

Historic Building Relocation Precedents

Project: Pioneer Village
Date: 02.10.2023

Examples of Various Buildings Moved into or within a Village Museum

The following are examples of prior relocations of historic and historically designated buildings which are precedents for the proposed relocation of Pioneer Village.

Individual Buildings

Pedrick Store House, Salem, MA

- NRHP listed in 1984 as a contributing structure to the Marblehead Historic District; boundaries are coterminous with Marblehead Local Historic District.
- in Salem Maritime National Historic Site, NHS established 1938, NRHP listed 1976; MHC signed off on move and then relisted building in NRHP

Powderhouse, Kingston, MA

- never left NRHP district

Hoyt-Barnum House, Stamford, CT

- NRHP listed 1969; re-listed in NRHP after move

Groups of Buildings

Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA

- many buildings built and moved within; buildings moved to and within. Not NRHP evaluated

Historic Deerfield, Deerfield MA

- NRHP listed 1966; NHL 1960

Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth, NH

- NRHP listed 1975; partially a product of urban renewal threats; also within Portsmouth Downtown HD listed in NRHP

Plimouth Pawtuxet, Plymouth, MA

- all built buildings and structures. Not NRHP evaluated

Storowton, West Springfield, MA

- 9 buildings moved from across NH and MA 1929–1931 to form exhibit at Eastern States Exhibition fairgrounds. Not NRHP evaluated.

Willowbrook Historic District/19th Century Curran Village/Curran Homestead, Newfield and Orrington, ME

- Newfield (Willowbrook) HD NRHP listed 1985; partially moved to different town in 2020 as Curran Homestead

Note: built refers to reproductions of historic buildings

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Precedents: Moving Structures and Re-defining Institutional Identity

In order to shed some comforting light on what might seem to be an extraordinary measure – to move a village – it is worth noting that moving structures is quite commonplace in New England and quite a normal strategy to preserve or improve historic structures. Several examples are right here in Salem:

Nathaniel Hawthorne's Birthplace Salem, MA

For preservation, the Nathaniel Hawthorne Birthplace was moved to the grounds of the House of the Seven Gables site in 1958. It was originally built on Union Street in Salem, MA in 1750. The house was moved past the Hawthorne Hotel, down Hawthorne Boulevard, and past sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt's statue of the author. After traveling roughly half a mile, the house reached the grounds of The House of the Seven Gables, where it stands today. The House of the Seven Gables historic precinct also includes the relocated Retire Beckett House (built in the 1680s and moved to the museum site in 1924), Hooper-Hathaway House (built in 1682 and moved in 1911), and the Counting House (built in 1830)

The John Ward House Salem, MA

Originally located on Prison Lane (now St. Peter Street), the house was moved to its present site in 1910 by splitting it into two and rolling it on ox-drawn logs from its original site three blocks away. In 1912 the house underwent a careful restoration under the direction of antiquarian George Francis Dow. Dow's work included decorating the space to meet his conception of the use of the house c. 1700. In 1911, parts of the house were opened to the public, becoming the first outdoor museum of architecture in the country. The Peabody Essex Museum now offers guided tours of the house.

The Powder House Kingston, MA

Since 1800, Kingston's Powder House stood quietly until 1860 when it was moved to Evergreen Cemetery and used as a tool shed. Later it found its way to the property of the late David Holmes on Elm Street. The Powder House, most likely Kingston's oldest surviving municipal building, is now located next to the Faunce School on Green Street where it awaits a much-needed restoration.



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Pedrick's Storehouse

Salem, MA

The Pedrick Store House, originally located on Marblehead Harbor, was built by Marblehead merchant Thomas Pedrick (1736-1802) in about 1770. It was first used as a storehouse for salt and goods from the cod fish trade, with a sail loft on the second floor. Later, during the American Revolution, goods seized by Pedrick's privateers were stored here. As the local maritime economy changed in the 19th and 20th centuries, so did the building's uses.

In 2003, the National Park Service acquired the structure and dismantled the frame. After repair, the frame was reassembled on Salem's Derby Wharf (Salem Maritime National Historic Site), using period building techniques. A new roof, windows, and clapboards restored the structure to its 19th century appearance by 2007.

Pedrick's storehouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Sites as a contributing structure to the Marblehead Historic District. It was re-listed on the National Register of Historic Sites following its move to the National Historic Site in Salem.



Hoyt-Barnum House

Stamford, CT

The Hoyt-Barnum house was built by Samuel Hoyt in 1699 in preparation for his marriage. In 1753 the house and its 5-acre tract were sold to a James St. John, and was eventually inherited by his sons upon his death in 1781. The house was auctioned off in 1826 and sold to David Barnum for \$1,292. Barnum's wife, Betsey Hoyt Barnum, was a descendant of the house's builder and it remained with Betsey Hoyt Barnum's descendants until 1922. The Stamford Historical Society, now known as the Stamford History Center, purchased the Hoyt-Barnum house from a local bank in 1942, opening it to the public in 1950. In November of 2016 it was moved from its original location to a new one next to the Stamford History Center where it is open for tours. The house was divided into sections and moved 5 miles in a procession of trucks to its new location. The relocation was completed at a price of \$2 million. Following the move it is the first structure permitted to remain on the National Register of Historic Places after being dismantled, relocated, and restored.



