

# White Mountain National Forest



United States  
Department  
of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Eastern  
Region



## Brickett Place Site Restoration Project

Town of Stow  
Oxford County, ME

## 2010 Update & Progress

## Report

Prepared by the  
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The White Mountain National Forest through an interagency agreement with the Historic Preservation Training Center (NPS-HPTC), a National Park Service division, is stabilizing and rehabilitating the Brickett Place. The Brickett Place (c. 1830), listed on the National Register is located in the Town of Stow, Maine along state scenic Route 113 in the Evans Notch area. The Brickett Place is a 1 ½-story Federal, period, brick farmhouse that has been in National Forest ownership since 1918 and is the oldest building in Eastern Region of the Forest Service. Restoration work began in fall of 2009 and will be substantially completed by the fall of 2011.



Figure 1: The Brickett Place

Professional park service crews will complete the work in four unique phases, including masonry and carpentry. This project is designed to target conditions causing and accelerating decay of this historic structure, as well as address associated health and safety concerns.

Two of the four phases of this work were completed this year. For the **first phase** of work the NPS-HPTC Carpentry Team addressed the windows and the doors. Damage around these areas provided an obvious sign something was happening at the Brickett Place. As shown in the Figure 2, 40 window sashes and two exterior doors were removed in 2009. The house was secured for the winter and the materials were transported by truck to the “Jenkins Shop,” a NPS facility in Frederick, Maryland that specializes in refinishing historic materials.



Figure 2: Brickett Place Window and Door Removal

The windows and doors were stripped, de-glazed, re-glazed and repainted. The crew repaired and re-glazed 236 glass window panes. This work, which can be tedious and slow, was completed over the 2009-2010 winter.



Figure 3: Window Rehabilitation

June 2010 was a very busy month for the Brickett Place and great progress was made in the completion of phase one and the commencement and completion of **phase two** of the restoration project. Early in the month, the NPS crew returned to the house and completed the installation of the newly rehabilitated windows and doors.



Figure 4: Window and Door Installation

Shortly after their departure, a White Mountain National Forest Crew completed the drainage work in preparation for the masonry work. A subsurface drainage system was designed and installed on the north and east sides of the structure to reduce water draining toward the structure and splash back that had been causing brick deterioration.

The NPS Masonry team arrived on site in late June and re-pointed the exterior replaced broken brick and “stitched” all of the settlement cracks. The settlement cracks were stitched using mechanical (Helifix) ties, designed to hold replacement bricks and the granite foundation stones in tension. Figure 5, shows before and after repairs to the southeastern wall and foundation. Figure 6, shows the dramatic repairs to the northern wall and the replaced window well and drainage improvements. Figure 7, shows window and “Jack arch” repairs.



Figure 5: SE wall and foundation before and after



Figure 6 Northern Wall Before and After Repair



Figure 7: Typical Window and “Jack Arch” Before and After Repair

With the exterior work completed, the **third phase** to address the interior structural repairs began in September 2010. A Historic Architect from the NPS visited the Brickett Place on a fact finding mission, working with local staff and historians to complete a Historic Structures Report. This report is a comprehensive document that will document the history of the site throughout different periods of operation. The details gathered are critical to inform the final interior restoration phase to be completed in the Spring of 2011.

In October 2010, the NPS Carpentry team will return to complete repairs to the roof rafters and floor framing system. Working closely with the NPS-HPTC and with direction from the Maine-State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Forest Service engineers developed a design solution to ensure long-term structural stability that maintains the historic integrity of the site. For example, the new floor frame will provide for stability and floor load capacity while retaining all of the original hand hewn material by using a carefully designed sister frame developed specifically for the Brickett Place’s unique challenges.

This winter interior plans will be finalized. In May 2011, the NPS-HPTC Carpentry section will return to begin the **fourth and final phase** of work. This phase will rehabilitate the interior first floor, making it a usable space as a visitor center, and may also make the Brickett Place available to host small meetings, or educational programs. The walls, ceiling, floors are scheduled to be repaired, replaced and/or refinished.

During the remainder of the 2010 and during the 2011 field season, the Brickett Place will be staffed on Saturdays and Sundays, with individuals who can provide information about the

heritage of the Cold River Valley, local recreation opportunities, wilderness, or the restoration project itself. Unfortunately, the house itself will be closed due to safety concerns. Visitors are invited to walk the grounds and observe the ongoing improvements. However, it is an active construction site so please heed all signs and use caution.