

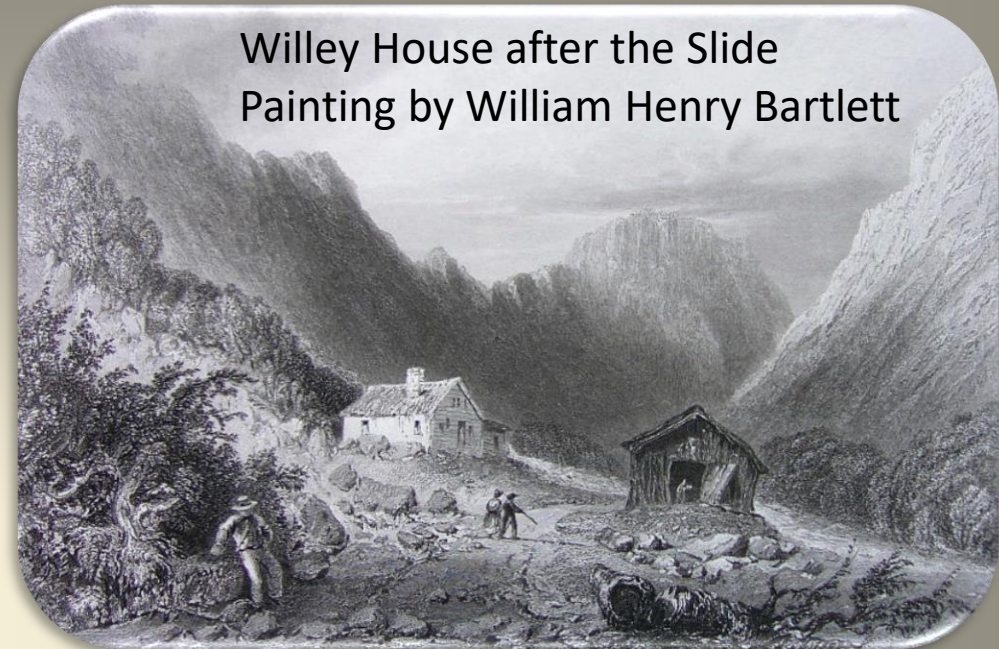


Horace Wolcott Robbins
(1842-1904)
The Presidentials

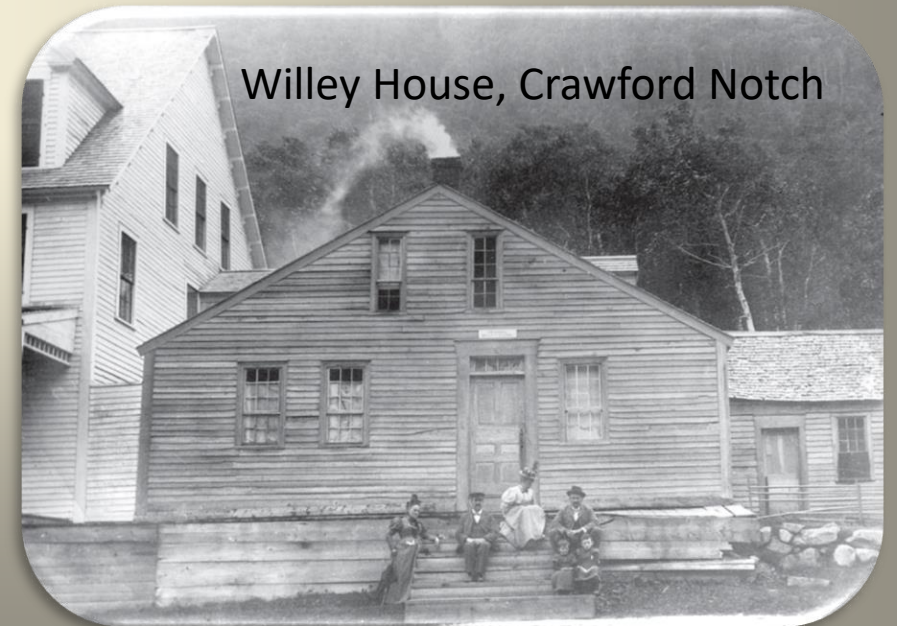
Willey Family Tragedy



Thomas Hill (1829–1908)
Crawford Notch 1872



Willey House after the Slide
