



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Continuing Support for Vermont Communities Since 1980

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HISTORIC VERMONT

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NEWS

Historic Preservation Conference Success!

Approximately 250 people attended this year's historic preservation conference held at the historic Latchis Hotel in Brattleboro, Vermont. This year's gathering focused on Preservation Tools: the Cutting Edge. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offered inspiring opening thoughts in his keynote address. A variety of workshops and area tours filled the rest of the day. Thanks to everyone who helped organize and share their expertise with the state's preservationists.

Richard Moe's Speech: <http://www.ptvermont.org/rmoe501.htm>

Rutland Herald Article story about the conference:

<http://rutlandherald.nybor.com/Archive/Articles/Article/26068>

Burlington Breakwater in Lake Champlain

The US Army Corps of Engineers has just unveiled their new web site on the history and reconstruction of the 150 year old Burlington Breakwater in Lake Champlain. Although focusing on the remarkable Breakwater, the web site provides information on Lake Champlain maritime history and Burlington waterfront history.

Development of a web site was requested by the VT Division for Historic Preservation as one measure to mitigate impacts to the Breakwater resulting from the Corps' proposed reconstruction project.

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/project/vermont/burweb/index.htm>

Preservation Opportunity

The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation will award a \$25,000 research grant to mid-career professionals who have an advanced or professional degree and at least 10 years' experience in preservation or related fields. The grants are intended to support projects of innovative original research or creative design that advance the practice of preservation in the U.S. The deadline is 9/1/2001.

For information on how to apply, please contact: The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation, 61 Jane Street, Apt. 16P, New York, NY 10014, 212-691-3229, fax: 212-691-2435 [mail to: FitchFoundation@aol.com](mailto:FitchFoundation@aol.com)

EVENTS

June 23-24

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2001

A weekend celebration of Vermont's story as told by the keepers of its treasures and traditions. on the grounds of the Tunbridge World's Fair in Central Vermont. 10 am - 5 pm. <http://www.state.vt.us/vhs/expo/>

August 16-18, 2001

BEFORE MARTHA'S VINEYARD: AN HISTORIC TOUR OF PRESIDENTIAL SUMMER WHITE HOUSES IN VERMONT

President Clinton chose Martha's Vineyard; George Bush, Sr. preferred Kennebunkport Maine. While recent presidents have opted for sandy shores and ocean views, many of the country's former presidents looked to the rural wooded areas of Vermont and its neighbors for their summer escape from Washington. Former Presidents Calvin Coolidge, Woodrow Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson enjoyed the mountain air and pristine waters of the Northeast. This summer, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (<http://www.historicvermont.org>), working with Historic Windsor (<http://www.preservationworks.org>) and the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation (<http://www.calvin-coolidge.org>), is offering a chance to tour these impressive properties and learn about the nation's history through an intimate look at the "Presidential Summer White Houses," August 16-18, 2001.

The Presidential Summer White Houses Tour is the first of its kind in the Northeast. In addition to premier accommodations, expert lectures, and historical reenactments, participants will enjoy the same pristine views, scenic beauty, and purifying atmosphere that drew the nation's presidents here hundreds of years ago. For more information about the tour, please contact John Dumville at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation at 802-828-3051 or visit www.historicvermont.org, or jdumville@dca.state.vt.us

September 21, 2001

VERMONT DOWNTOWN PROGRAM CONFERENCE

Third annual conference at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier.

THE PRESERVATION EDUCATION INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS FOR 2001 - 2002

Historic Windsor's Preservation Education Institute has announced its 18th series of preservation skills workshops to be offered between June 2001 and February 2002. The Preservation Institute, since its inception, has trained more than 2500 students, primarily building professionals or knowledgeable laypersons. Through more than 130 workshops they have learned historic restoration techniques and technology, as well as modern alternatives. Call 802-674-6752 (voice/TTY), via email at <mailto:histwininc@valley.net>, or by mail at The Preservation Institute/Historic Windsor, Inc., PO Box 1777 Windsor, VT 05089-0021. The complete course catalog is available at our website: <http://www.preservationworks.org>

June 2-3: Repointing Brick Masonry

June 4-8: Preservation Philosophy for People who Maintain Old Buildings

June 5-6: American Building Design and Technology

July 20-21: Structural Evaluation & Repair: Timber Frame

August 16-18: Presidential Summers Tour

September 17-19: Introduction to Wooden Window Repair

September 20-21: Advanced Window Repair

November 3: Did Mark Twain Really Sleep Here? Learning to Write about Historic Buildings and Gardens
January 25-26: The Business Side of Preservation
February 22-23: Introduction to Decorative Finishes: Graining and Marbling

PEOPLE

Burlington Architect Welcomed into College of Fellows

Burlington Architect and Preservation Trust of Vermont Board Member William H. Truex, Jr., was recently elevated to The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made contributions of national significance to the profession. Congratulations Bill!

