



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Continuing Support for Vermont Communities Since 1980

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HISTORIC VERMONT

An On-line News Journal about the Preservation of Vermont's Historic Architecture and Landscape

Number 30 December 2003

Published by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, 104 Church Street,
Burlington, VT 05401

<http://www.ptvermont.org>

For more information about *Historic Vermont*, to subscribe or to unsubscribe to the email version, or to submit something for publication please contact Meg Campbell, Editor. ptv@sover.net. Please submit events AT LEAST SIX WEEKS before the event to ensure listing in the newsletter.

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*This newsletter is made possible in part by a donation from Sovernet,
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VERMONT NEWS

Silent Auction Success

Thanks to all the donors and bidders who participated in the recent Preservation Trust of Vermont Silent Auction. We raised over \$21,000 for the Preservation Trust! -- Meg Campbell

Preservation Trust Receives \$15,000 to Help Save Vermont's Historic Barns

The Preservation Trust of Vermont recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Gannett Foundation and the Burlington Free Press to encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of Vermont's historic barns.

Agriculture has been fundamental to the economic, cultural, and physical character of Vermont since the late 18th century. It has defined and shaped the state in a way no other industry has. Agricultural sites and structures from two centuries of development punctuate the hills and valleys of every county in the state. While substantial resources have been invested in protecting farmland over the past decade, our historic barns remain at risk.

According to estimates, each year we lose in excess of 200 barns due to demolition, collapse, and moving. With the financial issues facing Vermont farmers, maintaining our collection of historic barns is particularly challenging.

These funds will help barn owners take a critical first step -- to develop cost effective, phased plans for maintenance and rehabilitation. Several preservation architects and consultants have agreed to do these plans for a flat fee. Such plans then enable owners to do the specified work themselves and seek support from other sources. Since the early 1990's a variety of donors and the Preservation Trust of Vermont have provided technical assistance grants to assist in the development of these plans. More than 100 historic barns have received assistance through this program. The program not only assists owners with suggestions for immediate, low-cost recommendations for stabilization work, it provides owners with the basic information needed for grant applications to other sources of funding such as the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. This technical assistance program has

helped to stimulate several million dollars in actual rehabilitation work on historic barns located throughout Vermont.

This grant will enable the Preservation Trust to provide grants and technical support that will help save thirty-eight barns over the next two to three years. For more information, please contact the Preservation Trust/National Trust Field Service Representatives Ann Cousins (434-5014) ann@ptvermont.org or Doug Porter (644-2815) doug@ptvermont.org.

American Precision Museum receives \$200,000 Building Restoration Grant

The American Precision Museum of Windsor VT has been awarded a prestigious \$200,000 Save America's Treasures grant to assist in the restoration of the 1846 Robbins and Lawrence Armory, the National Historic Landmark that houses the museum. The grants are highly competitive nationally, and are administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

"The American Precision Museum is housed in a true American treasure in need of saving," said Senator Patrick Leahy, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "This grant will help the museum restore a national landmark that has withstood more than a hundred of Vermont's harsh winters. As more and more machine tool firms pass into history, it is important to preserve this piece of America's history because of its classic mid-Nineteenth Century New England mill architecture and American mechanical ingenuity."

The SAT award will enable the Museum to get started with a major building rehabilitation in 2004, says Executive Director, Ann Lawless. "We are thrilled to have received this award. Our National Historic Landmark building has many critical preservation needs. The roof, masonry and windows all need work."

In 1999 the museum assessed the condition of the building and approximate costs for repairs by engaging Tom Keefe of Keefe and Wesner Architects, Middlebury VT. His report was funded by the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property. The museum staff and board has been working with the Preservation Trust to develop a roadmap for the building. In 2002, members of the staff and board attended a Preservation Trust Industrial Heritage Sites retreat at the Grand Isle Lake House. And in August 2003, Executive Director Ann Lawless attended a similar retreat.

Through the initiative of Doug Porter, Field Services representative, the museum began a partnership with the University of Vermont Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. With Doug's technical assistance, Sarah Vukovich and Rebecca Williams -- two students in Professor Tom Visser's conservation class -- are compiling a detailed survey of the museum's 165 historic windows. The window survey is an essential planning and budgeting tool that will be used in developing project specifications.