Painting by William Henry Bartlett

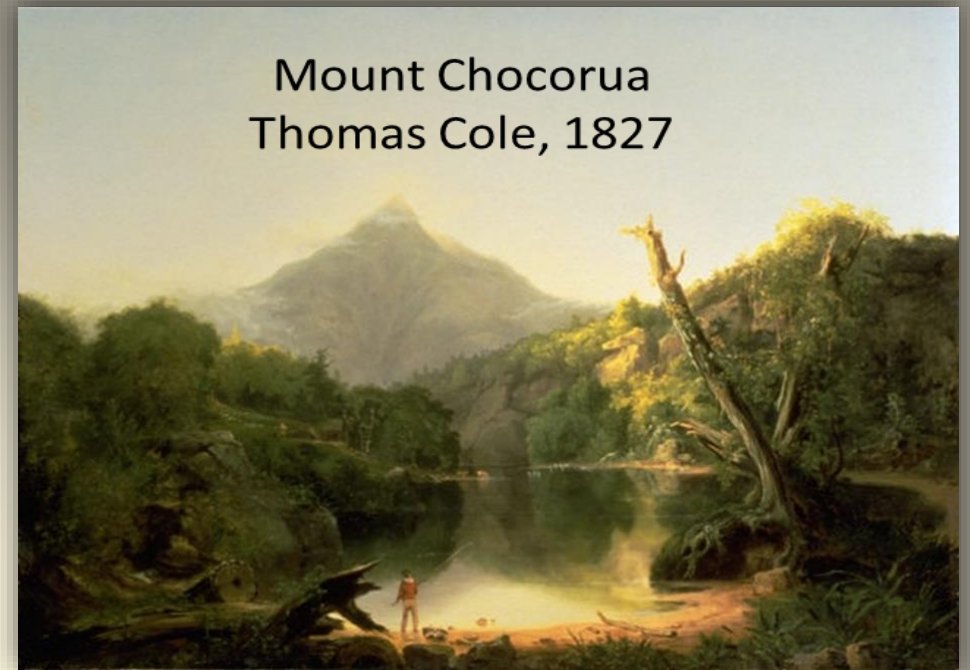


Willey House, Crawford Notch

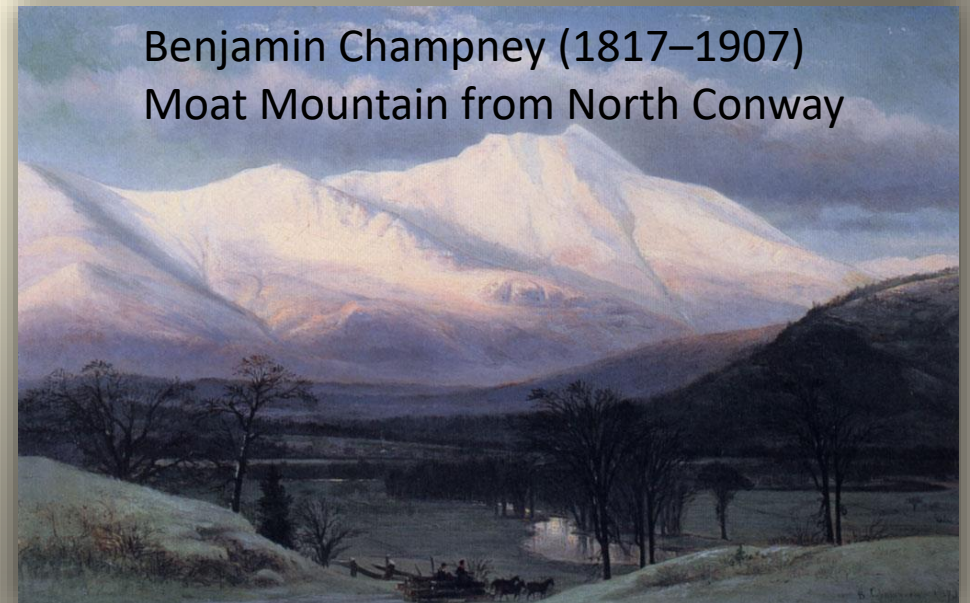
White Mountain Artists



"Artists Sketching in the White Mountains"
