

Save the Hawthorne House!



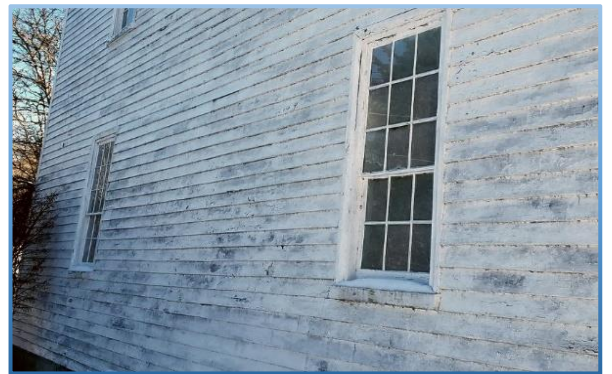
Nathaniel Hawthorne's boyhood home in Raymond, Maine, is at risk of serious structural damage if major repairs are not made soon.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE HOUSE?

A professional structural engineer surveyed the house early in 2019 and identified the following major risks to the house's survival:

Foundation: We have long recognized that the old granite and stone foundation has been shifting and collapsing, as shown below. Although this movement is gradual, a wall *could* eventually collapse. Remediation will involve jacking up parts of the house and pouring a solid wall. The estimated cost is \$50,000.

Roof & Support: The shingles are over 20 years old, but more concerning is a lack of structural support identified in the survey. A heavy snow load could result in a catastrophic collapse. Repairing the support and replacing the shingles will cost approx. \$10,000 (no photo possible).



Siding: The wooden clapboards have been scraped and painted countless times, but two sides in particular revert to a flaking and mildewed condition within 2 or 3 years of painting, as seen in the photo above. This is both an eyesore and a significant ongoing maintenance cost. Replacement of siding on the two worst sides will cost about \$15,000.

WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT IT

Starting with this appeal, we are planning to raise at least \$10,000 from residents and businesses in the Raymond-Windham-Casco area. This will augment approximately \$2,000 already on hand from functions, member dues and donations.

We will then apply for grants over the course of 2020-2021. Many grantor organizations require matching funds, so it is critical that we raise funds from the community first. The amount we raise will determine the size and type of grants for which we will be eligible as well as the repairs we can afford.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HAWTHORNE HOUSE

The famous 19th century author of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables* lived here with his mother and two sisters from the time he was nine until he graduated from Bowdoin College in 1825. His father, a sea captain out of Salem, Mass, died when Nat was a small child. Mrs. Hawthorne's brother, Richard Manning, owned a great deal of land in this area and built this house for his sister around 1812. Manning's own house, nearby on Cape Road, dates from 1800 and is the oldest registered building in Raymond/Casco.

After Hawthorne's college graduation, his family left Raymond and returned to Salem. The house was never to be occupied by a family again! It was briefly used as a boarding house and tavern, then converted in the mid-1800's to a place of worship known as the Radoux Meeting House. The second floor and interior room partitions were removed to make room for pews. The congregation eventually disbanded and the early 1900's saw the house fall into disrepair. Concerned about the loss of this historic building, summer residents of Raymond banded together in 1921 to raise funds and save the house through the formation of the **Hawthorne Community Association**.

In 1969, the house was placed on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

WILL YOU HELP?

The Hawthorne House is arguably the most significant historical home in the Lakes Area and a point of pride for its residents. For nearly 100 years, the house has contributed to the historical, cultural and social enrichment of the area through its periodic functions, including historical lectures, holiday parties and art shows. The Town of Raymond has supported the house for the past 3 years with a \$1,000 stipend, but this cannot address the major tasks we now face.

Please donate generously to help keep this piece of history alive in our community. All donations are tax-deductible and go directly to maintain the house with no paid staff or other fundraising costs. Donations of \$50 or more will be honored on a permanent display inside the Hawthorne House. You may donate conveniently in any of the following ways:

- Mail a check to the P.O. Box listed below, or
- Use the link on our website, www.hawthorneassoc.com to access credit card options through PayPal or,
- Go directly to the PayPal site and search for "Hawthorne Community Association".

Please be aware that the credit card methods deduct a little over 2% in fees, resulting in a slightly smaller net donation. A check is best.

Thank you!

**Hawthorne Community Association
P.O. Box 185
So. Casco, ME 04077**

Include your contact information with all donations.

FOR MORE INFO *and* links for credit card contributions:

www.hawthorneassoc.com

OR

**Rebecca at 207-329-0537 for voice calls or texts, or
email: hawthorne@maine.rr.com**