



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Continuing Support for Vermont Communities Since 19

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HISTORIC VERMONT

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VERMONT

A Sense of Place: Vermont's 8th annual Historic Preservation Conference **May 10, Rutland, VT**

Visit historic downtown Rutland for a full day of workshops and tours with a focus on *A Sense of Place: Stronger Downtowns, Better Communities*. >From a basic introduction to the field of preservation to fundraising, from railroads to archaeology, workshops are designed to offer something for everyone. Tom Slayton, Editor of *Vermont Life* magazine and Stacy Mitchell of the Institute of Local Self-Reliance, will start the day with a plenary session in the newly restored Paramount Theatre. Join us!

To view more information about the conference including the conference presenters, visit the web site: <http://www.ptvermont.org/conf02.htm>

For more information about how to register, please contact Lisa Ryan, the Conference Coordinator, (802) 652-0077 conference@ptvermont.org.

Grants Awarded

The Preservation Trust, in partnership with the Freeman Foundation, has awarded the following grants:

Gilbert Hart Library and Wallingford Town Hall: \$45,000

The Gilbert Hart Library, located in the center of the Wallingford Village National Register Historic District, was built in 1894, a gift from Wallingford native, Gilbert Hart. The Neoclassical Revival building, with its columned entrance and terra cotta ornamentation, is considered one of the finest examples of this architectural style in the state. Over the past three years, the Library Trustees have quietly raised \$225,000 of \$434,000 needed to build an addition that will provide handicap access, additional stacks and reading room, heating and facilities upgrades.

Like the library, the 1906 Wallingford Town Hall was built through the philanthropy of prominent residents. Located one block up School Street from the library, the Neoclassical Revival style building sits on a raised foundation and features a corner clock tower. Several years ago, because the building is not handicap accessible, there was a push to move municipal offices out of the Town Hall and into a shopping center at the north end of town. In an effort to continue use of the Town Hall, local architect Ralph Nimtz, donated his time to design and help fundraise for accessibility improvements. The Town has raised approximately \$115,000 of \$140,000 needed to install a lift to the Town offices and 300-seat auditorium on the second floor. Once the lift is installed the auditorium can again be used for meetings, plays and movies.

South Londonderry Baptist Church: \$35,000

This vernacular Federal style church was built in 1833-4 using bricks produced in a brickyard that opened that year across the river from the village. A Gothic Revival style entry porch and vestibule was added later. There are 60-70 active members who have been working to raise \$60,000 for needed repairs by hosting church dinners (8 last year brought in \$9,000), and by mailing an annual appeal letter for specific repairs. Through these efforts, they have been able to repair the steeple and slate roof, replace flashing, paint the church, and address drainage issues. This grant will allow them to finish the remaining phases of work identified in their preservation plan: repoint the masonry, conserve windows, replace a pressure treated ramp on the south side, and repair/repaint interior areas damaged by moisture.

Lower Waterford Congregational Church: \$15,000.

Lower Waterford, a National, Register Historic District, is a quintessential Connecticut River valley village that centers around a well-maintained white clapboard church, built in 1859. Through a condition assessment, partially funded by the Preservation Trust, the church recently learned there are significant structural flaws in the roof trusses. The small congregation of 25 reached out to the community and impressively raised \$30,000 toward the repairs. The grant will allow them to complete repairs and paint the exterior of the building.

Pierson Building, Shelburne: \$35,000

The Shelburne Craft School has a campus of four buildings on Harbor Road, plus it is leasing from the Town the prominent Pierson Building as a community visual arts center. The school offers year-round art classes for adults and children. The Pierson Building, the

focus of this request, has a prominent portico front added in 1911 when the building was converted to a library. It needs masonry repairs, repointing and painting, a new roof, sash repair, and repair of a rotted roof balustrade.

Affordable Housing, West Brattleboro: \$35,000

The Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust is proposing to rehabilitate three historic houses in West Brattleboro's newly-listed Village Green Historic District in order to provide affordable rental housing for thirteen low and moderate income households. The vernacular buildings, located on a triangular green, were built between 1830 and 1860. The properties have not been maintained and represent a significant blight in the neighborhood. Total cost of the project, including acquisition and rehabilitation, is estimated to be \$1,750,000. The grant will secure all funding and repair slate roofing on all buildings, restore a small front porch on 925 Western Ave., replace deteriorated clapboard siding and exterior trim on all buildings, and restore and repair the front doors of 925 and 929 Western Ave. The Land Trust hopes to begin construction in late April, 2002.

