



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Continuing Support for Vermont Communities Since 19

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HISTORIC VERMONT

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VERMONT

Vermont's 8th annual Historic Preservation Conference a Success!

The annual historic preservation conference, held May 10th in Rutland, was a great success. Thank you to all who participated in the sessions, as well as all who attended. Special thanks to Tom Slayton, Editor of Vermont Life magazine, and Stacy Mitchell of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance for their keynote speeches. An extra special thank you to Lisa Ryan for her work coordinating the whole event.

Downtown Bill Enacted Into Law

On Tuesday, May 28th, Governor Dean held a signing ceremony for H. 208 in Brattleboro. H.208 is a bill supporting Development in Downtowns, Villages and New Town Centers that recently passed both chambers in the legislature. The Preservation Trust of Vermont has been working to support this legislation for several years. The bill will:

1) Reform and reallocate state tax credit programs to support private investment into older and historic buildings. The tax credit programs would now help developers installing elevators, lifts, and sprinklers in older and historic downtown buildings, help redevelopment projects in village centers,

and support investment in village commercial buildings.

2) Improve predictability and increase flexibility in Vermont's building codes.

3) Reduce state Act 250 land use regulation over some projects in Designated Downtowns.

4) Acknowledge and support local efforts to create New Town Centers in municipalities with no town centers.

The bill can be viewed at:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2002/bills/passed/H-208.HTM>

Many people deserve thanks for their hard work and leadership on this bill, including Molly Lambert, Greg Brown and the staff and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, the Environmental Board, League of Cities and Towns, the many downtown managers around Vermont particularly Mary Hooper, and the bi-partisan group of lawmakers supporting the bill which included Reps. Jim Colvin, Don Bostic, Alan Palmer, Don Webster, Kathy Keenan, Ed Amidon, Senators Janet Munt, John Crowley, Jim Greenwood and Peter Shumlin.

Housing and Conservation Trust Fund

Since 1987, Vermont has made a dedicated, stable state investment in land conservation and downtown redevelopment through the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. This investment has helped conserve over 290 family farm, 239,000 acres of important recreation land, natural areas and historic properties; created 6,600 units of affordable housing for 16,500 Vermonters; leveraged over \$510M matching money for local projects; and guaranteed a perpetual return on precious state dollars.

Governor Dean's FY03 budget proposed funding the Trust Fund based on the statutorily mandated formula governing the allocation of state property transfer tax receipts. This existing Vermont law dedicates 50% of those tax dollars to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). For FY03 the Governor proposed an estimated \$11.8M for VHCB state grant dollars.

The House Appropriations Committee voted to ignore the statute governing VHCB funding and to reduce the amount by \$2.3m. They propose to authorize \$9.63M for VHCB next year. The Senate passed budget fully funded the VHCB formula as proposed by the Governor.

The FY'03 budget is now in conference committee and they have yet to resolve their differences on the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.

Invitation to Grand Isle Lake House Retreat for Local Preservationists

Each summer, the Preservation Trust of Vermont hosts retreats for community activists who are working on a preservation or community-strengthening project. These retreats are a group mentoring exercise where 2-4 representatives from each community are invited to present a case study about a particular challenge or project, followed by group discussion and brainstorming to solve problems and share ideas, expertise and experience. Cost for room and three meals is \$80/person for a shared room...\$100 for a

single.

Dates for upcoming retreats are:

July 15-16

August 26-27 (Co-held by PTV and Partners for Sacred Spaces)
This retreat is for clergy, congregation members, preservationists and philanthropists who are working to save sacred places.

September 9-10

September 30-October 1

Please contact Ann Cousins for more information: email ann@ptvermont.org or call 434-5014.