According to the Museum's Board Chairman, Clark Griffiths, of Lebanon NH, "This is an important day for the Museum, for Windsor and for the Precision Valley. The SAT grant is a clear recognition of the historical importance of the precision manufacturing industry here. It is also a tribute to the skilled craftspeople whose ingenuity and creativity led to the building of machines that could mass produce identical parts, interchangeable with each other, that came to be known as the 'American System' of precision manufacturing. Many such craftspeople are still living in the region."

The Save America's Treasures grant requires the museum to match the federal funds with cash, other nonfederal grants, and donated professional services and volunteer help. Thus, the total value of the current project will be \$400,000. "A portion of the cash is in hand and the Museum is seeking additional grants and gifts," said Rick Roesch, Museum Vice Chair and co-chair of the Development Committee. "The museum welcomes contributions and donations of services and equipment from the community to help with the implementation of this exciting project. The long term goal is to preserve the contribution precision manufacturing made to the world and increase the flow of educational tourism to the region."

During the restoration, the Museum will remain open to visitors during its regular season which lasts Memorial Day to the end of October. The museum plans to present new exhibits focusing on the building's architecture, important events that occurred here that shaped history, and effects on the lives of people. The American Precision Museum contains the largest collection of historically significant machine tools in the nation. Further information is available on the Museum's web site at www.americanprecision.org.

For more information on Save America's Treasures, visit their website <http://www.saveamericastreasures.org/>

WalMart Supercenter in Bennington?

The town of Bennington recently received inquiries from a development firm outside Albany for a 170,000 square foot supercenter at the site of the former Bijur plant. Recently, the Preservation Trust learned that this may be a proposal for a Walmart Supercenter and an additional developer may also be interested in opening a Sam's Club on Northside Drive.

Both the size of the proposed store and the location could be catastrophic for Bennington's historic downtown and independently-owned businesses. The store is more than three times the size of the existing Walmart -- or nearly twice the size of the Home Depot being built on Northside Drive -- or, even more eye-opening, 56 times the size of Evans' on Main Street and 85 times the size of the Bennington Bookshop! The Bijur site is located adjacent to both a residential area and the community-built park on the outskirts of Bennington, away from the two areas of planned commercial development.

In order for the proposal to go forth, the former industrial site needs to entirely be rezoned from industrial to commercial. Before that can happen, there will be a forum with the selectboard to gather public feedback on this issue -- to be scheduled sometime later this spring. Citizens who live or work in the southwest have an a very real opportunity to let their voice be heard!

On ***Wednesday, January 14th***, the Bennington County Regional Commission will host a public education forum with members of the Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative and other guests. The forum will address the impacts of big box development on Bennington - how will a Wal-Mart or other big box stores affect the community, Bennington's downtown and other businesses in town? The forum will be held from 7 to 9 pm upstairs in the Public Safety Building (above the downtown firehouse). Panelist will include several economists and development experts.

If you would like to receive more information and notice of future meetings related to this issue, please email meg@ptvermont.org.

VT Downtown Development Board Awards Downtown Designation to Morristown

The Vermont Downtown Development Board voted on November 24th to award downtown designation to Morristown under the 1998 Downtown Development Act.

Morristown joins Barre, Bellows Falls, Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Middlebury, Montpelier, Poultney, Randolph, Rutland, St. Johnsbury, Springfield, Vergennes, Windsor and Winooski in the growing network of designated downtowns.

Kevin Dorn, Chair of the Downtown Development Board and Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development recognized Morristown's efforts, saying, "We are really pleased to be able to recognize the energy and commitment of this community. They have worked really hard over the past few years, and they have great plans for enhancing the economy of this beautiful, historic downtown. Their initial efforts are already beginning to show results, and I think we can look forward to some wonderful changes in downtown Morristown."

In order to obtain downtown designation, a community must demonstrate a lasting commitment to revitalization through planning, capital improvements, economic development, and preservation of historic resources. The community must also have an established downtown organization devoted to managing the revitalization effort - from setting work priorities to organizing volunteers and raising the funds necessary to support its work. As a designated downtown, Morristown is now eligible to apply for a variety of programs to assist revitalization projects, including state funds for transportation improvements, and tax credits for the rehabilitation of older and historic buildings and for life safety and accessibility code compliance.

