



## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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9 December 2005

Churchyard Cemetery Trustees  
c/o Michael Barney, President  
64 Meadowview Drive  
Holderness, New Hampshire, 03245

Re: Trinity Church roof alterations

Ladies and gentlemen:

We have noted that the raking eaves of Trinity Church have been altered during the course of the current re-shingling of the building. The roof sheathing boards at each gable end have been replaced so that they project well beyond the plane of the gable walls.

Trinity Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 7, 1984. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources compiled an architectural evaluation of Trinity Church in October, 2004, and thereafter recommended further consultation by various specialists in architectural conservation and archaeology. The Division shares the solicitude of the Trustees for the preservation of the integrity of this significant building and its site.

As noted in the report of October 2004, the eaves treatment of Trinity Church is characteristic of the Greek Revival period of design. The close-boarded raking eaves of the church are character-defining features of this style, as are the canted flat-board cornices of the horizontal eaves.

I know of no historical precedent for the projection of roof sheathing beyond the rake boards of a Greek Revival building. This newly introduced detail creates a shadow line that is uncharacteristic of the style, and that significantly alters the appearance of the building.

The care of a National Register-eligible building is best guided by a set of guidelines called the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation*, developed by the National Park Service. Among the *Standards* that apply in this instance are the following:

*The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials, or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*

Garvin to Churchyard Cemetery Trustees, 9 December 2005, page 2.

*Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques, or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved*

*The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.*

The Division of Historical Resources stands ready to offer technical assistance in the stewardship of Trinity Church, which has attained special status through listing in the National Register. We earnestly request that future treatments of this significant building be guided by the *Secretary's Standards for Preservation*, which I am appending to this letter. We will be most happy to consult with the trustees regarding the interpretation or application of these *Standards*. We are eager to work with the trustees to protect the architectural integrity of Trinity Church.

Sincerely,

James L. Garvin  
State Architectural Historian

Cc: All current Churchyard Cemetery Trustees  
Encl.: *Secretary's Standards for Preservation*

## STANDARDS FOR PRESERVATION

*“Preservation” is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.*

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials, or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.