

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of Monhegan Museum's Creation of a Sustainable Collection Preservation Environment

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded The Monhegan Historical and Cultural Museum Association (Monhegan Museum) a grant to improve climate control and storage conditions in a number of modern and historic buildings in their care. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

In its grant application, the Monhegan Museum proposed a variety of passive and active measure to improve climate and storage conditions in the Keeper's House, The Assistant Keeper's House, The Office/Archives, The Main Vault, and the Ice House Vault. Two of these buildings—the Keeper's House and Ice House Vault—have been identified as historic properties subject to Section 106 regulations. The grant application proposes to improve climate and storage in these buildings by implementing the following:

#### Keeper's House

- Addressing fissures in the foundation with mortar appropriate to the existing structure.
- Replace and relocate electric panel
- Fill holes in flooring resulting from non-historic radiators and furnace piping
- Refurbish existing windows to allow proper opening/closing and improve seals
- Install storm windows on south and west sides of the building. Windows will be constructed of wood and low-E glass, and will conform to National Window Preservation Standards
- Install operational vents in both chimneys to improve ventilation

#### Ice House Vault

- Convert lower level of the Ice House to a vault to properly store historic art and artifacts. Conversion will require temporarily removing exterior cedar shakes, installation of a vapor barrier and insulation, followed by reapplication of cedar shakes. Interior will be finished with fire-rated drywall.

- Installation of new environmental controls with the ability to recover heat from Monhegan Plantation Power District.

The Monhegan Historical and Cultural Museum Association is located at 1 Lighthouse Hill in Monhegan, Maine. It was formed in 1960 as a committee of Monhegan Associates, Inc., and organization devoted to preserving the wild lands and tradition way of life on Monhegan Island. The light station, including the Keeper's House and Ice House, were purchased in 1962 for use as a museum. The original house was built in 1824, with a 1 ½ story wooden addition added in 1874. In 1892 the original house was demolished, leaving the 1874 portion and adding a wooden ell. The remaining 1874 wood structure (as well as the lighthouse) was added to the National Register of Historic Places in May 1980. The Ice House was listed in an 1893 register as a barn, and was known to be used in the 1950s as a garage for the Keeper's truck. It is unclear if the existing structure is original; however, it was clearly repositioned at some point in time. It is not included on the National Register of Historic Places.

In a letter dated October 22, 2015, Maine Historic Preservation Commission Officer Kirk Mohney wrote: "Based on the information submitted, I have concluded that the proposed undertaking will have **no adverse effect** upon historic properties, as defined by Section 106."

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov), or to National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 411, Washington, DC 20506. The deadline for submitting comments is **January 7, 2016**.

## Monhegan Historical and Cultural Museum Association

### Area of Potential Effect



Keeper's House



Ice House Vault