Moretown Library: \$12,000

The Moretown Library and Historical Society are located in a Town-owned Greek Revival style house in the village. The Town provides a small amount each year toward utilities and operations. The Historical Society and Library Trustees have been fundraising, primarily through book sales and community dinners, and have raised approximately \$5,000 toward approximately \$25,000 needed for repairs. The grant will allow them to address high priority repairs to the exterior woodwork, paint the exterior, begin window conservation, and repair plaster that has failed upstairs.

Vermont Granite Museum, Barre: \$45,000

Since 1994, a volunteer Board and a handful of paid staff have been working on the monumental task of establishing a granite museum in Barre. They have made remarkable progress, and are planning to open the Stone Arts School, Blacksmith Shop, and interpretive exhibits in the summer of 2002. The group has raised over \$6.5 million of the \$7.5 goal for this phase of work. (More exhibit space and interactive exhibits are planned for the next phase which is estimated to cost an additional \$5 million.) The grant will go toward the restoration of the original Jones Brothers Granite Shed.

The Haskell Opera House, Derby Line: \$40,000

This National Historic Landmark straddles the U.S.-Canadian border in Derby Line and Stanstead, Quebec. It was donated to the towns in 1901 by Mrs. Carlos Haskell and her son, Col. Stewart Haskell. The building features a magnificent second floor opera house, which is a one-third scale replica of the original Boston Opera House. They recently completed a multi-year capital campaign, which allowed them to build an egress tower, sprinkle the building, add bathrooms and replace the slate roof (the Freeman Foundation and the Preservation Trust made a \$50,000 grant to that effort in 1995.) They are now fundraising to complete restoration of the gilded opera house. A grant of \$40,000 will allow them to complete repairs to the plaster cherub and scroll-work relief and restore the murals, including the gold-leaf detail, at the proscenium and balcony. Other fundraising and grants will enable them to restore the entire interior of the Opera House.

Sign up now for....***Retreats for Community Preservation Projects at the Grand Isle Lake House***

These retreats are geared for volunteers working on projects in their communities, from restoring a building to raising funds, to community planning projects to strengthening downtowns and village centers. The workshops start at 3 end the following day after lunch about 2 pm. 2-4 people from each project should plan to attend and present a 15-minute case study from a their project. The case study should frame a problem that once solved would catapult the project along its timeline. Cost is \$80 per person, double occupancy. \$105 per single. Includes meals.

There are six retreats being scheduled for May through September. Please contact Ann Cousins for dates, more information, or to sign up: email ann@ptvermont.org or call 434-5014.

University of Vermont and Preservation Trust of Vermont Collaborate on Historic Preservation Research Trip to Cuba

Historic preservation has become a key strategy for the revitalization and sustainable development of distressed urban neighborhoods and rural areas in Cuba. This was the finding of a group of historic preservation graduate students and faculty from the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program and professional preservationists with the Preservation Trust of Vermont who recently collaborated on a week-long research trip in Cuba.

Follow the link below to read an article written by Prof. Thomas Visser, Historic Preservation Program, University of Vermont, about historic preservation in Havana; ecological, urban and regional planning; sustainable rural development, and scientific research and eco-tourism at the biosphere reserve. <http://www.uvm.edu/histpres/cuba/index.html>

Downtown Bill Update

H. 208, A Bill Supporting Development in Downtowns, Villages and New Town Centers is moving in the legislature H.208 passed the House and is likely to be voted out of the Senate General Affairs Committee today. The Preservation Trust of Vermont has been working to support this legislation for several years. The bill would:

- 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 center general stores and privately owned post office 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 in the House Calendar at:

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

Housing and Conservation Trust Fund

House voted to Reduce Funding for the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund by \$2.25M and the issue is not pending before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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 voted to ignore the statute governing VHCB funding and to reduce the amount by \$2.25M. They propose to authorize \$9.63M for VHCB next year. The bill is available at:
<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2002/bills/intro/H-766.htm> (see sections 303 and 268)

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition is hoping the Senate will restore the cuts when they pass their version of the FY'03 budget.

National Register News

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

Ricker Pond State Park in Groton, Stillwater State Park in Groton, Elmore State Park in Elmore, Allis State Park in Brookfield, Coolidge State Park in Plymouth, and Wilgus State Park in Weathersfield

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.

