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New museum, educational center to open in Claremont next summer

The New Hampshire and New England Museum and Educational Demonstration Center will open in Claremont during the summer of 2014, in time to celebrate the town's 250th anniversary. The museum will collect, preserve, interpret and demonstrate actual working historic technologies to include innovations, science and engineering of New Hampshire and New England's industrial manufacturing history.

The museum will have exhibits of significant historic industrial technology including looms, steam engines, early agricultural equipment, gristmills, Thomas Edison generators and rare waterwheels from mills. There will be historic archives from family manufacturing records to large industries, old industry cinematic movies and products made by historic mills such as textile samples, glass, wooden ware, furniture, paper, leather, marine, agricultural and forest products.

The educational demonstration center will expose young people and students, as well as adults, to innovations and working manufacturing technologies which showcase the transformation of raw material into finished products. The center will develop positive and critical educational experiences that will promote creative directions for young people and students to pursue fields such as science, manufacturing and local entrepreneurial opportunities.

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COURTESY PHOTO

New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan reviews planned exhibits for the New Hampshire Museum and Educational Demonstration Center of Historical Technologies with Gerry DeMuro at the Home, Flower and Garden Show held in Swanzey in April. The home show booth had many historic machines and technologies on display, including a 1876 woolen machine, a 1900 steam engine and some of the 4,000 documents of the wooden pail industry of Cheshire County. The pail industry was the world's largest. Parts and supplies came from Alstead, Walpole, Keene, Swanzey, Troy, Richmond and Fitzwilliam. The industry was linked together by the Cheshire Railroad. The president of the railroad was the owner of many of the mills. The museum is planned to open in Claremont for its 250th anniversary during the summer of 2014.