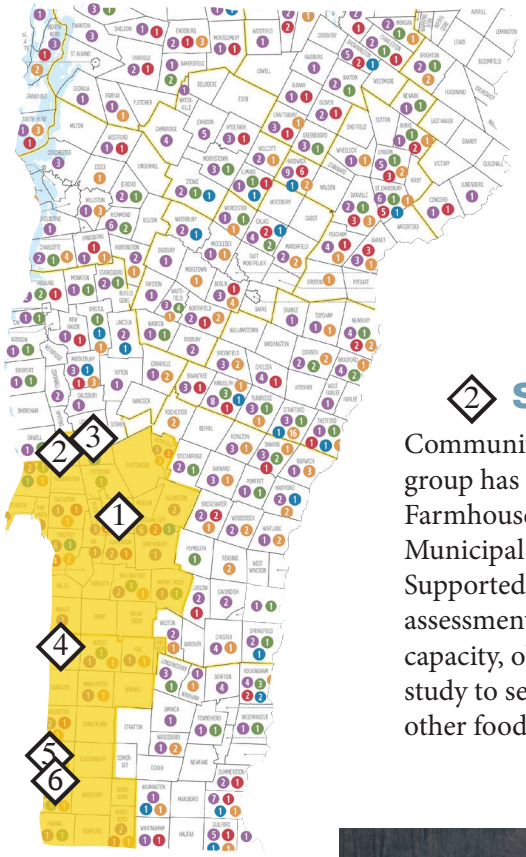
Preservation-in-Progress

Rutland and Bennington Counties SPRING 2025

Preservation Trust of Vermont

Preservation isn't about pickling the past, it's about preserving a future where neighbors and friends can come together in the places that have served them for generations. We thought you would enjoy learning about some interesting projects in progress right now in southwest Vermont. Friends like you supported 362 preservation projects in 155 communities this past year.

Your donation today is vitally important to continue our work. Thank you for considering a gift!



1 Chaffee Art Center, Rutland

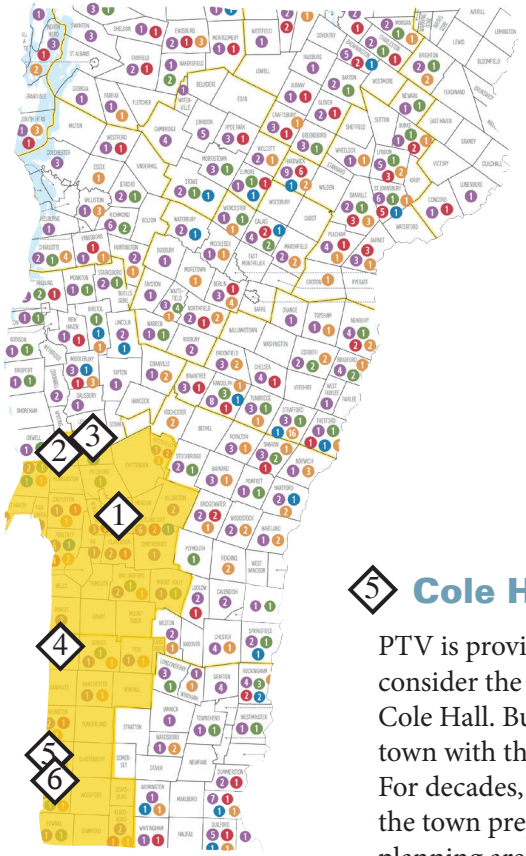
The Chaffee House, a well-designed example of late 19th century residential architecture, is home to The Chaffee Art Center. This treasured space serves as a venue for classes, camps, free exhibits, and community events. The building's three historic chimneys are in urgent need of repair. A 1772 Foundation grant is currently funding the masonry restoration work needed to repair one of the chimneys.

2 SudHub Cook Farm Project, Sudbury

Community led projects take heart, soul, and tenacity. The SudHub group has used all three to advance their work on the Cook Farmhouse project. With a Robert Sincerbeaux Fund grant, a Municipal Technical Assistance Program grant, and a Community Supported Enterprise grant, the group now has a conditions assessment of the c. 1820 building, tested the water and wastewater capacity, obtained an appraisal, and is starting a business feasibility study to see if the building could host a community café, eatery, or other food-related business.

3 Des Marais/Dean Brothers Barn, Brandon

With its distinctive polychromatic slate roof, the former Dean Brothers Dairy barn, c. 1840-1947, may be one of the longest historic barns in Vermont. A Barn Assessment Grant supported a condition assessment, which laid out steps for stabilizing and preserving the nearly 300' long barn. PTV will continue to work with the owners on strategies for preserving this one-of-a-kind building.



4 Harrington House, Rupert

The vacant Harrington House is next door to the Sheldon General Store's Café and Community Center — a thriving community space that offers classes, gatherings, socials, and Saturday coffee hour that brings this small community together. The Rupert Village Trust, which owns both buildings, is now investigating if the Harrington House could become a work/live option and help them attract a future store program manager. A Municipal Technical Assistance Program award has supported the generation of as-built drawings of the Harrington House so RVT can plan to transition the building into two housing units.

5 Cole Hall, Shaftsbury

PTV is providing technical assistance to the Town of Shaftsbury as they consider the future of the architecturally and historically significant Cole Hall. Built in 1836, this stone masonry church was donated to the town with the understanding that it would be for perpetual public use. For decades, the town office found its home in the church, but now, as the town prepares to move its offices to a new location, early phases of planning are underway for the future of this iconic building. PTV will continue to provide support through this transition.

6 Congregational Church, North Bennington

With the North Bennington Congregational Church proactively seeking an appropriate future use for its historic brick church, PTV is providing technical assistance to a group of non-profits who are exploring the possibility of taking ownership. While these are early days in the planning process, PTV feels strongly that the thoughtful and open approach to the adaptive resue of former churches is critical work, and we are pleased to be a partner in this effort.

Scan to read more "Preservation-in-Progress" happening throughout Vermont

Thank you for your support!

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