

Maine's Most Endangered Historic Properties—2006

A program of Maine Preservation

The Standish Corner Historic District

is a small district comprised of six 18th and 19th century structures on eight acres in the village center of Standish in

Cumberland County – within commuting distance to Portland. This is both a National Register historic district (established in 1993) and a Local Historic District, established via referendum and by ordinance adopted by the citizens of Standish in 2003. (A local survey by Standish citizens stated that the historic and rural character of their community was of utmost importance to the.) The Daniel Marrett House (above), owned and operated as a museum by Historic New England, is located here.



Late in 2005, the Standish Historic Preservation Commission approved a proposal by one of the district's property owners to relocate their c.1793 Federal-era home 200+ yards from its current corner location in the village center and demolish the historic barn in order to clear the site for speculative new commercial development.

Local citizens, in an effort to have the HPC's ruling overturned, reacted by taking legal action against the Town of Standish. They also nominated the corner property to Maine's Most Endangered Historic Properties list, prompting Maine Preservation's Board of Trustees to consider the larger community impacts resulting from the HPC's approval of the property owner's plan.

The Board of Trustees felt strongly that the pending relocation/demolition/redevelopment combined with additional development pressures on the village core, have endangered the status of the entire Standish Corner Historic District. The development pressures felt in downtown Standish are illustrative of the impacts being felt in historic village centers across southern and coastal Maine.

