Preservation-in-Progress

Rutland and Bennington Counties

Vermont's historic built environment helps define who we are. It connects us to the past and positions us for the future. We thought you would enjoy learning about some interesting projects in progress right now in southwest Vermont. Friends like you supported 264 preservation projects in 152 communities this past year. **Your donation today is vitally important to continue our work. Thank you for considering a gift!**

Preservation Trust of Vermont

Pittsford Village Farm

Located on 22 scenic acres in the heart of Pittsford, the Village Farm includes a large Italianate-style farmhouse and a former dairy barn. The property offers community gardens, trails, and outdoor recreation spaces. A 2023 Bruhn Grant will support the rehabilitation of the farmhouse, focusing on the restoration of the historic windows, reconstruction of the porches, and repairs to the exterior envelope. When complete, the project will meet area needs for childcare and housing as well as provide space for a community center and a café.

Wallingford Block

A resident of Wallingford for nearly 20 years, Michelle Kenny purchased the important Wallingford Block in 2017. Since then she has made structural improvements, restored the windows and exterior trim and clapboards, rehabilitated the commercial spaces, and installed sprinklers throughout the building. Now, in the final phase of the rehabilitation, Kenny will renovate the third floor into a community center. A 2024 Bruhn Grant is supporting that work and is one of two Bruhn Grants recently awarded to privately-owned commercial buildings located in Designated Village Centers.

Benson General Store

In 2019, the 157-year-old Benson General Store, located in the heart of the village, caught fire and burned. Since then, a committed group of residents have taken active steps to bring it back. PTV is working with the newly formed Benson Community Trust to explore the options to rebuild the store in the village, including serving as the group's fiscal sponsor, providing technical assistance, and connecting the group to funding opportunities.

White Rocks Barn, Wallingford

On Route 7 in Wallingford is one of the most architecturally detailed barns in Vermont. Known locally as the White Rocks Barn, this large barn complex features an ornately decorated projecting hay mow, hipped roof cupolas, and a wood-paneled horse tack room. A barn assessment grant is helping the new owners to plan for the future.

Brandon United Methodist Church

An important anchor in the Brandon Village Historic District, the c. 1876 Brandon United Methodist Church was designed by locally-famous architect Clinton Smith in the lively Romanesque Revival style. The interior includes not only the sanctuary but also the Brandon Food Shelf and a thrift store. Faced with a shrinking congregation the church is working hard to attract new members and the broader community but faces challenges with repairs and maintenance of the large structure. Grants from the Paul A. Bruhn Fund and the Robert Sincerbeaux Fund are supporting a thorough conditions assessment by an architect and engineer to give the church an accurate picture of what will be required to steward the building.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bennington

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bennington is a striking example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. Stone arches and buttressed towers are on full display. PTV is providing technical assistance to the church leadership as they manage ongoing maintenance and strive to make the space accessible to its community. Last month, St. Peter's hosted a Sacred Places preservation retreat.

PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT

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All donations will be put right to work. Thank you for your support!

"It's important to keep small towns alive and functioning and meeting the needs of the people of the area. It's a big challenge. If organizations like PTV don't do that, we worry that no one will."

Kathy & Richard White, PTV supporters

SCAN TO READ ABOUT MORE

"Preservation-in-Progress" HAPPENING THROUGHOUT VERMONT