Vermont Downtown Conference Scheduled

The Vermont Downtown Conference is scheduled for September 25 in Burlington. Don Rypkema will be the keynote speaker. More information coming soon! Until then, contact Jane Lendway at jlendway@dca.state.vt.us

National Register News

National Register News: The National Park Service has recently listed the following Vermont properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jones Brothers Granite Shed, Barre

Rehabilitation Tax Credit project to reuse the property as a granite museum. This structure is a 290-foot long, wood-framed straight shed built in 1895. The building is an early example of this innovative design which replaced the horseshoe shed with its associated boom and derrick, and took advantage of new technology for moving granite by utilizing interior, overhead cranes. Its linear plan, light timber frame construction, shed roofed wings along the eaves sides, gable roof with ventilating cupolas, numerous paired double hung windows and clerestory windows created broad, well lit interior open spaces which accommodated the new technology. Built during the boom period of Barre's granite industry, the Jones Brothers Company was instrumental in expanding the granite industry in Barre due the fine quality of granite extracted from the quarry it owned, its skilled labor, and its implementation of innovations in granite manufacturing technology.

Gifford Wood State Park, Killington

Part of a group of 21 state parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Vermont in the 1930s as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal Program. The parks' landscaping and rustic architecture are typical of parks constructed by the CCC nationwide and reflect a period of social and conservation reform as well as new tourism and recreation trends. The parks were nominated to the National Register under the nationwide Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks Multiple Documentation Form.

Certified Local Government

The Division for Historic Preservation awards at least 10% of its annual federal appropriation to Vermont's Certified Local Governments (CLGs), municipalities that have partnered with us to identify, protect, and promote their historic resources.

While the size of the yearly CLG grant set aside is not large (\$50-60K), year-to-year it provides a consistent revenue stream to the ten towns in the program. Most towns in the CLG program use their grants to market and promote the benefits of historic preservation locally and to nominate buildings and districts to the National Register, but CLG grants can help underwrite a broad array of local preservation programs and projects. In many instances, communities have used the training, and technical assistance provide by the CLG program to build local capacity and political support to pursue downtown designation and membership in the Vermont Downtown Program.

This year the Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation funded eight CLG grant applications to seven towns.

\$2,000 to Bennington to fund staff and preservation commission training and to conduct a visual analysis of the historic neighborhoods near downtown.

\$12,000 to Burlington to fund staff and preservation commission training and to hire a consultant to analyze and make recommendations on how to improve the City's planning and zoning laws that relate to cultural and historic resources.

\$4,075 to Hartford to list the Christian Street Historic District in the National Register.

\$3,019 to the Mad River Valley to fund a matching grant program that will underwrite condition assessment reports for valley barn owners.

\$4,451 to the Mad River Valley to update the State Register listings for Fayston, Warren, and Waitsfield.

\$6,835 to Rockingham to create a video documenting Bellows Falls economic turnaround and to fund programs that celebrate Rockingham's 250th anniversary.

\$1,335 to Williston to train staff and commission on preservation practice and theory at the National Preservation Conference.

\$2,598 to Windsor to underwrite a conference that highlights the value of Connecticut River Valley architecture and the important role its historic buildings play in linking and revitalizing Connecticut River Valley communities.

Click here <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/clg/index.htm> for more information about benefits of the CLG program or call 828-3047 or email Chris Cochran ccochran@dca.state.vt.us at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Cynthia Wood Mitchell Fund For Historic Interiors Awards Grants in Vermont

Two Vermont buildings have recently received grants from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors.

Shard Villa in Salisbury received \$2,285 for condition report and stabilization plan for dry frescoes. For more information contact Abbot Fenn 388-0321.

The Brattleboro Arts Initiative received \$5,000 for a conservation plan for the Greek mythology motif interior of the Latchis Theater in downtown Brattleboro. For more information contact Deb Hicks 254-1109 or 380-3900.

PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS***Manchester, Northshire Museum & History Center***

A group of eleven towns and historical societies in southern Vermont are collaborating to test the feasibility of developing a regional Northshire Museum & History Center in Manchester. The new center will collectively showcase their individual history and memorabilia and encourage visitors to explore all historical society facilities in the area. The project is headed by Executive Director Sally Mole.