Preservation Burlington Annual Homes Tour

Preservation Burlington is pleased to announce that the 2002 Homes Tour

will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2002 from 12-4 pm. Tickets for the event will be available at the Flynn Center box office from April 15th to May 1st for \$20. After May 2nd, the tickets will be available until June 1st for \$25. Tickets are only available at the Flynn Theater and they cannot be purchased at the homes.

Included on this year's tour are seven houses from various periods of Burlington's history. There is a c. 1884 Queen Anne style located on South Union Street and just down the street, a 1898 Shingle Style home; a wonderfully renovated condominium on Lakeview Terrace; a majestic Shingle style home on Spruce Street; a beautiful rooftop condominium at 40 College Street; a 1930s Freeman French Freeman designed home on Overlake Park; and Burlington's own landmark, the Follett House. Refreshments will be held at the Follett House from 2-4:30.

We encourage everyone to buy your tickets early as last year's event was a near sell-out. The tours are self-guided and interior photography is not permitted. The Preservation Burlington Homes Tour is major fundraising event in which the proceeds will go towards developing additional programs. For more information about the Homes Tour or Preservation Burlington, please contact Brian Knight at 802-238-2918 or brian@preservationburlington.org.

For more information about Preservation Burlington, please visit: <http://www.preservationburlington.org/>

Vermont Downtown Program

At its March 25 meeting, the Downtown Board renewed designation status for the first 2 downtowns whose 3-year designation period was due for renewal, by statute. Both Bennington and Brattleboro have demonstrated their continued compliance with the requirements for designation. The local leadership, community partnerships, and dedicated staff and funding in these communities have produced some remarkable business, building and public improvements in these communities in the past few years.

The Board also awarded \$75,000 in Downtown Transportation Funds to Montpelier to continue streetlight and sidewalk replacements on State Street. Montpelier also received a \$5,000 Reallocation of Sales Tax on Construction Materials for 7 School St., a commercial building rehabilitation by the New England Culinary Institute for classrooms and offices. The reallocation will be used to replace streetlights on School St. in the vicinity of the building.

Athenaeum Announces 2002 Awards

On Saturday, May 11, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum will host a gala celebration to honor writer Reeve Lindbergh and philanthropist Houghton Freeman, recipients of the 2002 Athenaeum Awards.

The Athenaeum Awards are presented annually honoring Vermonters for their lifelong dedication and distinguished achievements in the arts and humanities. Library Director Lisa von Kann explains, "the awards are meant to pay tribute to Athenaeum founder and businessman Horace Fairbanks, who recognized the importance of literature, art, and architecture. His generosity and vision strengthened this rural community."

The Awards presentation on May 11, will be held at St. Andrews Church on Main Street in St. Johnsbury at 7:30 p.m. Following the ceremony, a festive

champagne reception will take place in the library reading rooms of the Athenaeum. Tickets and additional information are available at the Athenaeum (802) 748-8291.

NATIONAL

Conferees Continue Farm Bill Debate: Barn Bill Inclusion Uncertain

This week, after returning from recess, the House and Senate Farm Bill conferees resumed work on a conference report of H.R. 2646, the Farm Security Act of 2001. After days of debate, conferees remain at an impasse on key issues of the bill. The Barn Preservation Program, which is included in the Senate version of the bill, has not received attention of the conferees as they focus on the larger, more controversial aspects of the legislation. Preservationists should continue to seek support for inclusion of the Barn Preservation Program in the final report from members of the conference committee. Conferees are hoping to complete the conference report by the end of next week.

Prepared by Preservation Action, Tel: 202/659-0915 Fax: 202/659-0189.
mail@preservationaction.org, www.preservationaction.org