Winslow Homer 1868



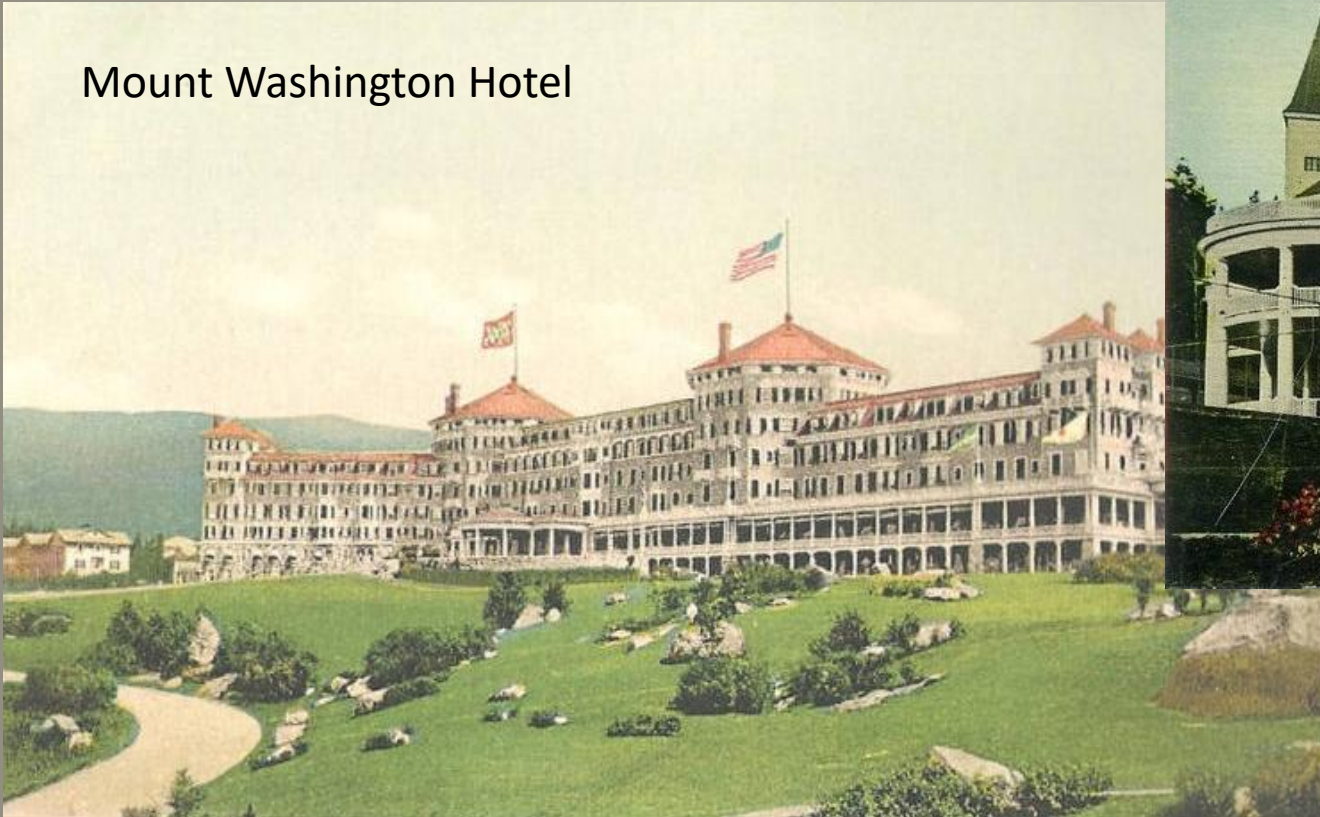
Mount Chocorua
Thomas Cole, 1827



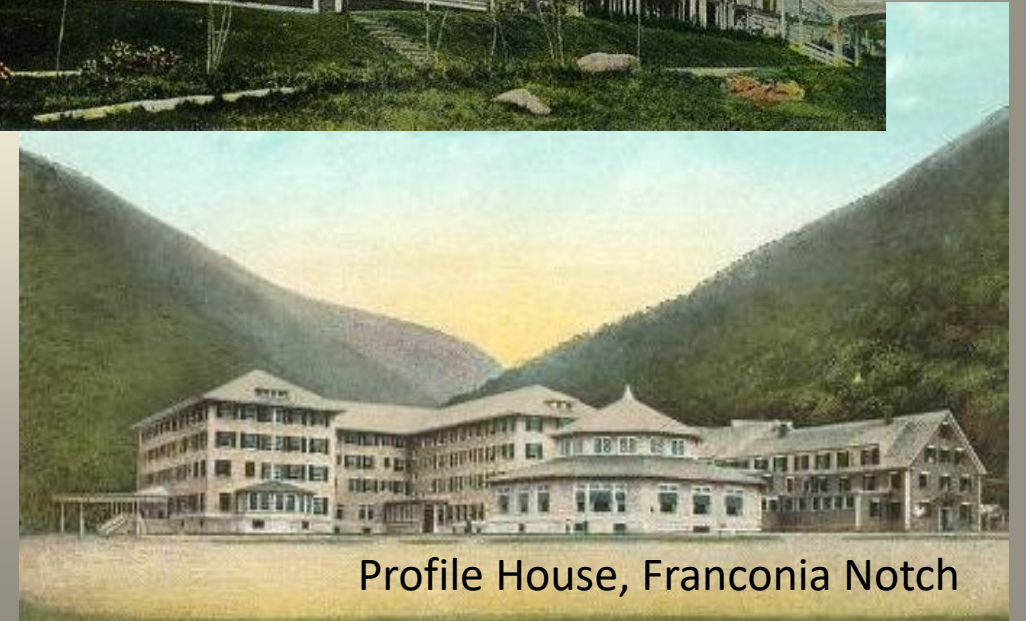
Benjamin Champney (1817–1907)
Moat Mountain from North Conway

Grand Resort Hotels in New Hampshire

Mount Washington Hotel



Interest in New Hampshire's "North Country" region and its rugged landscape spurred development of grand hotels, inns and boarding houses to meet the needs of the increasing tourist trade.

