can produce of elegance and fashion and beauty.” The media also noted that a large taxidermy eagle was displayed before the bandstand, which bore on its breast “a brilliant star, significant of the addition now made to our National Constellation.”

## MAINE IN 1820

When Maine became a state there were about 300,000 people living here, mostly in towns close to the coast and along the great rivers. Portland was the state capital and boasted a population of about 8,500. At the time Bangor was beginning to emerge as a timber capital and “a new tier of towns were pushing westward to the White Mountains and Northeast into the timberlands, by the sons and daughters of the Revolution,” according to Adams.

At the time, Maine’s most famed lighthouse, Portland Head Light, was just 30 years old. Along with building ships, Mainers mostly fished, farmed, trapped fur and cut timber for a living. “Those ships filled with raw Maine goods sailed as far as New Orleans and the Indies,” Adams said, “bringing back cotton, coffee, sugar.” In all, he added, “Maine seaports were fairly cos-



Drawing of the Maine Statehouse in Augusta. The capital moved from Portland to Augusta in 1832.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

mopolitan places.”

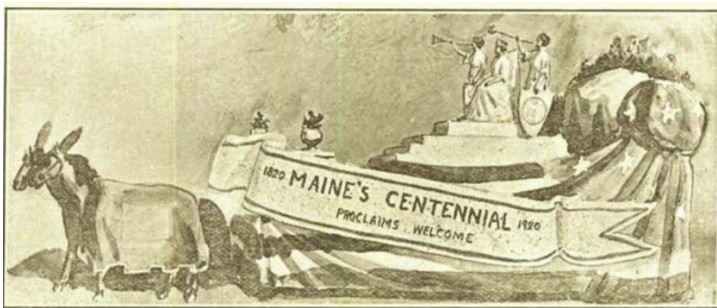
In 1820, “the average Mainer was barely thirty-something. Maine was a good place to be young — a new state, a new nation, a new start. The time was ripe, and Maine was ready,” Adams said. The 1820 census found slightly more Maine women than men, and about 900 African-Americans, who were mostly engaged in river and seacoast trades.

While there was a lot of discussion about slavery and the rights of blacks as Maine emerged into statehood, the 1820 census “mostly ignored native peoples,” who did not gain the right to vote under Maine law until the mid-1950s.

What might be considered somewhat unusual for a new state, Adams said, was that no one really knew where Maine’s northern boundary was actually located. It took another 20 years or so for settlers to begin pushing further and further north.

## THE MAINE CENTENNIAL

When Maine celebrated its 100th birthday in 1920, Portland’s population was actually larger than it is today. About 70,000 people lived in Portland, almost entirely on the peninsula. The city was both a successful seaport and a very busy train nexus for Canada and southern New England.



**Float from the Maine Centennial Parade**

ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE’S ENTRANCE INTO THE UNION: OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF STATE CELEBRATION, PORTLAND, JUNE 26TH TO JULY 5TH 1920

The state’s centennial celebration was held not too long after the end of World War I and the flu pandemic of 1918-1919 - another parallel to what we’re experiencing today during Maine’s 200th anniversary.

The official Maine State Centennial bash was held June 27-July 5, 1920, in Portland. It included “great ivory and evergreen arches spanning Congress Street at Longfellow Square, American and Allied submarines and warships from World War I tied up for tours at the Grand Trunk Docks, and airplanes roaring off Martin’s Point,” Adams said. The battleships USS Utah and USS Tennessee cruised Portland Harbor and sailors flooded the streets.

“At least three grand parades thundered down Congress Street, with cavalry, Civil War veterans, steaming fire engines, sailors hauling cannon, and horse-drawn floats featuring Vikings, Pilgrims, women pioneers at spinning wheels, and General Joshua Chamberlain atop Little Round Top,” Adams said.

The Grand Maine Centennial Exposition filled the five-year old Expo on Park Avenue with free food, films, seafaring, hunting, fishing, and “new -fangled motoring exhibits,” according to



**Joshua Chamberlain Float from the Maine Centennial Parade**

ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE’S ENTRANCE INTO THE UNION: OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF STATE CELEBRATION, PORTLAND, JUNE 26TH TO JULY 5TH 1920

Adams. During the centennial, a new art form made its debut when the *Motion Pictures of The State of Maine* flickered daily for free down at the Expo.

He said the big draw, though, was Deering Oaks, which featured encampments of U.S. Cavalry, Boys Scouts, and a Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indian Village. The climax of the celebration occurred on July 2, 1920, when Maine Governor Carl Milliken took a canoe, paddled by two Penobscots, across the pond in Deering Oaks to meet with Governor Neptune, leader of the Passamaquoddy.