The Downtown Development Board also awarded Village Center Designation to North Bennington, and to Wallingford, East Wallingford, and South Wallingford. With 19 Designated Village Centers now in Vermont, Secretary Dorn noted that "the popularity of this new program continues to grow. Many of our communities are already working to revitalize their village centers, we are happy that through this program we can bring more state assistance to those efforts."

Several other awards were made at the Board's meeting as well. A \$50,000 tax credit was awarded for the installation of sprinklers and an elevator in the St Johnsbury Athenaeum, as part of a larger rehabilitation project of this National Historic Landmark building. Finally, a \$35,500 sales tax reallocation award was made on the building materials used in the new Community National Bank in downtown Barre.

American Association for State & Local History Announces 2003 Awards Program

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) invites submissions to the 2004 Awards Program. Established in 1945, the Annual Awards Program is the most prestigious national recognition program for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state and regional history.

The AASLH Awards Program recognizes exemplary work completed by state or federal historical societies, institutions or agencies; regional, county or local historical societies, institutions or agencies; specialized subject societies in related fields such as oral history, genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, railroad history, etc.; junior historical societies; privately owned museums or foundations; individuals; and organizations outside the field of traditional historical agencies.

Awards are given for general excellence, exhibits, public programming, special projects, media/publications, individual achievement, and preservation or restoration projects. Nominees need not be members of AASLH to qualify.

Nomination forms may be obtained by visiting the AASLH website, www.aaslh.org,

or by contacting the AASLH office by phone, 615.320.3203, or by email:
history@aslh.org.

Nominations are due to state award representatives on March 1, 2004. Completed nominations from Vermont institutions should be sent to: Tracy Martin, c/o The Old Stone House Museum, 28 Old Stone House Road, Brownington, VT 05860-9557. Tracy encourages anyone with questions to contact her at 802.754.2022. Nominations are then reviewed by a national committee in the summer of 2004 with formal presentation of the awards made during the AASLH Annual Meeting, September 29-October 2, 2004 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Vermont Forum on Sprawl's Online Community Planning Course

Want to do your part to prevent sprawl? Register now for this innovative community planning course, which takes place entirely online! The course is for planning or conservation commissioners, architects, developers, government officials and engaged citizens who want to learn about preventing sprawl with smart growth strategies. The course is based on the Vermont Forum on Sprawl award winning publications; the instructor is Faith Ingulsrud, a land use planner now at the Department of Housing & Community Affairs. Topics in this interactive course include community assessment, best site planning, public involvement, smart growth planning and regulations. The course runs from January 15 to April 8, registration is only \$75. For more information, visit www.vtsprawl.org email or call Dylan Voorhees at dvoorhees@vtsprawl.org or 864-6310.

Chester Fire Station Update

Kudos to Don Hinckley and the entire staff of NBC Solid Surfaces in Springfield! For the second year in a row, Don and staff volunteered a day to help the Chester Historical Society clean and make repairs to the old fire station on Route 103. The Chester Historical Society has been working for several years to raise funds to rehabilitate this local landmark. Having this boost of approximately 15 people working all day is very much appreciated by the Historical Society, the Town, and everyone who drives by this fantastic landmark! Thank you from all of us! And watch for further work on this building. The Historical Society, with help from a Preservation Grant, has raised enough to begin repairs next Spring on the roof and towers, exterior woodwork and windows. At the same time, their fundraising continues for the next phase of repairs on the firehouse and the Chester Academy.

National Register News

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

Union Co-operative Store Bakery, Barre

This 1913 building is a 1 ½ story, brick, 3 X 3 bay, gable-front building with a small shed roof canopy across the front façade and a flat roof addition on the left side. The vernacular building has an asphalt roof, concrete foundation, and its only ornament is the wooden brackets that support the front canopy. Much of the interior remains intact including a carbon stained outline on the brick wall of the former L-shaped brick oven. The bakery is located adjacent to the Socialist Labor Hall in Barre, a National Historic Landmark, whose once thriving and expanding co-operative store helped give birth to this building with it's need for a larger bakery space. This free-standing extension of the store was constructed, like the Labor Hall, by Socialist Labor Party members within Barre's Italian community. The bakery continued the Italian community's strong union traditions by being the first bakery in the City to adopt the union label for its foods. The bakery also reflects the evolution of the baking industry

on the local level from small independent operations to larger more commercialized companies as well as the evolution of technologies and cleanliness standards within the industry.

