

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Barn Assessment Grant for Moultonborough's Taylor Barn**



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission has been awarded a Historic Barn Assessment Grant from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, in order to assess the barn at the French-Taylor House in Moultonborough Village. Such grants are offered on a competitive basis to barn owners involved in saving or re-using historic barns, and also to non-profit or community owned barns. The Historic Barn Assessment Grant Program is sponsored by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance in conjunction with the Division of Historical Resources, and the NH Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee.

Barn grants provide funds for a barn restoration expert to assess the structure's immediate needs, offer rough cost estimates for repair, and assist in outlining a preservation plan for the barn. Consultant Ian Blackman (Ian Blackman LLC, Preservation & Restoration) conducted a site visit to the Taylor House on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and will prepare a summary report of his findings and recommendations for the barn. Blackman's recent area restoration projects include barns at Prescott Farm in Laconia, the NH Farm Museum in Milton, and Rockledge Farm on Dana Hill Road in New Hampton. In conjunction with Master Stone Mason Kevin Fife (Twin Elms Landscape LLC), Blackman also led a series of barn preservation workshops at each location, focusing on assessment and repair plans, timber frame restoration, and the restoration of stone foundations and stone walls.

Located at the center of Moultonborough Village, the French-Taylor House is an important community landmark, significant both for its history and for its architecture. The house was built c. 1840 and then expanded and remodeled c. 1900 by prominent business owner and politician James E. French, who resided at the property from 1871 until his death in 1919. Last owned by the Taylor family, the property was purchased by the Town of Moultonborough in 2014. The Moultonborough Heritage Commission continues to evaluate the Taylor House buildings toward their restoration and productive re-use.