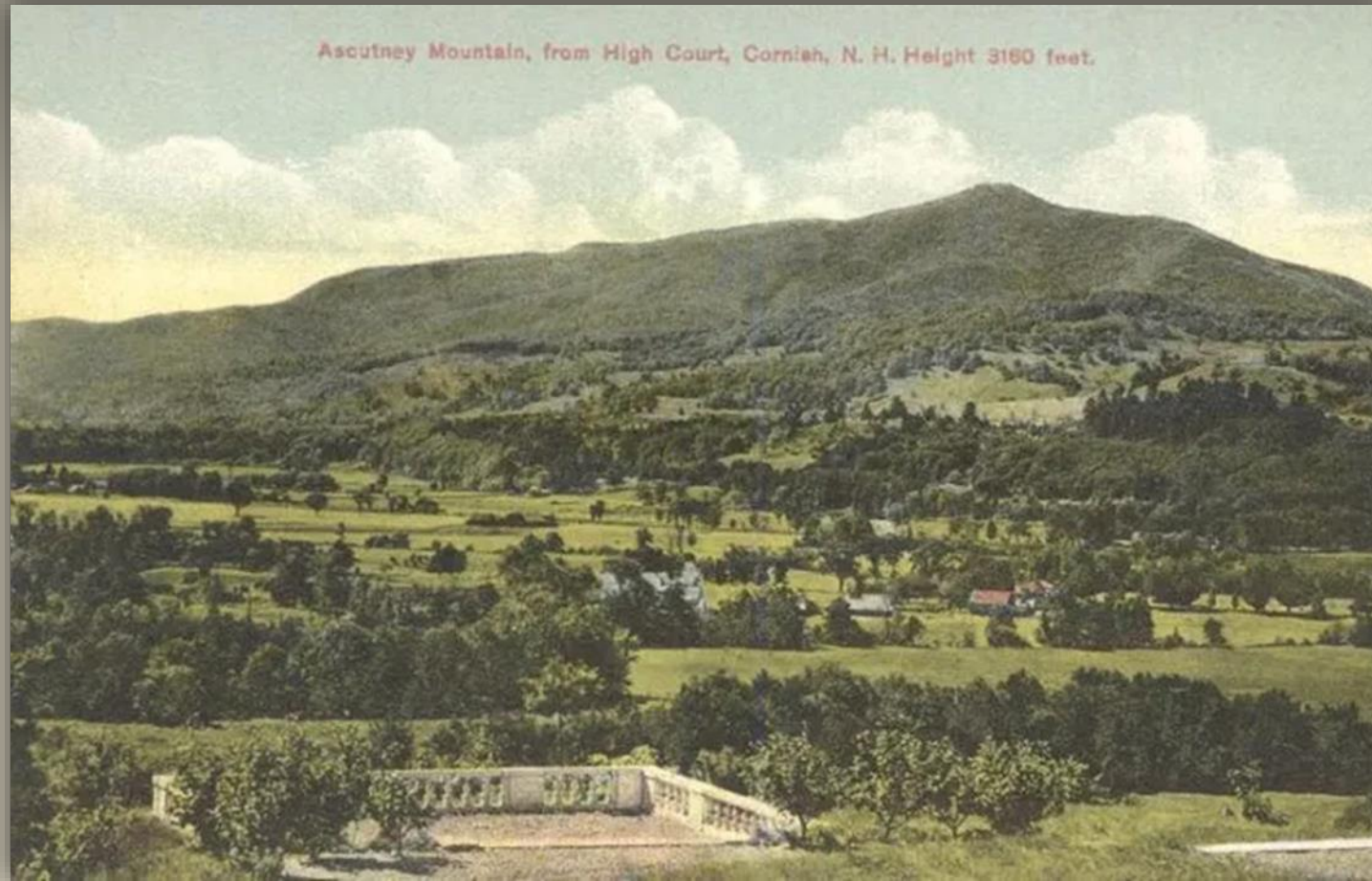




Abenaki Indian Shop and Camp Intervale



The Abenaki Indian Shop and Camp was established by Abenakis who were lured to the area by the prospect of making baskets and selling them to visitors to the resort areas of the White Mountains in the late 19th century and operated into the late 20th century.



By the early 1900s, New Hampshire residents were seeing an influx of city people into the countryside every summer. Thriving communities of summer residents, called “colonies” developed in the midst of farming communities still struggling to halt the steady agricultural decline occurring at the time. The most famous of these communities – Cornish, Dublin, North Conway, and the Isle of Shoals drew artists and writers from Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

MOTHERS' AND DAUGHTERS' CLUB
CORNISH COLONY
PLAINFIELD, NH
1901



SANDWICH HOME INDUSTRIES

SANDWICH, NH

Sandwich would become a summer mecca for travelers from all over the Northeast. Then more reinvention came through an effort led by Sandwich resident Mary Coolidge. Mrs. Coolidge noted that many of the women in town were particularly skilled in certain crafts from hooked rugs, to woolen sweaters, to fancy pottery. Coolidge saw the tourists as a perfect way to capitalize on these crafts.