Considering Maine’s treatment of native peoples up to that time and since, Adams called this meeting the “centennial’s most ironic moment.” Governor Neptune noted at the time that “the white man has stripped us from top to bottom” and all he got in return from Governor Milliken was a new wind-up Victrola.

## WHAT WOULD MAINERS OF 1820 AND 1920 THINK ABOUT MAINE IN 2020?

“They might be pleased we still treasure our seacoast and our forests, They might be amazed at Maine’s diversity, but sad we still don’t get along, and they might be stunned at the swiftness of life,” Adams said. “Their world moved only by steam, river currents, or the muscle of a man or a horse. Mass communication meant newspapers. They’d be stunned by our smartphones - information that travels instantly, everywhere, in everyman’s pocket,” Adams said. “It’s a fun game to play, them versus us. But you can’t blame them if, after a quick look around, they jump back on their horse or trolley and head home,” he added. ■

### HERB’S RECOMMENDED READING:

- *Maine: The Wilder Half of New England* by William David Barry is a lively well-illustrated read
- *Maine Becomes A State* by Ronald F. Banks
- *Maine: The Pine Tree State From Prehistory to the Present*, edited by R. Judd, E. Churchill, and J. Eastman
- The Maine Historical Society’s exhibition *State of Mind: Becoming Maine* is available virtually at [mainememory.net/stateofmind](http://mainememory.net/stateofmind)
- The Maine State Museum’s exhibition *Regional Struggle – National Story: Maine’s Path to Statehood* is available online at [mainestatemuseum.org/exhibit/regional-struggle](http://mainestatemuseum.org/exhibit/regional-struggle)



# RESURGAM Birthday Cake

**BY CHLOE MARTIN**

*Chloe, Landmarks' former Office and Communications Coordinator, is a talented baker. She created a unique cake to celebrate Maine's Bicentennial and shared the recipe with us!*

**W**HEN I WAS ASKED TO MAKE A CAKE for Landmark's Maine Bicentennial Celebration my inspiration started at the old Eastland Hotel and then took me on a journey to Denmark, through my family history, on to the potato fields of Presque Isle, and back down to Portland's Great Fire of 1866. The result was a moist chocolate fudge cake with toasty meringue topping.



## Ingredients

### CAKE:

- 4 TBS (56 g) butter, room temp (half stick)
- ½ cup (100 g) granulated sugar
- 2 TBS (25 g) brown sugar
- 2 oz (56g) potato, boiled and mashed till smooth
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk (save the white for later)
- ½ cup + 2 TBS (87 g) all-purpose flour
- 2 TBS (10g) cocoa powder
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ cup + 2 TBS buttermilk (or milk with 2tsp lemon juice)

### TOASTY TOPPING:

- 4 egg whites
- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- ¼ tsp cream of tartar

## Directions

*Scrape down the sides of the bowl after each ingredient is added.* In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large bowl with a hand-held mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add mashed potatoes and mix until well-incorporated. Beat in the egg and egg yolk. With the mixer on low, drizzle in melted chocolate. In a separate bowl whisk or sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt. With the mixer on low speed alternate adding the dry ingredients in thirds, with half the milk, starting and ending with the dry.

Spray an 8x8 metal pan with grease. Line with two pieces of parchment with overhang in opposite directions to create a sling to make it easier to take the cake out. Scrape the batter into the prepared pan and set aside while you make the meringue topping.

Heat the oven to 325 degrees F. In the clean bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, add the egg whites and cream of tartar. Beat on medium-low until foamy. Turn the mixer up to medium and very slowly add sugar with the machine running. After the sugar is added, turn the machine on high and beat until stiff peaks form. Save ¼ cup meringue for later. Scrape the rest of the meringue on top of the cake batter and spread out, pressing some meringue into the batter and forming dramatic swoops of meringue. Bake for 45-55 minutes until a toothpick comes out mostly clean with a few wet crumbs, turning half way through.

When the cake is done, remove from oven and turn on broiler. Use the meringue set aside to patch up any holes made in the topping when testing the cake. Put the cake under the broiler for 2 minutes, or until the meringue peaks get toasty to your liking. Remove cake from oven, let cool completely and use parchment paper sling to take cake out of pan. Enjoy! ■

For more of the story and a how-to video, visit [portlandlandmarks.org/blog/resurgam-birthday-cake](http://portlandlandmarks.org/blog/resurgam-birthday-cake)

We are so grateful to everyone who made our UnGala a success: *thank you* to our Board, our ticket buyers, our staff and volunteers, and everyone who joined us on Facebook Live!



