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**NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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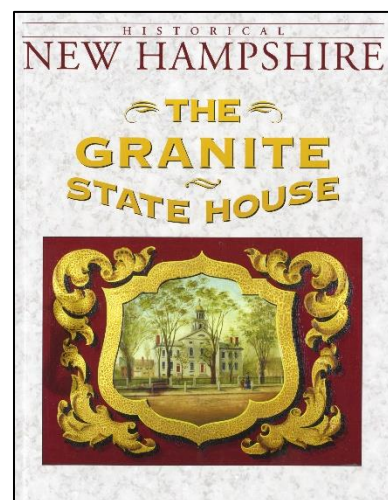
**Photographs Available**

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***The Granite State House:*  
Special Publication Commemorates Its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

CONCORD, NH—This month, the New Hampshire Historical Society honors the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Hampshire State House with a special publication, *The Granite State House*. The 80-page issue documents the construction and furnishings of the oldest state house in the nation still conducting business in its original chambers.

The building itself has a fascinating history that goes far beyond the gold dome that shines over the state capital and serves as a symbol for so many New Hampshire businesses and organizations. The structure bears the marks of its three major building phases—the initial construction in 1816-19 and two expansion



projects in 1864-66 and 1909-10. Each phase introduced technological innovations and exemplified the finest artistic expression of its respective era. From its granite foundation to the golden eagle perched atop its dome, the state house celebrates New Hampshire and reflects its history. The building itself serves the same basic function today as it did when it first opened in 1819—to be the executive and legislative, as well as the ceremonial and symbolic, center of state government. In the eyes of citizens and visitors alike, the New Hampshire State House represents the essence of the state and its government through the centuries.

*The Granite State House* was written by former state architectural historian James L. Garvin and Donna-Belle Garvin, editor emerita of *Historical New Hampshire*. The Garvins have been conducting research on the state house since the 1970s when then-state archivist Frank C. Mevers discovered in the New Hampshire Division of Archives and Records Management a long-forgotten cache of documents related to the construction of the state house in 1816-19. Among the documents were more than 500 original bills and receipts, which together revealed the building's early history and the craftsmen who created it. Much of this research has not been available to the public until now.

The richly illustrated publication includes early drawings and plans for the state house along with the earliest known photograph of the building, taken around 1860. There are biographical sketches of some of the people who shaped the way the state house would look, along with features about the New Hampshire State Library and the New Hampshire Supreme Court, with the latter piece written by Associate Justice James P. Bassett. Both of these New Hampshire institutions were once housed in the state house. The famed state house eagle, heralded with a commemorative event of its own last July with a reenactment of the 1818 "Toast to the Eagle," receives its own special article.

*Historical New Hampshire* is a benefit of membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society. Copies are available for purchase at the New Hampshire Historical Society,

located at 30 Park Street in Concord; through the Society's online store at [nhhistory.org](http://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](http://nhhistory.org) or call 603-228-6688.