East Burke, Fairbanks Museum Barn Restoration

With help from a VDHP barn grant and PTV Preservation Grant, a 1795 Threshing Barn at Mountain View Creamery is being rehabilitated for use as an agri-tourism interpretive center being through the Fairbanks Museum. The idea is that the interpretation center will orient visitors to agriculture in the Northeast Kingdom, and then direct them to various farms in the region open for visitors. Visitors are welcome to visit the Mountain View Creamery to watch the barn restoration in progress. Contact person is Marilyn Pastore at Mountain View Creamery: innmntview@kingcon.com

Brandon, Town Planning

In early May, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce through Janet Mondlak hosted a town planning exercise facilitated by Jeff Staudinger. The outcome identified several priority interests of participants: complete the Old Town Hall project; get downtown designation; complete Rt. 7 repaving/realignment project through Brandon; start a civic trust; and rehabilitate the Smith Block. On May 20-21, a group of Brandon residents participated in a Grand Isle Lake House Retreat, hosted by the Preservation Trust, to further the discussion about implementing these goals and strengthening Brandon's village center. A primary goal for this summer is to open the Old Town Hall for occasional events. Kellie Patten is heading the Old Town Hall project with support from the Town and local residents. For more information, or to help, Kellie is at kelliepatten@yahoo.com.

Pittsford, McClure Library

Built in 1894-5, this finely detailed polychromatic library combines yellow brick, terra-cotta, brownstone, marble, and red slate roofing. Notable detailing includes stained glass transoms, polygonal reading rooms, a built-in wall safe (the north room was designed and used as the Town Clerk's office until 1910), and an unusual vaulted brick ceiling in the basement -- worth visiting to see! Over the past two years, the community raised \$300,000 for repairs and an ADA compliant entrance addition and elevator. The building is listed on the National Register as part of the Pittsford Green Historic District. The community is starting to raise funds for window,

plaster, masonry and roof repairs.

NATIONAL

Farm Bill and Historic Barn Program Pass

The House and Senate passed the conference report on H.R. 2646 and on May 13 President Bush signed the bill.

Conferees finally agreed to a 10-year farm bill (H.R. 2646) that includes Senator James Jeffords' (I-VT) historic barn legislation. Jeffords' bill will provide \$25 million for the preservation of historic barns and be distributed over five years. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, was also instrumental in getting the barn provisions inserted into the Farm Bill as was Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), who also played a major role in keeping the barn provisions intact through floor consideration and conference negotiations on the bill. Preservation advocates are encouraged to write to Senators Jeffords, Harkin and Daschle and thank them personally for their leadership in shepherding the barn provisions through to final passage.

In addition, efforts are already underway to ask appropriators to begin funding for the historic barn program in fiscal year 2003. Senator Jeffords has been approached to assist with a "Dear Colleague" letter to jump-start the advocacy for barn funding in the Senate.

Main Street Survey Shows Strength in American Communities

In its seventh annual survey of economic trends in America's older Main Street commercial districts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center found that retail sales in America's Main Streets increased after the September 11th terrorist attacks and that, while the rate of new business start-ups appears to have slowed down, older commercial districts continue to experience significant economic growth.

In announcing the findings at the 2002 Main Street Town Meeting, Kennedy Smith, director of the National Trust's Main Street Center, said, "The state of Main Street is strong! While challenges always remain, people and businesses continue to discover and strengthen their historic main street districts. It does not happen overnight, but over the past 22 years, Main Street revitalization efforts have created 227,000 jobs and 56,000 businesses and have saved 89,000 historic buildings all across the country. It shows that preservation pays."

To read more about the survey:

http://www.nthp.org/news/docs/20020408_trendsurvey.html

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Above and Beyond: Visualizing Change in Small Towns and Rural Areas

Co-authored by Burlington residents Julie Campoli and Elizabeth Humstone with aerial photography by Alex Maclean.