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Rachel Ambrose, Patti Butler, Ed Gardner, Aaron Morris, and Rhoda Renschler

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## Watching Maine's March to Statehood from the *Observatory*

BY ALESSA WYLIE

**S**ITTING ATOP MUNJOY HILL, the Observatory stands a sentinel watching over Portland. As we celebrate Maine's bicentennial, we looked back at some of the significant events that happened in Portland in the 13 years between the Tower's construction and Maine statehood. Here's the view from the lantern.

1807

From the end of the Revolutionary War, Portland enjoyed growing prosperity as a thriving seaport. Increasing the efficiency of the harbor was recognized by local merchants as key to Portland's continued growth. In March of 1807, Captain Lemuel Moody approached local merchants to invest in a commercial venture that would build the Observatory, an important investment in the harbor's future.

By October 1807, the Observatory was built and fully functional. Unfortunately, just a few months later in December, the Embargo Act was enacted by Congress to protect neutral American ships during the Napoleonic wars. This embargo on all foreign trade effectively prohibited shipping and stopped all vessels from leaving American ports. Though it only lasted 14 months, the Embargo Act had a huge impact on Portland. Grass grew on the wharfs and vessels lay rotting.

The Reverend Edward Payson wrote, "Such a scene of wretchedness as I have never witnessed. A large number of the most wealthy merchants have already failed, and numbers more are daily following, so that we are all threatened with universal bankruptcy."



1807 Political cartoon criticizing the Embargo Act ("Ogrambe" is "embargo" spelled backwards)

WAR OF 1812

England's continued harassment of American vessels and impressment of seamen led directly to the War of 1812. By 1812, Portland had begun to recover economically, and the war increased the demand for shipbuilding. Two of the best known privateer vessels during the war – the *Dash* and the *Dart* – were built by prominent Portland merchants. Captain Moody probably spotted them quite often from the top of the Observatory – the signal for "a ship in chase" is one of the original signals used at the Observatory.

On September 3, 1813 naval lieutenant William Burrows visited Captain Moody at the top of the Observatory before sailing out of Portland harbor on the *U.S.S. Enterprise* in pursuit of a British brig rumored to be terrorizing the coast. Two days later, Captain Moody saw puffs of smoke from a distant battle off Monhegan Island. Later that day Moody spotted the *U.S.S.*



**The American warship Enterprise engaged in battle with HMS Boxer**  
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*Enterprise* sailing toward Portland flying the U.S. flag over the British flag and towing the *H.M.S. Boxer*. The American victory was bittersweet - both young captains were killed in the battle. Portland honored both men with an elaborate funeral parade and the two are buried side by side at the Eastern Cemetery.

### 1817

In 1817, newly elected president James Monroe went on a goodwill tour of New England and visited Maine after celebrating the Fourth of July in Boston. His visit is described in a contemporary publication: “In the evening, the observatory, and other buildings on Mountjoy Hill, were handsomely illuminated, and a brilliant display of fire-works closed the entertainments, which had been provided by the citizens, to do honour to their visitor.



**President James Monroe**  
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On Wednesday morning the President inspected the forts Preble and Scammel, at the mouth of the harbour, and reviewed the troops under Major Crane; after which he examined the observatory, and visited with the widow of the late gallant commodore Preble.”

### 1820

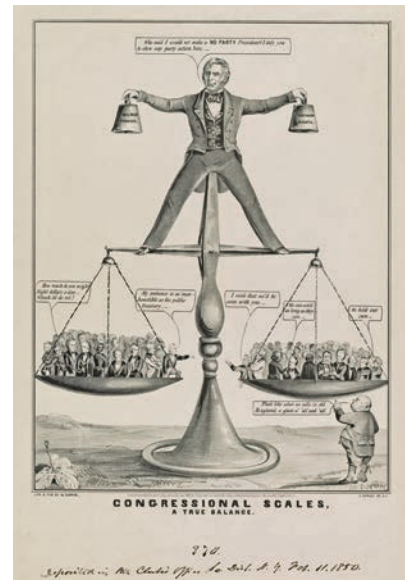
The War of 1812 fueled the movement for Maine statehood. During the war, Massachusetts had refused to send troops to aid Castine and the surrounding area. Maine’s growing manufacturing independence also increased popular support for separation. In July 1819, the vote for statehood passed in the Massachusetts legislature, and a constitutional convention was held later that year.

When Maine petitioned for statehood at the federal level, the issue became inextricably linked to slavery. Maine’s admission

as a state was combined with Missouri’s, and the Missouri Compromise was proposed to keep the number of free and slave states in the country equal. The *Portland Gazette* newspaper reflected many Mainers’ opinions with an editorial stating that as much as it supported Maine statehood, it preferred to see the compromise “sink, then bear up so wicked a freight as the slavery of Missouri.” After fierce debate Maine became the 23rd state in the union on March 15, 1820, with Missouri close behind as the 24th.

