



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – October 31, 2009

Enfield to Submit Application to National Historic Register

Enfield, NH (USA) October 31, 2009 – The Enfield Heritage Commission announced today that in January, 2010, they will submit an application to the NH Division of Historic Resources for placing Enfield Village on the National Register of Historic Places. Once reviewed and approved by the NH Division of Historic Resources, the application will then be forwarded to the US Department of the Interior for approval. The expectation is that Enfield will have its National Historic Register District in place sometime in the spring of 2010 well in advance of Enfield's 250th Anniversary in July, 2011.

Getting to this stage has involved a long, step-by-step process, beginning with the creation of a Heritage Commission several years ago. Three years ago at Town Meeting, a Historic District Commission was added to the existing Heritage Commission in preparation for applying for National Register status. The final step was taken when voters elected to proceed with applying for Enfield Village to become a National Register District and to fund that application process at the 2008 Town Meeting. Following the 2008 Town Meeting, The Preservation Company was hired to initiate all the historic research necessary to complete the application. The Preservation Company has taken over 400 photographs of structures within the proposed district and has cataloged them, along with supporting documentation. The Enfield Heritage Commission and other volunteers have worked on labeling and numbering all the photographs and placing them in protected archival pages.

It is important to know, that while Historic District designation imposes no restrictions on property owners and while owners of properties within this type of historic district are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose, historic district designation offers significant financial benefits for district property owners.

Once the historic district is established, property owners who wish to rehabilitate and improve qualifying historic properties will be able to take advantage of a 20% investment tax credit if they follow the Department of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Hewitt House, located downtown at the corner of Route 4 and Maple Street in Enfield, and presently the home of Moose Mountain Realty, was rehabilitated and preserved using historic tax credits. The availability of such tax credits will encourage the execution of other similar projects and help expand the value of Enfield's tax base to the benefit of all of Enfield's property owners.

Historic district designation in conjunction with Enfield's important Shaker heritage and in concert with all of the improvements being promoted by the Enfield Village Association, will encourage historic tourism, which will, in turn, benefit local businesses. Raising public consciousness about Enfield's history will also enhance future grant funding opportunities for both the town and the Enfield Village Association.

As the Heritage Commission nears completion of Enfield's application to place Enfield Village on the National Register of Historic Places, Meredith Smith, Chairman of the Enfield Heritage Commission says, *"we look forward to the benefits such historic recognition will provide and to the awareness it will raise about the importance of so many other historic parts and features of the Town of Enfield. Most importantly for future generations, raising public awareness about Enfield's heritage will help to preserve and protect our important historic treasures."*

The Enfield Heritage Commission is an advisory board that recognizes, protects and promotes the historic and esthetic resources that are significant to the Enfield community, be they natural, built or cultural. The Commission works cooperatively with other educational and civic organizations in fulfilling its mission and is made up of residents from the Town of Enfield.

END

Contact Information

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