

## **PTV Highlights: 2001**

Vermont has a rich collection of historic properties, and the combination of historic communities and the countryside make the state a very special place. Included are individual buildings like the Old Round Church in Richmond, The Flynn Theatre in Burlington, and the buildings at Shelburne Farms. There are also historic districts, which include small village centers, neighborhoods, downtown areas, and industrial sites. Examples include the Village of North Bennington, Park Street in Brandon, downtown Montpelier, and the marble works of West Rutland. Each of these historic resources adds to our economic and community health.

With generous support from a great many individuals, businesses, and foundations; the Preservation Trust has provided technical assistance and direct financial support to hundreds of community preservation initiatives. The Preservation Trust has also been at the forefront of the battle against sprawl in Vermont, and in promoting downtown vitality. The Trust has provided major financial support and technical assistance to local citizens groups battling sprawl. At the same time, the Trust has worked closely with Wal-Mart to develop smaller scale stores located in downtown districts.

Many of the Trust's other activities and projects are designed to stimulate a broader understanding of the importance and value of our historic architectural resources. The Preservation Trust is a statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### **Here are some of the things we helped communities accomplish in 2001:**

#### **Preservation Grants**

With funding from the Freeman Foundation, the Preservation Trust provided over \$1,000,000 in grants to 32 preservation projects dotted across Vermont. Libraries, art spaces, museums, educational facilities, community meeting places, affordable housing, and churches all benefited.

#### **Field Service Program**

In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation our Field Reps provided technical assistance and encouragement to over 150 local groups and communities during the year. Fifty-nine different organizations received project development grants from the Robert Sincerbeaux Fund...seed money to help communities and

organizations take the next critical step in saving and using their historic places.

### **Downtown Initiatives**

Each year we dedicate significant energy to help communities through challenging times. One example is the work we did this year in Brattleboro with a variety of local organizations, the Windham Foundation, and the Vermont Land Trust to help strengthen their community center. The former Retreat Farm on the edge of the city has been saved and is now owned and cared for by the Windham Foundation. We're now working with the Brattleboro Arts Initiative to acquire the Latchis Theater and Hotel complex...it is the community's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire a performing arts facility. Both efforts have a lot to do with the future vitality of Brattleboro.

### **Village Stores**

In partnership with the Vermont Country Store, we started a new initiative designed to help support existing village stores, and to help communities start up new stores where none existed. These stores have much to do with the vitality of small communities, and we think this program will help storekeepers and communities alike.

### **Better Post Offices**

The local Post Office can play a critical role in the vitality of community centers. In partnership with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, we published a handbook for local officials and residents on how to encourage the Postal Service to develop better designed post offices in our community centers. Check out "Local Official's Guide to Developing Better Community Post Offices."

### **Grand Isle Lake House**

Part of why we decided to take on the Grand Isle Lake House project was that we hoped we could use this great venue for nonprofit training and education. In fact, our Board members hoped it would be our version of a nonprofit "dacha"- a place for renewal and re-energizing people active in the nonprofit sector. It works! Over 50 nonprofits benefited from time spent at the Lake House this year. Maybe the best example is our own use of the Lake House. We bring together people who represent several preservation projects to share their experiences. They mentor each other, and see that they are part of the process of building better communities and helping to protect the character of Vermont.

## **Award Winners**

This year, the Equinox Hotel and Resort helped us recognize eight organizations and communities who achieved great success, often in enormously challenging circumstances. The recipients exemplify the hard work that is going on in every corner of Vermont.

## **2001 Preservation Grants: Partnership of the Freeman Foundation and Preservation Trust**

Berkshire Town Hall  
Bethel-Lympus Church, Bethel  
First Congregational Church, Brookfield  
Old West Church, Calais  
Thorp Barn, Charlotte  
Congregational Church, Danby  
Dover Historical Society Museum  
St. John's Church, East Poultney  
Hartland Four Corners Universalist Church  
Cambridge Historical Society, Jeffersonville  
Halifax Community Club  
G.R.A.C.E., Hardwick  
Barstow Memorial School, Killington/Chittenden  
Old Town Theater, Middlebury  
Tenney Memorial Library, Newbury  
Goodrich Library & Colonial Bldg., Newport  
Historical Society, Peacham  
Manwell-Baker Block, Plainfield  
Peabody Library, Post Mills  
Sweat-Comings Complex, Richford  
Royalton Historical Society & Congregational Church  
Union Congregational Church, Roxbury  
Fern Hill Cottage, Rutland  
Shard Villa, Salisbury  
Dean Hale Block, St. Johnsbury  
Stowe Community Church  
United Methodist Church, Vergennes  
Railroad Depot, Waterbury  
Vermont Carving Studio, West Rutland  
Engine 494 Pavilion, White River Junction

## **2001 Grants by the Preservation Trust's Robert Sincerbeaux Fund**

Masonic Lodge/Old Town Hall, Alburg  
Barnard Village School, Barnard  
Ben Threshers Mill, Barnet

First Universalist Church, Barre  
Memorial Building Theater, Barton  
Masonic Lodge, Bennington  
Berkshire town Hall, Berkshire  
Stephen Douglas House, Brandon  
Holton House, Brattleboro  
Fire House, Burlington  
Captain White House, Burlington  
Burlington Intervale Assoc.  
Howard Chapel, Burlington  
Old Brick Church, Clarendon  
East Barnard Church  
East Braintree Church  
Fair Haven Library  
Fairfield Common School  
Caspian Area School, Greensboro  
Hardwick Historical Society, Train Depot  
Isle LaMotte United Methodist Church  
Ludlow Baptist Church  
Ludlow United Church  
Lyndon Historical Society: Shores Museum, District 6 Schoolhouse,  
Town House  
Burr & Burton Headmaster House, Manchester  
Jacob Davis house, Montpelier  
Moretown Library  
Morgan United Churches  
Park McCullough House, North Bennington  
North Pomfret Congregational Church  
Peru New Town Green, Bromley House Site  
Peru Cheese Factory  
Randolph Center Schoolhouse  
Randolph Center Congregational Church  
Wheeler Block, Richford  
Pierce House, Rochester  
State Fairgrounds, Rutland  
Knight Opera House, South Royalton  
Community Cafe Assoc. Inc., South Strafford  
Dean Hale Block, St. Johnsbury  
First Baptist Church, Starksboro  
Free Will Baptist Church, Sutton  
Vergennes Congregational Church  
Waterbury Center Community Church  
Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Waterville Town Hall

West Fairlee Congregational Church  
Rutland West Neighborhood Housing, W. Rutland  
Vermont Carving Studio, W. Rutland  
Williamstown Historical Society  
Memorial Hall Center for the Arts, Wilmington  
Coley Block & Pettes Journal Blocks, Windsor  
Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance, Theater Curtains Project

**2001 Preservation Awards Recipients**

Barre Historical Society  
East Braintree Congregational Church  
Housing Vermont for the Exner Block, Bellows Falls  
Duncan & Meg Keir and the Huntington Selectboard  
Lamoille Housing Partnership  
Paramount Theater, Rutland  
City of St. Albans  
Vermont Youth Orchestra