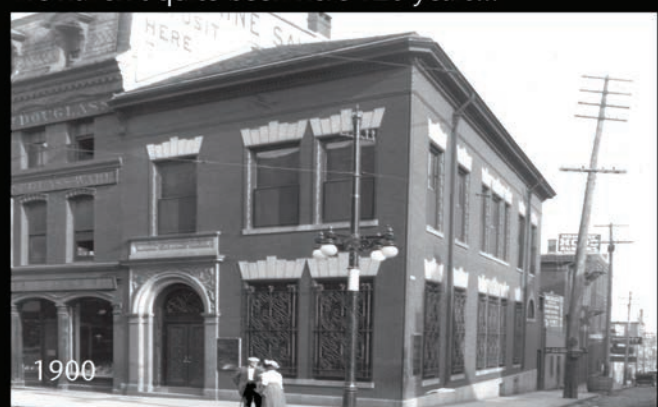
The increased tensions about slavery eventually culminated in the Civil War, another event the Observatory stood watch over – witnessing battles with Confederate ships at sea, and the active Underground Railroad in Portland’s African-American neighborhood on Munjoy Hill.

Even though the Observatory can’t open this year, it will continue to stand tall over Portland, witnessing history in the making as it has done for more than 200 years. ■

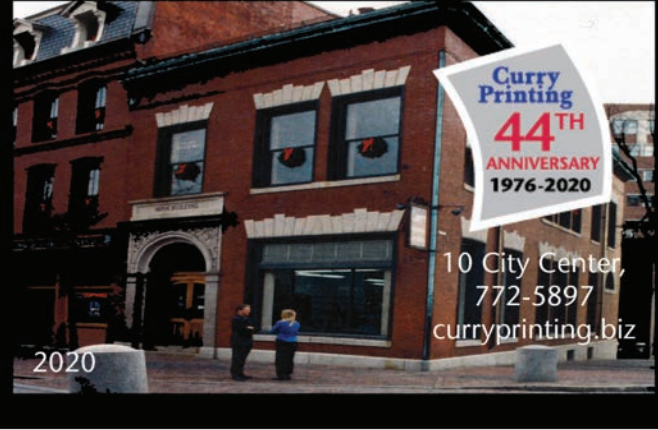


**This 1850 satirical print depicts a later attempt to balance Northern and Southern interests, echoing the tensions of 1820.**  
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We haven’t quite been here 120 years...



...but we’re working on it!



## The Nathan Clifford School

# Modern Maine Living in a Historic Landmark

A neighborhood anchor since 1909, the John Calvin Stevens designed, Nathan Clifford School has been given new life as 22 contemporary loft-style units with. From giant windows, to common and outdoor spaces to historic chalkboards, this place has it all. Prices start at \$355,000.



[nathancliffordcondominum.com](http://nathancliffordcondominum.com)



## Ed Gardner

207.415.4493  
[gardnerregroup.com](http://gardnerregroup.com)  
[ed@gardnerregroup.com](mailto:ed@gardnerregroup.com)



1907, Construction begins.

April 1, 1909, School opens. The day before students walk their belongings to their new school in the afternoon.

1920-24, School architect, John Calvin Stevens' grandchildren attend.

1932, School educators create Maine's first program of studies designed specifically for visually impaired students which runs through 1964.

1930s-1940s, date unknown, An artist uses pastels on slate to depict scenes from *The Adventures of Robinhood* in a classroom.

1940, Robert Frizzell, paints oil-based murals as part of a WPA Project.

1970s, *The Adventures of Robinhood* mural is re-discovered and preserved.

1989, City of Portland lists the Nathan Clifford School as a Portland Landmark.

2011, School closes. Students as well as the Frizzell murals move to the new Ocean Ave. School.

2013, School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historic preservation and condominium conversion begins.

2015-16, Construction is complete, all units are rented.

