



**Preservation Trust of Vermont:
Where We Worked in 2011**

-  **Field Service Projects**
 -  **Robert Sincerbeaux Fund Grants**
 -  **Barn Assessment Grants**
 -  **Historic Places Revolving Fund**
 -  **Flood Relief Work**
 -  **Village Revitalization Grants in Partnership with Senator Patrick Leahy**
 -  **Downtown and Village Center Work**
 -  **Big Box Activity**
 -  **Community Supported Enterprises**
 -  **Easement Program**
 -  **Tree Planting Grants, in partnership with Bruce Lisman**
- Numbers within symbols represent number of projects.*



Preservation Trust of Vermont
 104 Church Street
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THE PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT

Who We Are

The Preservation Trust of Vermont is a statewide non-profit organization founded in 1980 whose mission is to help communities save and use historic places. Much of our focus is on strengthening downtowns, village centers, local initiatives and capacity.

What We Do

- Support local preservation efforts through our **Field Service Program** (236 projects in 2011)
- Provide project development or technical assistance grants through the **Robert Sincerbeaux Fund** (51 in 2011)
- Provide conditions assessment grants through the **Barn Assessment Grant Program** (8 in 2011)
- Provide support for at-risk properties through our **Historic Places Revolving Fund** (5 in 2011)
- Provide technical support, engineering and assessment grants through our **Flood Relief Work** (surveying 30 downtowns and providing information and resources to people for over 700 damaged properties in 2011)
- Provide major grants for preservation-related projects as funds are available (continued work on five **Village Revitalization Grants** in 2011)
- Work with partners around the state to pass legislation and be an advocate to strengthen Vermont's **Downtowns and Village Centers** (21 communities in 2011)
- Work with communities to encourage the proper scale and location of **Big Box** development (12 in 2011)
- Encourage and help develop **Community Supported Enterprises** in Vermont (5 in 2011)
- Steward historically significant properties through our **Historic Preservation Easement Program** (79 in 2011)
- Provide **Tree Planting Grants** for downtown and village center enhancement (15 in 2011)
- Host two-day preservation retreats from May through October at the Grand Isle Lake House
- Offer specialized training throughout the state as needed
- Co-host an annual historic preservation conference
- Own and steward two historic properties, the Grand Isle Lake House and Pierce's Store in Shrewsbury, VT
- Recognize great preservation successes through our biennial awards program
- Offer preservation resources and guidance on our website www.ptvermont.org
- Distribute a free electronic newsletter

Staff

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Preservation Trust of Vermont Highlights from 2011

Founded in 1980, the Preservation Trust of Vermont is a nonprofit organization that works with local groups to help save and use historic places. Through a variety of programs and services, Preservation Trust builds local capacity and stronger communities, bringing new life to old buildings.

In 2011, the Preservation Trust assisted hundreds of local groups. The enclosed map of where we worked tallies over **425 community projects** ranging from helping a farmer in Charleston with a barn condition assessment to helping Putney residents rebuild their downtown general store.

A special emphasis of the Preservation Trust's work is on **downtowns and village centers**. Healthy downtowns are a critical part of the essential character of Vermont. In 2011, we worked with 21 organizations working to help keep their downtowns and village centers vibrant. Fifteen Designated Downtowns and Village Centers received tree-planting grants through the **Community Forestry Project**.

At the same time, we supported the work of 12 local organizations in their opposition to out-of-scale, commercial, sprawl development. The **Big Box** symbols on the map illustrate where these battles are taking place. Unfortunately, one of these initiatives, the 18-year battle to stop construction of a 147,000 square foot Wal-Mart in St. Albans, was defeated in an August 4th Vermont Supreme Court decision. What is particularly unfortunate is that there is a feasible alternative to locate an 80,000 square foot department store in downtown St. Albans. This solution would have supported local merchants and the local economy while providing access to affordable goods.

