

Bretton Woods Print Shop Restoration Project

Background:

In July of 2013 as president of the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Historical Society I was contacted by Ms. Maggie Stier of the *N.H. Preservation Alliance* in Concord, NH. 603-224-2281.

She advised that in 2010, the Alliance had identified the print shop located on the grounds of the Mount Washington Hotel, as one of its Seven to Save properties in New Hampshire.

She asked that I or a representative of the historical society attend a meeting at the Mt. Washington Hotel to view the print shop and discuss ways to preserve and protect it for future generations.

The TM-BW Historical Society has worked with the Alliance on past projects to protect and preserve local resources of significance and highlight the history of our area. Most recently we partnered with the alliance in 2011 to present a self guided tour of fifteen local sites including St. Patrick's Church, The Bretton Arms, and Stickney Chapel.

Significance of the Print Shop:

The print shop was constructed shortly after the hotel was opened in 1905. It featured a Golding press that utilized the flow of water to power the press. It was the only water powered press ever to exist in New Hampshire, and it is believed to be the only water powered press still in existence in the United States.

The print shop produced the hotel's daily menu, signs, golf scorecards and a newspaper known as *The Bugle of Bretton Woods*. The shop closed down in the fall of 1998 when the only operator and pressman had personal difficulties. The windows and doors were shuttered and the press and interior have remained as they were left in 1998. The owners at the time, which included, the Presbys, Bedors, Eames et al, chose not to revive it during their ownership, and contracted with area printers for their needs.

Preservation:

The Omni Mt. Washington Hotel and CNL, the property owners along with the NH Preservation Alliance, WhiteMountainHistory.org and the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Historical Society would like to see the print shop restored and preserved for future generations. CNL is not interested in directly taking on the preservation, but has advised they would be open to the possibility of covering utility costs and maintenance costs during the start-up phase and in the future, if a long-term operational plan was established.

Funding:

Cost estimates to preserve the print shop building and contents, range from \$200K to \$250K. The NH Preservation Alliance has advised though they support this project, they currently have no grants or funds to contribute; likewise WhiteMountainHistory.org is faced with similar circumstances. The Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Historical Society also has limited financial assets and on its own would not be able to fund this project. The above stakeholders believe sufficient monies can be raised through private and corporate sponsors that would ensure the success of this preservation.

The Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Historical Society believes this project is consistent with its established goals and objectives of preserving local history and educating residents, scholars and tourists, of the rich history contained within the town and surrounding areas, and would like to take a lead in furtherance of this project.

While the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Historical Society is registered as a charitable trust with the NH Attorney General's Office, we are not a IRS designated charitable organization under [501-c (3)] and cannot serve as the receiver of tax-deductible donations and gifts in kind for this project. On the other hand, the Town of Carroll is recognized as a charitable entity and can receive tax-deductible donations on behalf of the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Historical Society. The town may establish a restricted account within the town's trust funds to which donations solicited by Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods H.S. and others associated with this project can be made. This account would be similar to ones created for the Twin Mountain Public Library or those set up for long-term cemetery plot maintenance.

This account would be designated in a way that specifically defines its purpose expressly and solely for this project and based upon an agreement between the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods H.S. and the Board of Selectmen. This agreement should describe the intent and purpose of the account; who is assigned specific responsibilities; restricts total expenditures from the account to no more than what is received in donations; and covers any other specific or general concern for the protection of the town.

THERE WILL BE NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY TO THE TOWN OF CARROLL. Its role, via this special account, will be solely that of facilitator and transfer agent for the Twin Mountain-Bretton woods H.S., with activities limited to accepting donations and making disbursements. Administrative activity related to this account and the project, will be performed by the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods H.S. and or project staff. Funds requested from the account will be in "bundles" to minimize disbursement activity by the town. When the project is complete, and all funds disbursed, the account should be permanently closed. If perchance insufficient funds are raised for this project, the Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods H.S. and the project shall return donated amounts to donors as received and the account will be permanently closed.

Positive Effects of Restoration:

The positive effects of this project include an additional tourist attraction that highlights the history of the town and region. This coupled with other attractions in town, will hopefully encourage tourists to stay longer and spend their money locally. In addition, restoration of the building through capital improvements, will generate additional tax revenue for the town.

For Addition information and photos featuring the print shop please refer to WhiteMountainHistory.org