The Belmont Mill Story: Lessons in Preservation & Stewardship

Presented to the New England chapter Victorian Society in America
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Belmont Heritage Commission
Milestones

Built in 1833 by Gilmanton Village Manufacturing Company for the purpose of spinning cotton, wool and weaving cloth

• 1865 converted to hosiery by new owner Moses Sargent, Sr.
• 1870 purchased by Amos Lawrence
• 1890 major renovations including bell tower construction
• 1921 acquired by Belmont Hosiery Company, operating until 1955
• 1970 Fenwick Hosiery Mills consolidated Belmont factory with Laconia
• 1992 August 14th major fire
• 1995 Town acquired through tax deed and began demolition plan
• 1998 Rededicated on Old Home Day
BELMONT MILL design Charrette

January 26 & 27, 1996

PLAN NH

* The Foundation for Shaping the Built Environment
Belmont Mill Recognition

- 1997 New Hampshire Preservation Alliance - Wallace Rhodes for preservation
- 1998 Belmont Town Report dedication - Wallace Rhodes
- 2000 AIA N.H. Chapter - Merit Award for Excellence in Architecture, Christopher P. Williams Architects
- 2000 N.H. Preservation Alliance - Excellence, Rehabilitation & Adaptive Reuse, Town of Belmont
- 2000 PlanNH - Merit Award for Excellence, Community Impact to Christopher P. Williams Architects
- 2000 Home Builders and Remodelers Association of N.H. - Gold Award to Christopher P. Williams Architects
- 2000 Home Builders and Remodelers Association of N.H. - Best in Show to Christopher P. Williams Architects
- 2010 Association of N.H. Historical Societies Lifetime Achievement Award - Wallace Rhodes
- 2011 N.H. Preservation Alliance - Milestone Preservation Projects - Belmont Mill
Stewardship
2002 - “...Develop the Village area into a unique and attractive combination of residential, commercial, historical and recreational uses to serve as a focal point for the town...”
Master Plan Vision Statement

2003 – Second Section 106 study completed – Factory Village District deemed eligible for National Register, reversing 1992-93 findings

2004 – Town Meeting voters support Heritage Commission establishment

2008-9 – Bandstand Centennial celebrated – and new traditions

2009 – Community Preservation Workshop: Telling the Belmont Mill Story, Village Revitalization Committee recommended

2010 - Lighting upgrade grant, Second PlanNH charrette
Bandstand
Deck the Village
Believe
Acknowledgments

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• **Gratitude:** to the citizens of Belmont, New Hampshire for preserving this strong emblem of pride in community heritage