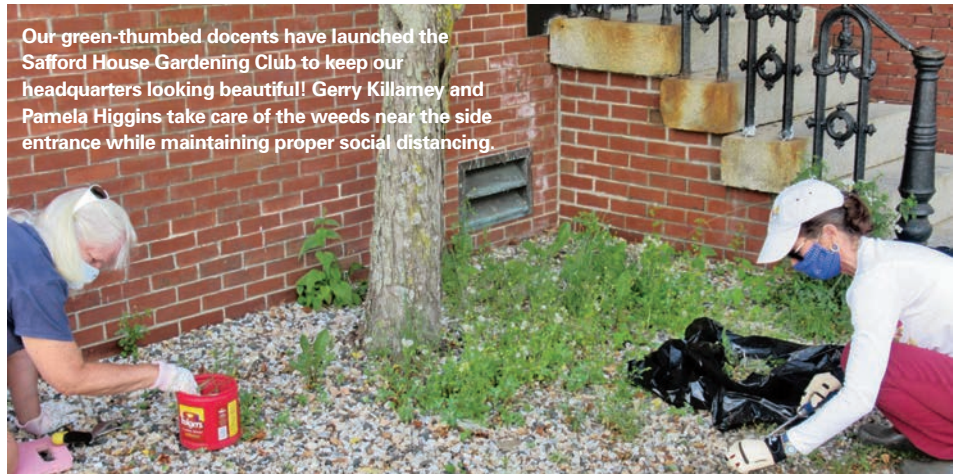
2020, Condos are available for sale to the public.

  
**gardner**  
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# LANDMARKS PEOPLE AND PLACES

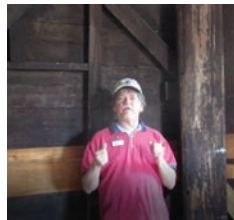
**T**HANK YOU TO OUR FANTASTIC DOCENTS, who have continued to use their creativity and skills to support us, even as the Observatory remains closed and our walking tours and Customs House tours are on hold. You can watch Observatory docents' videos right now on our website: [portlandlandmarks.org/observatory](http://portlandlandmarks.org/observatory). Keep your eyes open for Customs House and walking tour videos over the next few months!



Our green-thumbed docents have launched the Safford House Gardening Club to keep our headquarters looking beautiful! Gerry Killamey and Pamela Higgins take care of the weeds near the side entrance while maintaining proper social distancing.



Marna Miller tells the tale of a battle with a Confederate ship, viewed from the Portland Observatory.



Brian Kazor shares the story of the Observatory's framing timbers.



Doug Johnson recalls his experience working in the Observatory as a plane spotter during World War II.



Jeff and Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith tackle invasive plants growing behind the office.

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- Home Remedies
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- Indow
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- Maine Hardware
- Maine Historical Society
- Maine Home + Design
- Maine Irish Heritage Center
- Maine Paint
- Maine Preservation
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# Historic Marker Feature

# These Houses are Older than Maine

BY KATE BURCH

**L**AUNCHED IN 1975, the Historic Marker Program is one of Landmarks' oldest initiatives, providing a visible way to show pride in our historic homes and communities. To commemorate the bicentennial, we're highlighting some historic marker properties that were in existence when statehood was attained in 1820.

## EBENEZER ROBERTS HOUSE

*Cape Elizabeth, c.1760*

Ebenezer Roberts Jr., son of Ebenezer Roberts and Sarah Elwell Roberts, was born in Gloucester, MA in 1717. He came to the Casco Bay region with his parents



PHOTO BY THOMAS SACCO

at age 10, and in 1737 he married Mary Kinneum in Falmouth (now Portland). For many years, Roberts worked as a fisherman in Cape Elizabeth in the area known as Purpoodock. By 1777, he relocated and became one of the founders of Royalsborough (now Durham), Maine.

## DANIEL AND ABIGAIL HOW HOUSE

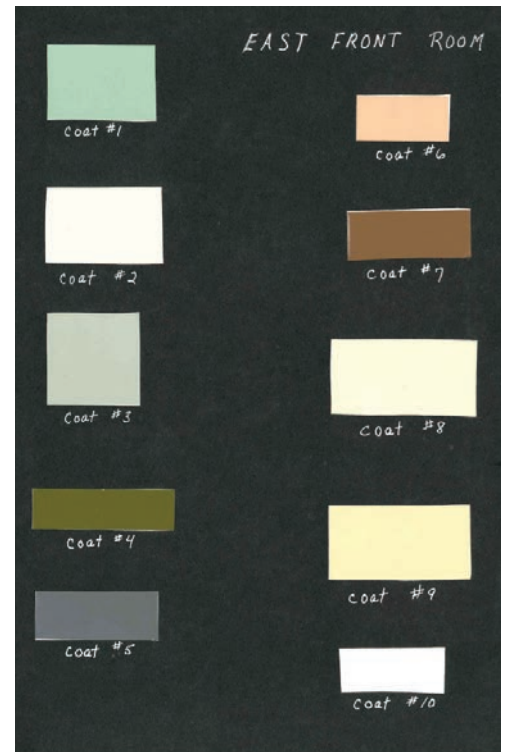
*Portland, 1799*

One of Landmarks' easement properties, GPL bought this house for \$8,500 in 1967 and completed restoration of the property in cooperation with the Junior League. The How House, in transitional Federal style, is a good example of early 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic architecture of the region. Daniel How, a hatter, came to Maine from Methuen, Massachusetts. He married Abigail Mussey in 1798. Mussey's father Benjamin had died in 1787, and Abigail inherited the property. How built the house on his wife's lot in 1799.