How exactly do small towns become suburbs? How do country roads turn into commercial strips? And what can communities do to prevent these changes in the future? *Above and Beyond* uses a host of aerial photographs--many altered through computer simulation to illustrate how landscapes are transformed over time-- ABOVE AND BEYOND argues for a return to traditional development patterns that produce more compact cities and towns.

More information about this beautiful and informative book can be found at:
<http://commerce.planning.org/bookservice/Description.asp?Index=ABYP>

New State Archaeology Website

www.aot.state.vt.us/archaeology/design

Among other things, the new state archaeology website features the Vermont Archeological Society journals which can be bought via a link to the VAS web site, as well as information about the events such as the VAS spring meeting. The Programmatic Agreement and manual can also be downloaded from this site.

Historic Properties Website

<http://www.HistoricProperties.com>

This is a nationwide website that advertises properties built prior to 1950 for sale. All properties owned by nonprofit, state/city/government agencies are listed at no charge.

National E-newsletter

The National Trust Northeast Office has launched a monthly electronic newsletter. If you'd like to be added to their mailing list, please e-mail Tina White (tina_white@nthp.org) with your name, company (if appropriate), street address, and e-mail address.

EVENTS

June 6

Historic Barn Workshop

Old Palmer Barns, East Warren Road, Waitsfield, VT, 6-8 pm.

A guided tour around the recently stabilized Palmer barns. Frank Brown of Shepard Brook Restoration, a distinguished local restoration contractor and timber framer who has worked on a number of historic barns in the Valley, will discuss the barns' structural problems and the reasoning behind the stabilization, repair, and restoration techniques they chose to use. Presented by the Mad River Valley Rural Resource Commission. Call 496-7173 for more information.

June 9-14

Holistic Stewardship of the Historic Site

A Seminar for Historic Site Administrators

Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia

info@npi.org www.npi.org

June 22-23

History Expo in Tunbridge

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2002 is planned for the weekend of June 22-23, from 10am - 5pm, at the Tunbridge World's Fair Grounds. Daily

admission costs are Adults \$7.00 and Children & Students (6-18 yrs.) \$4.00. Children 5 yrs. and under are admitted free. There is a 20% discount for groups of 20 or more. <http://www.state.vt.us/vhs/expo/index.htm>

July 6-7th

220th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Hubbardton

Look here for more information:

<http://www.state.vt.us/dca/housing/HistoricSites/index.htm>

August 10 (Saturday)

Self-guided tours around several of the Mad River Valley's notable barns.

Presented by the Waitsfield Historical Society in conjunction with the Mad River Valley Arts Festival. More information coming soon! Call 496-7173.

OPPORTUNITIES

USDA Rural Development Grants to Assist Economically Distressed Areas

\$19 million in grant funds has been made available nationally to develop essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme high unemployment and severe economic depression. A Notice of Funding Availability appeared in the Federal Register on April 9, 2002.

Grants from the "Economic Impact Initiative" are available to public entities, such as municipalities, counties, and nonprofit corporations. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation.

The amount of grant assistance depends upon the median household income and the population in the community. Pre-applications compete on a national basis. Projects for health care, public safety, ADA accessibility improvements, child care, youth centers and elder care receive priority. In addition, the Northeast Kingdom will receive priority as it has been designated a REAP (Rural Economic Action Partnership) Zone by USDA Rural Development.

Pre-applications for this grant must be received in the Montpelier Rural Development Office by close of business August 16, 2002.

To obtain more information or to apply for a grant, please call Gary Beem or Naomi Hatch at 802-828-6032, 802-223-6365 (tty) or e-mail them at gary.beem@vt.usda.gov or naomi.hatch@vt.usda.gov.

