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**NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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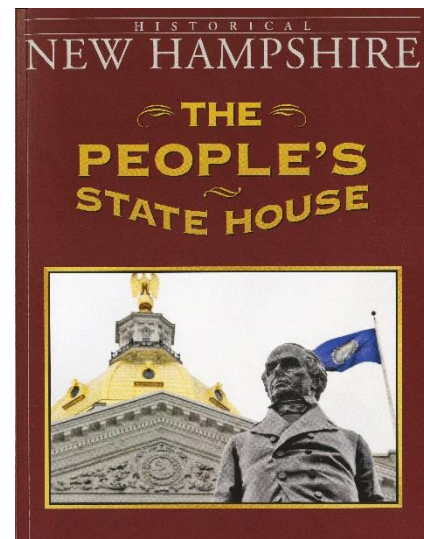
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***The People's State House :*
Special Publication Commemorates Its 200th Anniversary**

CONCORD, NH—The New Hampshire Historical Society rounds out the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the New Hampshire State House with the final installment of its special commemorative publication. The 96-page, full-color issue of *Historical New Hampshire*, entitled *The People's State House*, explores the many ways in which the state house has come to symbolize the Granite State.

Although the chambers and corridors of the state house often bustle with legislative activity, the building and its grounds play a role in the life of New Hampshire that far exceeds their official governmental functions. In



formal and informal ways—from political rallies to state funerals to boy scout campouts—the state house serves as the focal point for the Granite State, the place where we honor New Hampshire men and women who have led and inspired us. It has been the rallying point for people seeking to exercise their right to free expression as well as for those hoping to enjoy the solace of nature in the midst of a busy urban center. It has served as the backdrop for scenes of celebration and mourning, a meeting place for showing community spirit or political disagreement, a hallowed ground dedicated to those who sacrificed their lives on our behalf.

The efforts to commemorate the sons and daughters of New Hampshire have sometimes sparked controversy, particularly when it came to memorializing New Hampshire's only U.S. president, Franklin Pierce. It took more than forty years for the state to erect a statue to Pierce, and the effort to do so often degenerated into bitter partisan fighting. Some championed Pierce as a great New Hampshire hero, while others blatantly labeled him a traitor. The statue, completed in 1914, now sits on the very edge of the state house grounds, far from the monuments of the other New Hampshire figures commemorated in front of the state house: Daniel Webster, John Stark, and John P. Hale. Yet each monument placed at the state house bears its own tale of those who came to be seen as embodying the spirit of New Hampshire.

This issue covers the paintings and sculptures dedicated to ordinary and extraordinary Granite Staters. It explores the story behind the Hall of Flags and recounts the many uses of the state house over the years, from baseball field and cow pasture in the 1800s to impromptu shrine dedicated to New Hampshire's Teacher in Space Christa McAuliffe in 1986. The stories are populated with colorful characters, great efforts and terrible tragedy, and above all, with tales of the men and women who shaped our state.

Historical New Hampshire is a benefit of membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society. Copies are available for purchase for just \$5 at the New Hampshire Historical Society, located at 30 Park Street in Concord; through the Society's online store at

nhhistory.org; or by calling 603-228-6688. Copies are also available for sale at the New Hampshire State House Visitors' Center.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire history. Nowhere will you find a more extensive collection of objects and archives related to New Hampshire's history. The Society shares these vast collections through its research library, museum, website, publications, exhibitions, and youth and adult educational programs. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information about the Society and the benefits of membership, visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.