## RICHARD KING JR. HOUSE

*Scarborough, c1805*

Richard King Jr. was the son of Richard King, one of the founders of the Dunstan Landing settlement (now known as West Scarborough). The elder King was a prosperous merchant and shipbuilder who acquired vast areas of land, some of which came as settlements for debts. This reputation, along with his loyalty to the British crown, caused rancor in the community and in the late 1760s, mobs burned down his barn and store. Richard King Jr. was the only child to stay at the family's original settlement. He



Greater Portland Landmarks recorded the layers of paint colors on the walls of the How House during restoration.

took over King Farm in the 1780s, and around 1800 began to build his Federal-style home. King Jr. was known as a peculiar man who was devoid of both luck and business sense, and his debts delayed the completion of his home for many years. Three of King Jr.'s older brothers served in the early American republic: Rufus King represented Massachusetts in the Confederacy Congress and the Constitutional Convention; William King became the first governor of the new state of Maine in 1820; and Cyrus King was a lawyer and US Representative from Massachusetts.

Richard King Jr. House



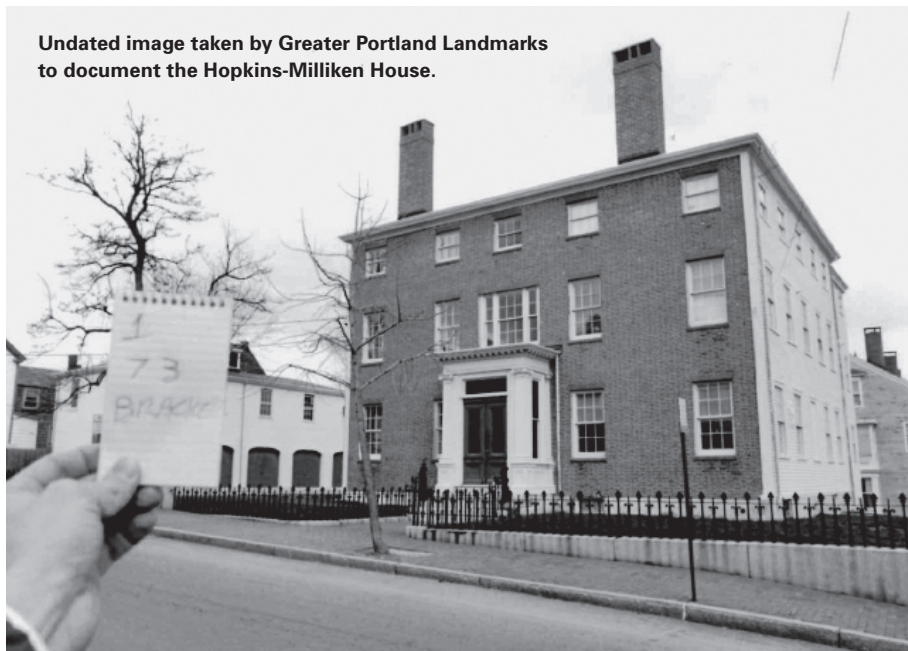
### HOPKINS-MILLIKEN HOUSE

*Portland, 1807*

This Federal-style home was built for prominent Portland attorney James Deane Hopkins in 1807. The land had once belonged to the Brackett family, who had owned much of the land from Back Cove to Bramhall Hill to the Fore

River since the 1660s. Because of the home's distance from what was then the center of Portland along the central waterfront, the house was referred to as "Hopkin's Folly". Hopkins, who was born in England, spent his free time writing a two-volume historical novel about the early settlement of Portland. ■

Undated image taken by Greater Portland Landmarks to document the Hopkins-Milliken House.



The Historic Marker Program celebrates the rich architectural fabric of greater Portland that we work to preserve and protect. Property owners can celebrate the historical or architectural significance of their property with a historic marker that includes the property's name, biographical information about the original or significant owner, and the original date of construction.

*Interested in having a marker on your home or obtaining a replacement marker? Visit [portlandlandmarks.org/historic-marker-program](http://portlandlandmarks.org/historic-marker-program) or give us a call at 207.774.5561 to learn more.*

# SAVING MAINE'S MIDDENS

*Preserving past lifeways of Maine's Indigenous peoples*

BY KATE BURCH

**M**IDDENS RECORD THE HISTORY OF MAINE'S first families, providing evidence of ancient lives and environments from 5,000 years ago until the time of European settlement. Largely composed of shells and animal remains, along with seeds, stone tools, and pieces of pottery, middens have often been referred to as "ancient trash heaps", but archaeologists now recognize that they represent more than just waste disposal. Maine's middens are some of our most at-risk heritage sites due to climate change, as sea level rise hastens the rate of coastal erosion.



