

Moultonborough Heritage Commission Annual Report 2020



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission works toward the proper recognition, use, and protection of significant historical and cultural resources in the Town of Moultonborough. In 2020, the Commission continued to advocate for the sale and re-use of the landmark French-Taylor House, to further community planning, economic development, and heritage goals for Moultonborough Village's revitalization.

Described as a "rambling Greek Revival in a Lakes Region town," the Taylor House was featured in the March/April 2020 issue of *This Old House* magazine as the spotlighted 'Save This Old House' for sale. This honor is consistent with the house's prior recognition on the NH State Register of Historic Places, and its inclusion on the NH Preservation Alliance's annual 'Seven to Save' list of significant endangered properties in 2017. The UNH team's First Impressions report of 2019 identified community assets and opportunities for economic development in Moultonborough Village, specifically noting the potential of both the Taylor House and the Grange Hall for reinvestment and revitalization of the Main Street area.

As announced at the delayed Town Meeting on June 29th, the Grange Hall was sold to a private investor, with plans to rehabilitate the building in 2021. Despite the challenges and confusion of the COVID-19 pandemic, a buyer has also been found for the Town-owned Taylor House, who intends to rehabilitate the house and barn and establish an outdoor outfitter business at the center of Moultonborough Village. UNH economic development experts urged leveraging these same two historic buildings to attract investment and new business to Moultonborough Village, after the Plan NH Charrette report's recommendation in 2018 to sell both of these character-defining Village buildings and return them to the Town's tax rolls.

While it is exciting to anticipate that both of these community landmarks will be restored in the Village, it is also important to recognize additional historic preservation projects elsewhere in Moultonborough. 2020 saw major barn rehabilitation projects on Lee Road and on Moultonborough Neck Road. Geneva Point Center, which generously opened its trails to the community for recreation over the summer season, has also started a barn restoration project. Other landmark properties were featured by mainstream media this year: the Kona Mansion Inn (historic Kona Farm) appeared on NH Chronicle in July, and the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area was on the NH PBS program 'Windows to the Wild' in November.

Respectfully submitted,

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