Ira Hill House, Isle La Motte

Located in the center of the village of Isle La Motte is this 2 ½ story gable-roofed, vernacular c. 1822 stone house with large wood and stone ell. The ell was originally a c. 1822 1½ story barn that was converted to the present ell in 1840. It is one of nine buildings constructed by master stonemason James Ritchie on Isle La Motte combining local materials and Scottish building techniques. Constructed of local limestone, it was part of a building and quarrying tradition on the Island that resulted in the widespread exportation of the stone for use in constructing noteworthy buildings and bridges in the US and Canada. The property has functioned as a tavern, dance hall, inn, and cider mill and processing facility (in the ell). Ira Hill, the original owner, was active in state and local politics and commerce. He was a Representative to the Vermont Legislature and a delegate to the Vermont Constitutional Convention.

NATIONAL NEWS

Emily Wadhams Accepts Position as Vice President at the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Emily Wadhams of Burlington, Vermont recently accepted a position as the Vice President for Public Policy at the National Trust in Washington DC.

After a career as a preservation consultant focusing on affordable housing rehabilitation projects and as adjunct professor in the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation program, Emily served as State Historic Preservation Officer for Vermont from 1998 until this year. As SHPO, Emily was instrumental in developing collaborative relationships with state and federal agencies in Vermont and created an alliance with the state transportation agency that has served as a national model. As an Advisor to the National Trust and a member of the National Conference of SHPO's Board of Trustees, she has taken a national leadership role in preservation advocacy issues. She currently is the Vice President of the board of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

"I am delighted to have someone in this position with experience working with the preservation concerns facing state governments and legislatures across the country," says Richard Moe, President of the NTHP. "Emily is a strong preservation professional and a leader in the movement, and I am pleased that she has agreed to join our team at the National Trust."

As our Vice President for Public Policy, Emily will work with the NTHP staff on a variety of issues, including the advocacy elements of the Next Trust Strategic Plan, the housing initiative, Section 4(f) and other preservation legislation at the federal level, and state and local policy.

Watch out Washington, the Vermonters are coming!

Make History by Receiving the First Preserve America Presidential Award

With the January 15, 2004, deadline to apply for the new Preserve America

Presidential Award rapidly approaching, outstanding historic preservation accomplishments have an unprecedented opportunity to receive national recognition at the highest level. President and Mrs. Bush will recognize award recipients at an annual event.

Nomination forms must be received by January 15, 2004, and are available at www.PreserveAmerica.gov or by e-mail request to Paawards@achp.gov. Awards will be announced during National Historic Preservation Week, May 3 through May 9, 2004.

Each year, President and Mrs. Bush will give four Preserve America Presidential Awards – two for projects that advance heritage tourism and two for exemplary privately funded historic preservation projects or programs.

Presidential Awards will honor organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals for:

- Exemplary accomplishments in the sustainable use and preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets;
- Demonstrated commitment to the protection and interpretation of America's cultural or natural heritage assets, and the integration of these assets into contemporary community life; and
- Innovative, creative, and responsible approaches to showcasing historic resources in their communities.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in partnership with the National Park Service, is administering the awards program on behalf of the White House. Complete information and the nomination form can be found at www.PreserveAmerica.gov. Don't miss this opportunity to make history and gain the national recognition your historic preservation project deserves

www.PreserveAmerica.gov

Preservation Leadership Training 2004

This year's Preservation Leadership Training will take place in Astoria, Oregon on June 5-12, 2004. Application Deadline: April 1, 2004

If you know of someone who would make a great candidate for PLT, please send them to the website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org/plt>.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

10 Reasons Why Vermont's Homegrown Economy Matters, And 50 Proven Ways to Revive It

by Stacy Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Published by the Preservation Trust of Vermont

This new 60-page publication is the result of several years of collaboration between the *Institute of Local Self-Reliance* and *The Preservation Trust of Vermont*. Detailed here are

specific reasons why locally owned businesses matter and practical ways to plan for a homegrown economy, foster revitalization and unite independent businesses. Mitchell uses practical examples from successful businesses and vibrant communities all across the states to illustrate the point that everyone benefits from keeping Vermont's economy local. The book is available for \$10 from the Preservation Trust of Vermont (802) 658-6647 or as a free download pdf file from the Preservation Trust website:

http://www.ptvermont.org/publications/HomegrownEconomy/sprawl_book.htm

New! Special Places in Vermont Publication

With your help, the Preservation Trust of Vermont is going to build a collection of Special Places in Vermont. Our goal is to publish a series of short paragraphs written by residents describing the off-beat, the undiscovered, and the historic spots that help to make Vermont a special part of our world.