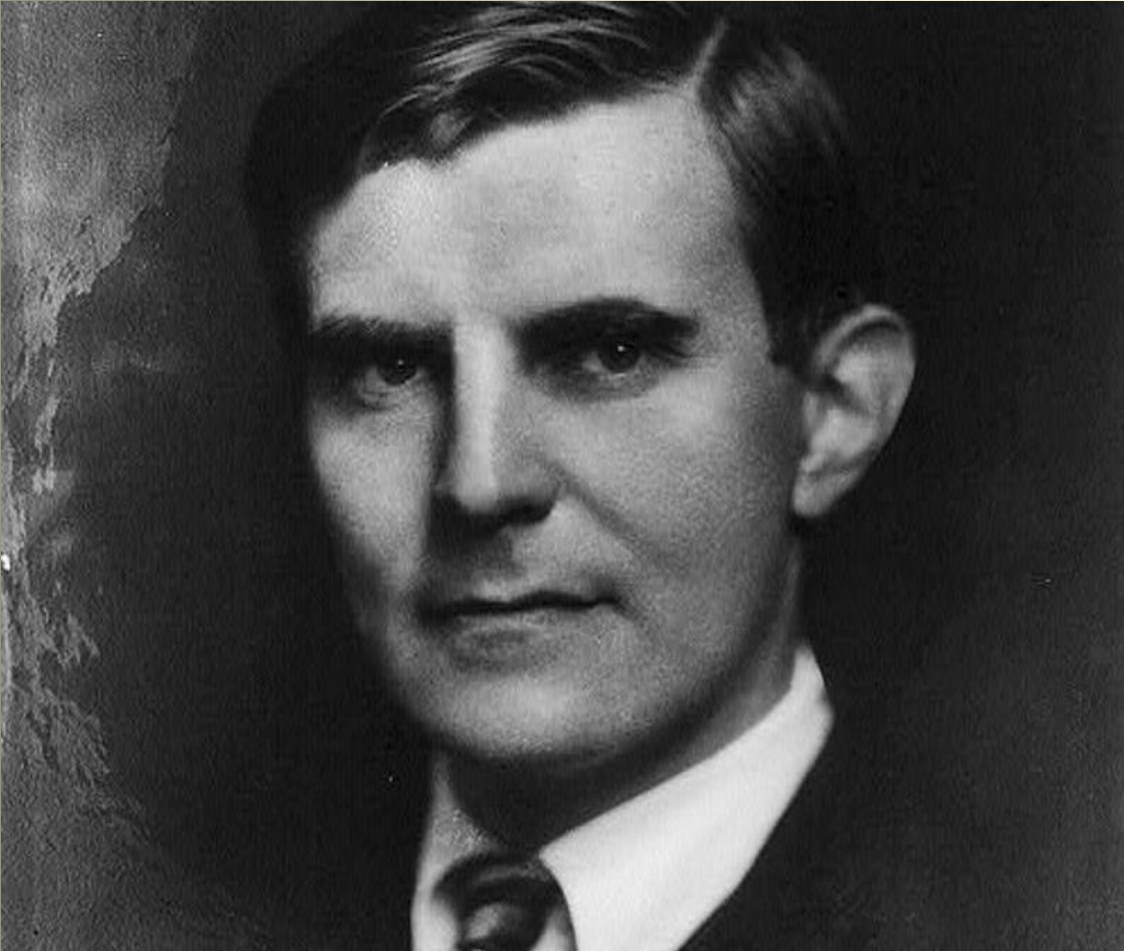
She started to put these on display and created Sandwich Home Industries which ran during the summer. It was a way for local people to show off their wares and to sell them to the tourists.



In 1926 when Mrs. Coolidge organized an exhibition of locally made rugs and brought an expert from Boston to give a talk on the practical aspects of making and marketing rugs. From this experience, it was decided to form a cooperative and a shop was opened in the summer of 1926 for the purpose of selling locally made handicrafts and thus supporting the local economy. An early brochure for the Industries shows a wide variety of local crafts from basket making to woodworking and furniture, handwoven textiles and, of course, the hooked and braided rugs that started it all. The first season's sales were over \$1000, and also included income from their tea-room.



NH COMMISSION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS



Mrs. Coolidge combined forces with A. Cooper Ballantine, representing a group in Wolfeboro offering craft classes, to establish a committee seeking to promote the handicraft movement with a statewide plan for training craftsmen. Jesse Doerr, a close friend of Mary Coolidge and New Hampshire's first woman legislator, had several meetings with the Governor and sold him on the economic benefits of the budding home-based crafts industries.