Support H.R. 3132 and Stop Bigger Trucks and Urban Sprawl

BACKGROUND

The National Trust for Historic Preservation joined the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks last year as part of an effort to keep Federal limitations on truck size and weight. This coalition consists of highway safety advocates, the American Automobile Association, as well as law enforcement and public health groups. The coalition was formed in response to major trucking and shipping companies that have made lobbying for longer and heavier trucks a top priority during the reauthorization of TEA-21. Historic preservationists are opposed to the trucking industry's drive for bigger, heavier trucks because that effort does little to promote safe and efficient movement of goods and people. Historic preservationists are in this fight because the drive for bigger, heavier trucks is spawned by sprawl and America's dependence on roads and motor vehicles for the movement of goods and people. This dependency clogs highways, damages streets and bridges, and contributes to blight in America's urban centers and small towns. The NHS is a 156,000-mile system of highways of greatest national importance, including the 44,000 miles of the Interstate System. Non-Interstate NHS routes often travel right through the centers of small towns, which often bear the burden of a tremendous amount of truck traffic. The states currently set truck size and weight limits on the non-Interstate portions of these roads; consequently, they are particularly susceptible to the lobbying influence of major trucking and shipping companies within their borders. As a result, the weight limits on the non-Interstate portions of the NHS are often higher than on Interstate highways. In addition, weights on Interstate highways are ratcheted up because states often take advantage of loopholes in the law that allow trucks to operate above the federal Interstate weight limit.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 1999 Status Report on the Nation's Surface Transportation System, \$1.13 trillion dollars will be needed over the next 20 years simply to maintain our current road conditions. We can ill afford heavier trucks that will further tear up our roads and bridges. One five-axle truck traveling at the federal Interstate weight limit of 80,000 pounds does as much damage as 9,600 cars, but one

five-axle truck traveling at 100,000 pounds, which some states routinely allow, does as much damage as 27,000 cars. Heavier trucks also erode the margin of error on bridges. What's more, heavier trucks fail to pay (through fuel taxes) for the relative road damage they cause. For instance, the 80,000-pound truck mentioned in the example above only pays 80% of its costs; the 100,000-pound truck pays only 40% of its costs in road damage.

ACTION NEEDED:

Urgent action is needed by preservationists to take a stand against bigger trucks. Ask your Members of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 3132, the "Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act of 2001." The bill extends the federal Interstate weight limits to the entire National Highway System and closes loopholes in current law which allow bigger trucks. If your Representative is not the current list of cosponsors below, please write and ask for co-sponsorship of this very important piece of legislation.

Send your letters to:

The Honorable (your member's name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

OR, visit the National Trust's congressional advocacy center at <http://capwiz.com/nthp/home/> to send your Representative a personalized e-mail letter.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

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

May 2

Historic Barn Workshop

Gaylord Farm Barns, 2587 Main Street, Waitsfield. 6-8 p.m.

A guided tour through the Gaylord barns that will highlight common maintenance, deterioration, and rehabilitation problems and solutions. Featuring Charley Parker of Traditional Building Trades, a devoted to the preservationist of Vermont's historic structures whose preservation projects range from stabilization to complete restoration. Hadley Gaylord, Jr., the farm's proprietor, will be on hand as well. Presented by the Mad River Valley Rural Resource Commission. Call 496-7173 for more information.

May 10

"A Sense of Place: Vermont's 8th Annual Historic Preservation Conference"

[Click here for more information](#)

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

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***Barre Partnership Executive Director***

Seeking Executive Director of downtown, community-based organization. Approximately 20 hours/week for coordinating downtown revitalization activities which includes managing daily operations and working with Board of Directors, committees and volunteers. Must have strong communication skills, be a strong advocate for Barre's downtown, be a self-starter and organized. Please send resume and letter of interest by May 6, 2002 to Al Flory, President, Barre Partnership, P.O. Box 1032, Barre, VT 05641.

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>

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 National Trust encourages culturally diverse community activists and college students to apply for scholarships. It would be great if you would help spread the word about this scholarship opportunity to others, especially those that might not consider themselves "preservationists" but are doing it anyway or could benefit from the exposure to the larger preservation community. Encourage your housing nonprofits, community development corporations, community-based religious organizations and others to apply.

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.

Summer Internships

The Northeast Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation is now accepting applications for two summer internships, one in Boston and one in Philadelphia. Interns will gain a general understanding of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Northeast Office, and the programmatic services offered by the Trust. These are paid, full and part time positions open to preservation graduate and undergraduate students. For more information, contact nero@nthp.org.

Facility and Program Manager sought for The Latchis Center

The Latchis is a multifaceted organization which includes a hotel, cinema, commercial rental spaces, as well as arts venues, and is owned by the Brattleboro Arts Initiative (a 501(c)(3) corporation). Varied responsibilities include management of staff, finances, and events. Unique opportunity for candidate with management experience and keen arts interest. Forward salary requirements and resume PT Search Committee, Brattleboro Arts Initiative, PO Box 249, Brattleboro, VT 05302, or bai@sover.net. For more information, visit www.latchis.org.

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