We believe that downtowns and village centers thrive when there is a lively mix of civic, commercial, cultural and community gathering places. One current threat is the **proposed closure of some Vermont post offices**. The Vermont congressional delegates have been working hard on this issue and thankfully there is now a moratorium on closures until May 15, 2012, giving Congress an opportunity to study cost-saving alternatives. The Preservation Trust will continue to work on this issue and share information about what communities can do to try to save their post offices.

Since 2005, the Preservation Trust has partnered with **Senator Patrick Leahy** on an initiative to provide grant support to key village-scaled gathering places. On November 10th, the **Village Revitalization Initiative** drew national recognition as it was awarded the **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's top award: the Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation**. This tremendous honor recognizes the community and economic benefits of the program. During the first six years, the Village Revitalization Initiative, with funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, provided grants to 27 Vermont projects with a federal investment of \$2,435,000 that helped to leverage more than \$27 million in total project costs and create permanent jobs.

In June 2011, the Preservation Trust of Vermont established the **Historic Places Revolving Fund** with a grant from the 1772 Foundation. **Emily Wadhams** has been contracted by the Preservation Trust to run the program. The goal of the fund is to acquire options on properties that are threatened in one way or another and then to find new owners and new economic uses for them that will respect the historic nature of the properties. Whether it is a very early Vermont building that has survived for generations or a more recent, yet historically significant structure, these buildings tell Vermont's story through their architecture and what we know of the lives of people who inhabited them. The Revolving Fund is an exciting tool that will help save endangered historic buildings!

The Preservation Trust of Vermont holds historic preservation easements on over 90 properties around the state of Vermont. **Meg Campbell** runs the **Easement Program** and in 2011 provided stewardship visits to the 87 buildings, 2 archaeological sites, and 2 structures. The Preservation Trust solely holds a number of the easements, but the majority of them are co-held with the **Vermont Housing and Conservation Board**.

The Preservation Trust's **Field Service Program** was established in 1997 and remains an important part of our day-to-day work. In 2011, **Ann Cousins, Eric Gilbertson, Meg Campbell and Paul Bruhn** provided on-site assistance to 236 different community projects across the state. The Field Service staff sometimes recommends a **Robert Sincerbeaux Fund Grant** when more detailed or specialized technical assistance is needed. Sixty grants were awarded last year for condition and engineering assessments, fundraising consultation, organizational development, and energy assessments—anything that helps to move a project along its timeline.

Paul Bruhn has served as Executive Director since the Preservation Trust's founding. His passion for Vermont has forged new responses to challenges including the concept of local investing to support critical community enterprises. In 2011, Paul and staff worked with five new **Community Supported Enterprises**. Paul also spent time working on public policy related to historic preservation, downtowns, and the local economy. At the Statehouse this year, he lobbied for an increase in Designated Downtown and Village Center tax credits and the continued support for historic preservation, housing, conservation and community development programs and grants.

While the staff spends much of their time working in the field, **Elise Seraus** runs the office and provides critical administrative support. **Bill Polk** is the financial officer for the Preservation Trust.

As 2011 comes to an end, our thoughts remain with the many individuals who suffered as a result of **Tropical Storm Irene**.

Immediately after the flood, PTV staff fanned out into communities to assess damage and provide cleanup information and contacts for help. The Preservation Trust received an outpouring of donations from individuals and charitable foundations that we put to good use to hire architects and engineers to assess flood-damaged historic buildings at no cost to owners. Preservation Staff and volunteers surveyed 700 downtown and village center buildings that were damaged. We continue to help rebuild with grants for nonprofit- and municipally-owned buildings, community gathering places and covered bridges. As we work in flood-stricken communities, we carry a message of compassion that accompanied each and every donation we received.

We remain grateful for the generosity that enables us to help.

For more information about the programs and services of the Preservation Trust of Vermont or to sign up for our electronic newsletter, please visit www.ptvermont.org.