In 1931, NH Governor John Winant supported their idea, establishing and funding the NH Commission of Arts and Crafts. The commission's first report to the governor focused on the values of hand-made work with an emphasis on the individuality of expression and enhancement of skills and design through organized education.

LEAGUE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CRAFTSMEN

As a result, the League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts was formed in 1932 with Mary Coolidge as their President, a post she held for the next 10 years, and remaining as honorary president until her death in 1949.



Rebranded as the League of NH Craftsmen in 1968, the League is recognized today as one of the country's foremost fine arts organizations, setting the standard for fine hand crafts that are valued throughout the United States and around the world for their creativity, authenticity and technical expertise.



In 1938, the league appointed David Campbell, a young, Harvard trained architect, as director. Campbell threw himself into the job promoting the league, stocking the shops and visiting the craftsmen. He carried the Crafts League message around the state and began traveling to other parts of the country in search of qualified teachers to bring their fine handcraft work to New Hampshire.



David R. Campbell (1908-1963)

A 1934 graduate of the Harvard School of Design, David Campbell exemplified the concurrent interests in design, arts and crafts furthered by the Bauhaus movement of the 1920's and 1930's. Director of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen from 1938 – 1962, Campbell designed several notable New Hampshire modern houses in the 1950s, including the Hallamore House in Henniker.



He found his first recruits in Virginia, where Potters Ed and Mary Shire had just opened their first studio. In 1940 the couple moved to Durham, N.H., where they both taught at the University of New Hampshire until 1968.



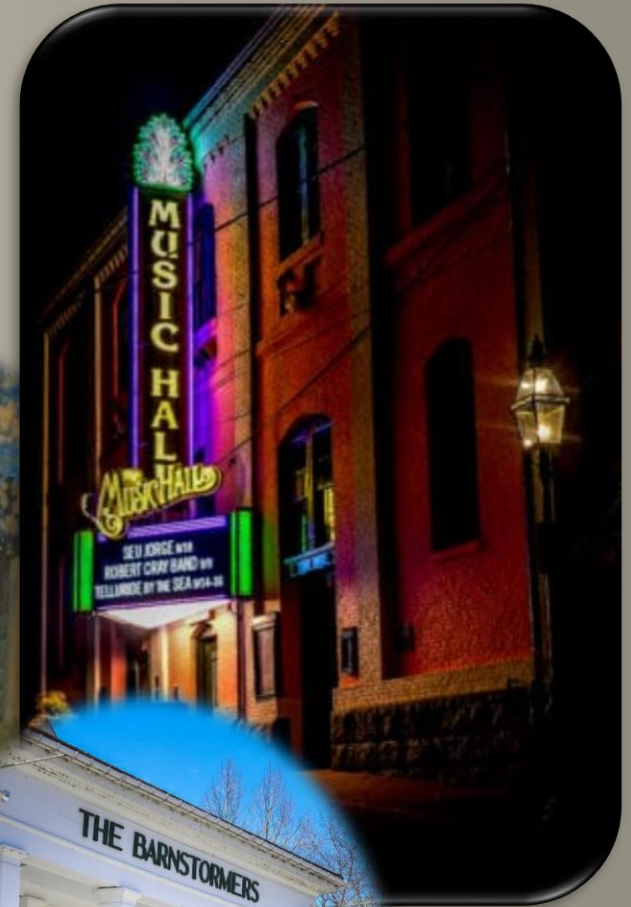
BACK TO THE LAND MOVEMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