Glidden shell midden on the Damariscotta River, with meter measuring stick for scale

PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

According to Dr. Arthur Spiess, Maine State Archaeologist, there are approximately 2,000 documented shell middens on Maine's islands and coastline. At the University of Maine, the Midden Minders project uses volunteer citizen scientists to document these important sites and monitor their condition and erosion. Dr. Alice Kelley and Dr. Bonnie Newsom, who lead the project, shared more information with Greater Portland Landmarks about Midden Minders and the risks facing middens. Dr. Kelley and Dr. Newsom said these identified sites are at varying levels of analysis

and reporting. Each year, new sites are discovered while others are lost to erosion, development, and looting.

The midden sites most at risk are those located directly on the shoreline. "Climate change-related sea level rise, increasing storm intensity and frequency, and more periods of winter freeze-thaw activity are increasing shoreline erosion. As bluffs and beaches along the coast erode, shell middens collapse and are lost to the sea," said Kelley and Newsom. Maine's middens have also suffered damage from looters looking for artifacts, past extraction of shells to provide lime or chicken feed, and building projects.

Maine Midden Minders volunteers



PHOTO: MAINE MIDDEN MINDERS, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

"Thousands of years of indigenous history and lifeways are archived in shell middens. This important part of Maine's history is being lost to the sea as these sites disappear," Kelley and Newsom explained. "While preserving these middens is not possible, the cultural and environmental information they contain can be preserved, which is the goal of the Midden Minders and archaeological field school projects. In the past, the cultural history of indigenous people living as coastal hunters, fishers and gatherers has been largely marginalized and discounted. The middens' record of thousands of years of sustainable use of the coast and adaptation to change may be relevant to today's climate change issues. The knowledge contained in shell middens also provides an opportunity for contemporary tribal communities to reconnect with a disrupted past."

The Midden Minders program supports the preservation of midden information by monitoring and documenting the erosion of Maine's middens through measurement and photography. The data collected can be used by researchers and cultural resource managers to plan future excavations and study the impact of climate change on cultural heritage. ■

To learn more and become a volunteer, visit: [umaine.edu/middenminders](http://umaine.edu/middenminders)

# The Future of Historic Preservation



Maine Medical Center's c1970 brutalist parking garage was demolished this year.

BY JULIE LARRY

IT'S HARD TO PREDICT the future, especially in the turmoil of this year. But as preservationists, we are always focused on how we can preserve our unique cultural heritage while advocating for our community's future vitality. Here are some of the challenges we'll be focusing on at Greater Portland Landmarks:

## Diversity in Historic Preservation

For much of the modern preservation movement, historic preservation has not reflected the diversity of our country and our state's cultural and historical experiences. Only about 3% of the more than 80,000 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are associated with African-American, Hispanic, or Asian heritage, and Native American and

LGBTQ+ heritage sites are also under-represented.

Since the 1980s, many preservation organizations have launched concerted efforts to preserve a more diverse history, such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African-American Cultural Heritage Fund. Still, preservationists widely acknowledge that the field must work harder to share a more broad historical narrative. Changes in technology and new research offer the opportunity to rethink how we focus our work and how we share these stories with our community.

## Modernism is now historic

Much of the architecture of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has now reached the age where it can be considered historic. While there is a growing appreciation for mid-cen-

tury buildings and landscapes, they are sometimes criticized as being soulless or outright ugly. Take Brutalism, an architectural style that emerged in the 1950s featuring poured concrete, bold geometric shapes, and stark landscape settings. The name, Brutalism, does not exactly evoke positive feelings, but for some preservationists, the uniqueness of the style and an appreciation of how good examples of the style contribute to a sense of place and reflect its period in history, mean it is beloved by some.

Modernist places may not be loved or may be coming to the end of their life cycle, like the recently demolished Maine Medical Center Employee Parking Garage on Congress Street. They may also have been built on the site of a beloved historic building that was demolished to make way for the new. This provides a

dilemma. Should we preserve places that we once fought against in the early days of the preservation movement? History sometimes represents events, actions, and outcomes we would like to forget. We should always be asking, “Are we preserving the full history of a place, or only the parts that form our preferred image of history?” For preservation, this is a constant challenge.