Initially we will publish the collection on our website, and may in the future publish a book. Contributions can be varied -- from a walk through a village district or former marble quarry, to a meal at a restored hotel or breakfast at an historic diner, to the experience of a service in an 1850 church, or a swim in a pond above an historic crib dam. The possibilities are endless, and the more we all enjoy and appreciate these special places, the more we will all work to maintain them.

We welcome contributions of all kinds. If you have some place you'd like to share, please email meg@ptvermont.org. Please describe the site and tell us why it's important to you. Keep in mind that we would like to include your name and the town where you live in the future publications.

Thanks for being a part of our project!

Vermont Directory of Foundations & New Hampshire Directory of Foundations

The 2004 Editions of both the Vermont Directory of Foundations and the NH Directory of Foundations are now complete and published! Each includes updates on all in-state foundations and many, many out-of-state foundations that have identified Vermont or New Hampshire or both as targets for their grantmaking. Information was obtained directly from the foundations, or from the most recent available tax information and annual reports. To order, send a check for \$45 (Vermont) or \$48 (New Hampshire) or \$85 (both) to : CPG Enterprises, Inc.; PO Box 199; Shaftsbury VT 05262. Sorry, no credit card orders.

GRANTS & FUNDING

Historic Preservation and Barn Grants

This year the legislature appropriated \$150,000 each for the Division's matching grant programs for the restoration of buildings owned by municipalities and non-profit organizations and barns (agricultural buildings).

The grants for agricultural buildings (barns) can be on privately owned buildings. The purpose of the program is to preserve the buildings that help make up Vermont's working landscape. Small agricultural buildings such as corn cribs and milkhouses are also eligible. Projects must be for restoration, have a strong public benefit component, and are usually for serious problems that are likely to cause further deterioration. Applications are due on January 5, 2004.

Applications need to have a good cost estimate for the proposed work and photographs showing the building in its setting and illustrating the problems which need work. To get an application or discuss your project call Eric Gilbertson at 828-3043 or emailing eric.gilbertson@state.vt.us.

OPPORTUNITIES for EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEER WORK

Historic Preservation Coordinator, Rockingham

Municipal position, 12 hours/week. Administers historic preservation grant program. Staff to Rockingham Historical (CLG) Commission. Collaborates with many partners, interacts with public. Challenging work in exciting community. Preference given to education/experience in historic preservation, history, architectural history, or related field. Equal Opportunity Employer. 802-463-3456 or rbdlevel@sover.net or write CLG Search, Town of Rockingham, PO Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Director, Old Stone House Museum, Brownington

The Orleans County Historical Society seeks an enthusiastic individual to lead this vibrant regional organization and to oversee operations at the Society's Old Stone House Museum in Brownington, Vermont.

The Director works closely with the board of trustees on long-range planning, policy development, fundraising and financial management. The Director also provides leadership in the Historical Society's office where a staff of four employs a team approach to the development of exhibits, events and programs and to the coordination of day-to-day activities.

Strong communication, interpersonal and organization skills are required. A Master's degree in American History, Historic Preservation, Museum Studies or a related field and previous experience in museum administration preferred. This is a full-time, year-round position.

To apply, please send a letter, resume and three professional references with phone numbers to:

Orleans County Historical Society
28 Old Stone House Road
Brownington, VT 05860

Information at: www.oldstonehousemuseum.org

For more information about *Historic Vermont*, to subscribe or to unsubscribe to the email version, or to submit something for publication please contact Meg Campbell, Editor. ptv@sover.net

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The Preservation Trust of Vermont | 104 Church Street | Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: 802-658-6647 | Fax: 802-658-0576
email: paul@ptvermont.org