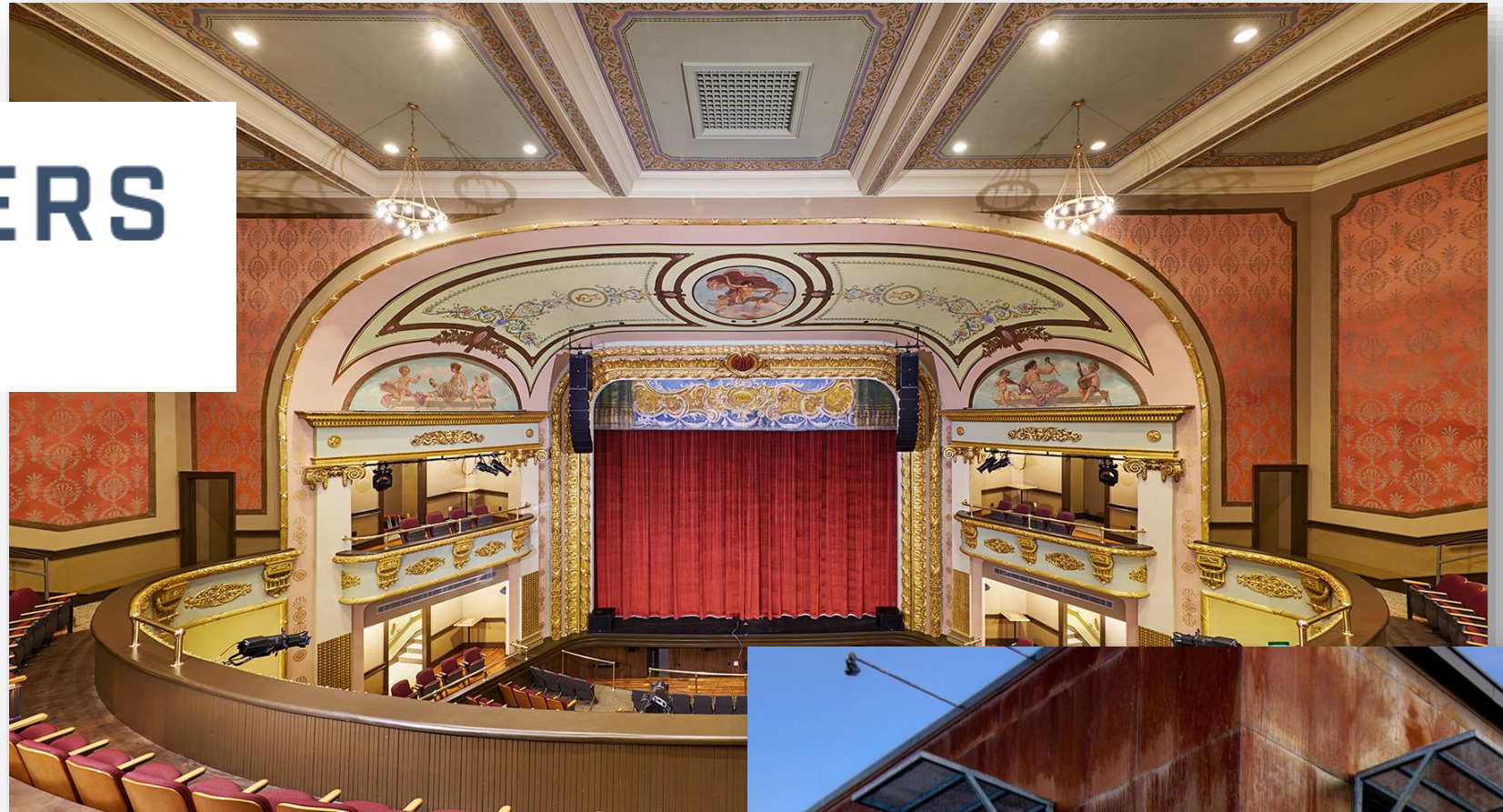
The tumult of the 1960s and 70s brought a new kind of applicant to the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, one seeking a lifestyle as much as a career. They wanted to come some place where they weren't harassed, where they could live cheaply, where they could live on the land. In 1972, over 200 craftsmen came to be juried.



Cheddy Moller is one of many back-to-the-landers who took up crafts either as a hobby or as a way to make some money. For those who chose to sell their crafts, and were proficient enough to be juried, the League was instrumental in their success. "It was a very big deal," Cheddy says. "They do all the paperwork, all the merchandising, and it frees everyone to stay at home to tend your garden and do the homestead stuff."

NEW HAMPSHIRE: COMMUNITY AT ITS HEART





Makers Mill - Wolfeboro, NH

3S Artspace - Portsmouth, NH

Colonial Theatre - Laconia, NH