Grants Available through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DoC)

The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, and in which people can find work. EDA is soliciting proposals to determine the role institutions of higher education can play in local and regional economic development and to conduct a demonstration project of faith-based and community organizations in economic development that will help our partners across the nation (states, regions and communities) create

wealth and minimize poverty by promoting a favorable business environment to attract private capital investment and high skill, high wage jobs through world-class capacity building, infrastructure, business assistance, research grants and strategic initiatives. EDA will fulfill this mission by promoting progressive domestic business policies and growth, and by assisting states, communities, and individuals to achieve their highest economic potential.

Proposals for funding under this program will be accepted through June 19, 2002. Read the information at this site for important details related to applying for one of these grants: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-12607-filed

Heritage Conservation Network: International Hands-on Workshops for Architectural and Site Conservation

Heritage Conservation Network is a non-profit organization promoting the conservation of historic architecture and sites. Hands-on preservation workshops are held at sites around the world selected to offer a variety of locations and building types. Workshop participants have the opportunity to work with and learn from experts in the field of heritage conservation, as well as join an international network of people working to conserve historic structures and sites. Workshops are held at a variety of sites in order to offer participants the opportunity to learn to work with a variety of materials such as adobe, horsehair plaster, and masonry.

If you know of any historic structures that could benefit from being the site of an HCN workshop, please contact Judith Broeker, Program Director, jbroeker@heritageconservation.net. If selected for a workshop, HCN will provide a conservator and a team of workers to solve a particular problem, complete a particular element, or reach a new level of completion. For more information about HCN: <http://www.heritageconservation.net/index.htm>

World Monuments Fund Watch List

World Monuments Fund is very interested in receiving nominations to the Watch program from your country. The next deadline is December 1, 2002 for the Watch list of 2004, and the revised nomination forms will be available from the WMF website in June of 2002. Please visit the website to learn about the Watch Program and to download the nomination forms: <http://wmf.org/>
<http://wmf.org/html/programs/participate.html>

Or contact: Norma Barbacci, Director of Programs, World Monuments Fund, 95 Madison Avenue, 9th floor, New York, New York, 10016, U.S.A. tel: 646 424 9582 fax: 646 424 9593, nbarbacci@wmf.org

Call for Transportation Enhancements Project Nominations

The National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC) is writing a new publication showcasing Transportation Enhancements (TE) projects that have served as a catalyst for further development and investment in a community, city, or region. The ideal project will have documented economic (sales, main street redevelopment, tourism) and community benefits (gathering places, physical activity) as well as a clear relationship to surface transportation (trail used for trip making, depots serving as train or bus stations).

Project nominations should include:

- * TE category or categories under which the project was funded;
- * Funding levels (TE portion, local match, and any innovative funding mechanisms that were used, such as donated labor or materials);
- * Economic impacts; and
- * Community impacts.

Please submit documents, quotes from public officials and/or research indicating these impacts), as well as a primary contact for the project. Photos of the project should be available, preferably those that depict before and after shots. Project nominations will be accepted from DOTs, MPO/RPA's and local sponsors via mail, fax, or email to the address listed below.

Please act quickly as project nominations need to be received by Friday, June 28, 2002. For further information, contact: Beth Bacher, NTEC, 1100 17th Street, NW, 10th Fl, Washington, DC 20036 Toll free 1-888-388-6832 Fax 202-466-3742 email: rtcbeth@transact.org

National Trust's Emerging Preservation Leaders Scholarship Program

Just a reminder that applications are available for the National Trust's Emerging Preservation Leaders Scholarship Program, which provides partial financial assistance for preservationists from diverse, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to attend the annual National Preservation Conference 2002, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, October 8-13. The deadline is fast approaching: JUNE 15, 2002.

The conference, themed Cities, Suburbs & Countryside, offers the tools to strengthen the commitment and effectiveness to preserve historic places and revitalize communities. Participants will learn through plenary and educational sessions, field sessions, discussion groups and tours of Cleveland and surrounding areas. First time attendees will be paired with a mentor.

For an application, download a copy online from the National Trust web site at: www.nthpconference.org. For detailed information about the scholarship program, contact the National Trust's Southern Office, (843) 722-8552.

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