## Preservation Trades

Historic preservation is more labor intensive than new building construction. Jobs like these can't be outsourced or automated; each project is unique. The time it can take to get on many preservation contractors' schedules illustrates the demand for these professionals. The need for people with traditional building skills is growing, as the artisans who practiced these trades are aging out. It will take a cooperative effort between preservation organizations, educational institutions, and tradespeople to help develop programs that teach skills leading to well-paying jobs and encourage young people to seek out a future in historic preservation.



Removing windows for restoration at the Hathorn-Olson House

PHOTO BY BAGALA WINDOW WORKS

## Sustainability, Resiliency, and Adaptability

We say it often: the greenest building is the one already built. Historic Preservation is sustainable and will play a role in helping our communities reach

sustainability goals. In 2011 we published *The Energy Efficient Old House: A Workbook for Homeowners* to help guide homeowners in ways to reduce their historic home's energy consumption. But reducing our carbon footprint is only part of the solution. We should be thinking about the long term future of our communities and demand better buildings that aren't just designed for the next 40-50 years, but will be around for the next 100-200 years - and hopefully future landmarks!

As climate change increases the risks of storm events, natural disasters, fire, and rising tides, we must prepare for the impact on historic resources and help owners make their buildings more resilient. Historic preservation and resiliency advocates share a common goal: to protect assets and maintain them for the long term. We need to do our best to prevent building decay, incorporate flexibility and adaptability into our buildings and communities, fortify buildings and neighborhoods against climate change and energy shortages, increase building durability, increase the use of local mate-

rials, and reject planned obsolescence in our buildings. Beyond that, we need to rethink what it means to “save” places and sites that are important to our cultural heritage, because saving them physically may not be feasible.

Building maintenance, adaptive use,



Flooding after a storm on Portland Pier

and use of locally sourced or salvaged materials have been part of historic preservation's toolkit for decades. To include climate adaptability and sustainable building practices is a natural extension of our current advocacy work. Historic preservation isn't *the* solution, but it can and should be part of any solution to make our homes and communities more resilient.


## Good Design

Well-designed buildings and well-built communities that respond and adapt to our changing needs is something for which Landmarks has long been an advocate. In the last decades, we have seen a steady rise in demand for neighborhoods and communities with safe and friendly streets, mature trees, and walkable access to services like schools, coffee shops, and small neighborhood stores. Most historic neighborhoods in greater Portland include a variety of housing options with easy access to a local business node that serve as models for planning developments and future zoning initiatives.

We must also advocate for future landmarks. Historic preservation and new architectural design are not in opposition to each other, but are in fact very much related, connected by an interest in architecture, history, and the future. New buildings should be designed to outlast a single tenant or owner, repairable, and be adaptable to new uses and needs. We will continue to be advocates for buildings constructed with substantial materials, careful detailing, and a recognition that they will need to change and adapt over their lifetimes like their historic neighbors.

**Here's to the next 200 years! ■**

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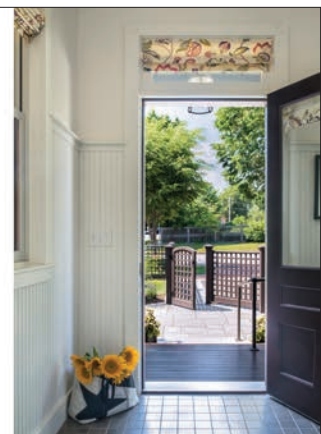
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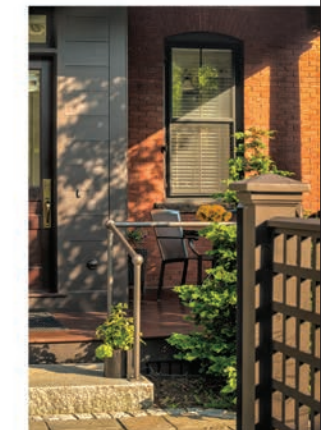
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# Staying Above Water: The Past, Present, and Future of Greater Portland's Historic Coastal Communities

## PANEL DISCUSSION: PAST OCTOBER 1, 8:30-9:30 AM

*How has the past shaped our present and impacted our vulnerability to rising sea levels?*

## PANEL DISCUSSION: PRESENT OCTOBER 8, 8:30-9:30 AM

*How can we work together now to build awareness of the current and future risk to our coastal communities?*

## PANEL DISCUSSION: FUTURE OCTOBER 15, 8:30-9:30 AM

*How can communities adapt to ensure our communities have met the challenge of sea level rise in 2120?*

## KEYNOTE: JEFF GOODELL OCTOBER 22, 4:30-5:30 PM

*Jeff Goodell, noted journalist and author of The Water Will Come, presents a keynote lecture followed by Q&A.*

[portlandlandmarks.org/staying-above-water](http://portlandlandmarks.org/staying-above-water)