Visitors from the UK

The Preservation Trust and Paul Bruhn will host a group of British people in Vermont during the week of June 4th. The group, primarily from Action for Market Towns (<http://www.towns.org.uk/>), an organization involved in regeneration of market towns, hopes to discuss and learn about two contrasting States examples of the Main Street programs, the techniques used in the US to engage their communities in the consultation process, the pros and cons of having an 'economic only' focus to regeneration, meeting with US regeneration agencies, meeting with local communities involved in the regeneration process, meeting with Main Street managers, the focus on the built environment as the reason for regeneration. Their visit will begin in Brattleboro and include stops and discussion with community leaders in Bellows falls, Montpelier, Williston, Burlington and a couple days at the Grand Isle Lake House.

STATE NEWS: PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

Barnet, Ben Thresher's Mill: Coming Together

PTV's Field Representative Steve Libby is continuing to work with Hiram Allen and others to preserve and open to the public Ben Thresher's Mill in Barnet. Likely the last water-powered woodworking mill in Vermont, it has been slowly sliding into disrepair. The last operator, Ben Thresher, owned and operated this small, wood crib dam/turbine powered operation to build wooden agricultural implements and wooden water tubs. Estimated restoration costs of the building and dam are upwards of \$800,000. With the help of a committed group of local people and the Fairbanks Museum, a non-profit organization is being set up to own and develop the property. While other issues are being worked out with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Hiram Allen is currently cleaning out the mill with the technical support of an archeological intern.

Middlebury, Town Hall Theater Commences Work

Interior demolition of unsympathetic alterations has begun on Middlebury's Town Hall Theatre. Future home to the Middlebury Community Players, the Town Hall Theater will open this summer for performances though the renovations will be far from complete. Under the guidance of Douglas Anderson, the executive director of Town Hall Theater Inc., funds totaling \$3.8 million will be raised to restore this 325-seat theater.

Randolph, Railroad Coal Sheds: Do they have a future?

Located along the tracks in Depot Square, these coal sheds are owned by Sheldon

and Elinor Gray on land leased from the railroad. There may be only two other coal sheds in VT (Brandon and Rutland). The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is made up of two coal silos and a large building. The Randolph Selectboard wants the buildings torn down because they are a fire hazard. PTV and others have been working to assess the significance of the coal sheds and explore the feasibility of adaptive use. The town is very sympathetic to a preservation future and observed that as long as there is a preservation interest and effort in the works and if the Shed could be secured from illegal entry (and potentially combustive activity) then the Town of Randolph would not seek demolition of the building.

Roxbury, Roxbury Union Congregational Church: Damaged Steeple, Little Money, Concerned Congregation

Last year the Roxbury Union Congregational Church was damaged by the remnants of a September hurricane. The steeple appeared to have wracked the framing and allowed moisture penetration. This damage caused the church elders to notice other potential structural issues including wall cracks in the vestry. A local engineering firm was hired to address these concerns and recommended an extensive replacement of the existing stone foundation and the installation of transverse I-beams to carry the code required floor loads. The Church began the process of demolition of the foundation but halted the work with concerns that the proposed solution was inappropriate for the historic integrity of the building. For over a year, PTV has been working with the church, Bob Neeld of Engineering Ventures and others to reach a more sympathetic fix to the church's structural problems that stays within the limited budget. A recent \$25,000 grant from the Preservation Trust has more than doubled their initial budget.

Shoreham, Historic Village District: Growing With Historic Preservation

A number of historic buildings surrounding the Shoreham Village Green are in transition. The library needs an addition, the Masonic Temple will soon be on the auction block, the historic Newton Academy is in need of extensive restoration, and the town clerk's office building is bursting at the seams. Steve Libby of the Preservation Trust, Val Demong of the Shoreham Selectboard, and Liz Fitzsimmons have been discussing strategies for a prudent restoration and re-use plan for the entire village area. A \$2500 Cerf Planning Grant has been awarded to help with the development of site plan options and prioritization strategy for multiple building restorations.

Swanton, Beacon Feed Towers Issue

The debate centered around the Pease Grain Tower in Burlington -- laid to rest with the dismantling of the tower last summer -- has been reincarnated with the Beacon Feed Towers located along the Missisquoi River in Swanton. Town official, local historians, area residents and others are debating the fate of these two defunct towers which speak to the agricultural past of the area.

NATIONAL

Did you know...

that the National Trust for Historic Preservation maintains a list of current historic preservation news on their website? It's worth checking out!

<http://www.nationaltrust.org/main/frontline/frontlinemain.htm>

Jim Jeffords

Check out Vermont's Independent senator's thoughts about historic preservation.

<http://jeffords.senate.gov/historicprez.html>

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