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Precedents: Making Museums

There are precedents where entire museum campuses have been compiled by importing structures to the sites and improving or restoring buildings for interpretive purposes. They include:

The House of the Seven Gables

Salem, MA

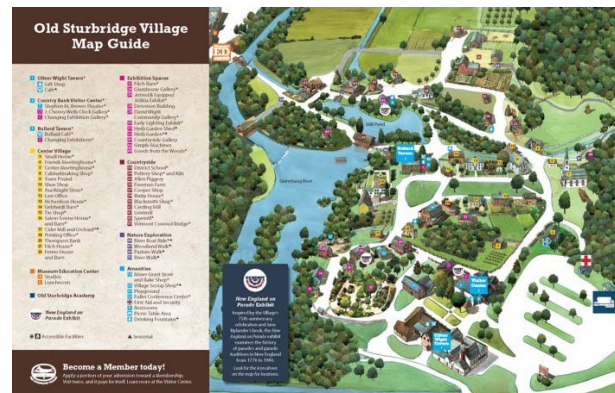
Over time, the founder and trustees of The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association acquired and moved five structures with historic significance to the site: The Retire Becket House (c. 1687); The Hooper-Hathaway House (c. 1682); Nathaniel Hawthorne's Birthplace (c. 1750); The Phippen House (c. 1782); and The Counting House (c.1830). Today, The House of the Seven Gables' campus constitutes its own national historic district on The National Register of Historic Places.



Old Sturbridge Village

Sturbridge, MA

Old Sturbridge Village is a living museum located in Sturbridge, Massachusetts that recreates life in rural New England during the 1790s through 1830s. It is the largest living museum in New England, covering more than 200 acres. The Village includes 59 antique buildings, three water-powered mills, and a working farm.

Shelburne Museum

Shelburne, VT

Just 10 minutes south of Burlington, Shelburne Museum is one of the most popular attractions in Vermont. It is the largest art and history museum in northern New England and a foremost public resource for visual art and material culture.

The Museum's 45-acre campus is composed of 39 buildings, 25 of which are historic and were relocated to the Museum. Among the most beloved attractions on the campus are the Shaker design Round Barn, a General Store, a carousel, and the 220-foot sidewheel steamboat *Ticonderoga*. Visitors enjoy strolling the beautifully landscaped grounds with 22 gardens. The Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education features changing exhibitions and Webb Gallery features important American paintings by Andrew Wyeth, Winslow Homer, Grandma Moses, John Singleton Copley and many more.



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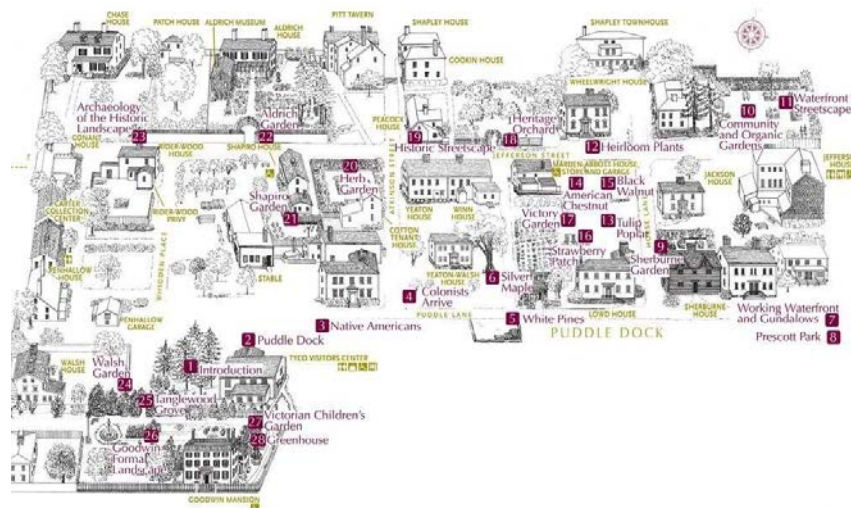
Historic Deerfield Deerfield, MA

An Authentic 18th-Century New England Village Historic Deerfield Inc., founded in 1952, is an outdoor museum that interprets the history and culture of early New England and the Connecticut River Valley. Visitors can tour twelve carefully preserved antique houses dating from 1730 to 1850, and explore world-class collections of regional furniture, silver, textiles, and other decorative arts on display in the authentic period houses and in the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, a state-of-the-art museum facility featuring exhibitions and a visible storage area. Our research library, the Henry N. Flynt Library, includes more than 21,000 volumes (reference works, microfilm and newspapers) on the history and material culture of the region.



Strawberry Banke Portsmouth, NH

Through restored furnished houses, exhibits, historic landscapes, and gardens, plus traditional crafters and costumed roleplayers, Strawberry Banke Museum interprets the living history of generations who settled in Portsmouth, New Hampshire from 1695 to 1955. The historic houses are open May through October and in November and December for guided walking tours and special events. Strawberry Banke is unique among outdoor history museums in presenting a complete neighborhood's evolution over 300+ years, with most of the historic houses on their original foundations.



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Storowton Springfield, MA

Storowton Village Museum is a nineteenth century village constructed for modern visitors to enjoy. The nine antique buildings that comprise the museum are not original to their locations. Rather, these structures were purchased, deconstructed, transported, and then reconstructed on the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds almost 100 years ago. The idea was funded entirely by Helen Storrow, a Boston-based philanthropist and Chairwoman of the Home Department for the Exposition. A pioneer of historic preservation, modernist architecture, women's rights and ardent supporter of the Girl Scouts of America, Ms. Storrow sought to teach visitors about life in New England in the nineteenth century in an immersive and experiential manner. Thanks to her efforts, millions of people have come to visit these buildings, saved from demolition and disuse, so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

