



# Historic Preservation Program

# Newsletter



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### **UVM Historic Preservation Program Newsletter Contributors:**

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## **Fall Tour to Harrisville, New Hampshire**

**By Marcella Hain**



On October 15, 2021, second-year Historic Preservation students Gabi, Nick, Connor, Marissa and Marcella joined Professor Bob McCullough on their delayed HP200 History of American Architecture field trip that included two Vermont sites – the Rockingham Meeting House and the Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District – as well as the villages of Walpole and Harrisville in New Hampshire.

After meeting at 8:00 A.M. at the Montpelier Park and Ride, the group departed for the 1787 Rockingham Meeting House. One of Vermont’s few National Historic Landmarks, the Rockingham building is a rare example of an eighteenth-century New England meetinghouse of the “second period” type, remarkably intact inside and out. The presence of an adjoining cemetery and burial vault, the small village of Rockingham, and the Parker Hill Rural Historic District not

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## Greetings from Wheeler House!

Our Historic Preservation Program continues to pursue initiatives on several fronts during this transitional period, as one era in the program's history draws to a close and another begins.

On one front, we have signed a programmatic agreement with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, a document that outlines several mutually beneficial undertakings, including plans to expand UVM's educational programming to include the Vermont state-owned historic sites as classrooms, providing hands-on experience for our students but also increasing public awareness and use of those historic sites. In addition, those sites will provide unparalleled opportunities to apply best practices for the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation rather than the rehabilitation standards typically applied in regulatory contexts. Toward that end, the program hopes to identify workshop space, either on campus or at one of the historic sites, to provide opportunities for instruction.

On another front, we are exploring curricular changes essential to convert the program to administration by a single faculty appointment. Two new courses have been approved by the Faculty Senate: HP100, Introduction to Historic Preservation, and HP 308, Management of Historic Site Museums. HP100 will be offered in the spring of 2023, to be taught by Professor Thomas Visser, with the hope of encouraging undergraduate students to enroll in our Accelerated Masters Program, which is already in place. HP308 is

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## The Graduating Class of 2021

**This has been a historic year in the Historic Preservation Program. From mask mandates to fully online learning and back into the classroom, this class has seen it all. Hats off to the graduates as they continue on their journeys!**

*Graduating second-year students Marissa Gibbs, Gabrielle Perlman, Marcella Hain, and Connor Plumley (left to right), stand in front of the 1787 Rockingham Meetinghouse, on their way to Harrisville, N.H. during the fall of 2021. The program's annual pilgrimage to Rockingham, Bellows Falls, Walpole, and Harrisville resumed after a short Covid-forced hiatus. Second-year student Dominick Agresta was unable to join the group due to work obligations.*

### **Dominick Agresta**

Dominick grew up in Barnegat, New Jersey where he fostered an appreciation for history. He graduated from Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont in 2016 with a Bachelor's Degree in social science concentrating in global studies and an Associate Degree in business administration. He then moved to Burlington, Vermont to work as a copywriter at Dealer.com. He spent Spring 2021 as a teaching assistant for Architectural Conservation I, and the Summer of 2021 interning with Preservation Burlington. He found historic preservation at UVM while learning more about the history of the Burlington area and graduated from the program in December 2021.

### **Marcella Hain**

Marcella has spent much of her life dragging family and friends to local history events and historic sites, and she has now furthered her passion by completing a Master of Science Degree in historic preservation at the University of Vermont. Marcella was born in California and grew up in New Paltz, New York in the beautiful and historic Hudson River Valley. She is a graduate of SUNY Albany, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Connecticut. Having obtained degrees in chemistry, English, and library science, Marcella hopes her academic background will be useful to the field of historic preservation. After attending classes at UVM for two semesters via from her home in New Jersey via MSTeams, Marcella completed her coursework in person during the fall of 2021, vagabonding her way via many Airbnbs in the Burlington area. When not perusing the National Park Service's Preservation Briefs, from one to fifty, or staring at the landscape looking for "layers of history," Marcella has enjoyed sampling the many fine micro-brews found in Vermont. Future plans include settling in New Hampshire and finding ways to encourage the locals with preservation projects.

### **Gabrielle Perlman**

Gabrielle grew up in the middle of suburban Long Island, New York and spent her time exploring historic Northeast coastal cities before attending Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she earned a degree in anthropology. Not being entirely sure what to do afterwards, she then taught English in Sapporo, Japan for three years. While in Japan, she spent nearly every vacation exploring and documenting abandoned historic sites with her trusty Ricoh GR camera, ultimately discovering the field of historic preservation. Upon her return to the States in 2019, she interned at Camp Santanoni, a historic Great Camp in the Adirondacks, where she discovered her love for historic window restoration. This past summer she interned at Thousand Island Park, NY, where she was able to work with the local preservation review board and contributed to the revised design review guidelines and National Register survey update. Gabrielle hopes to work within the regulatory side of historic preservation following graduation, ideally on the Federal level.





## Connor Plumley

Connor grew up in Marietta, Georgia and has always had a strong interest in history. This interest led him to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in anthropology from Kennesaw State University, where he participated in an archaeological field school that included the excavation of a prehistoric site related to the Etowah Mounds site in Cartersville, Georgia. The excavation also sought to identify evidence of slave cabins and a Civil War field hospital on the grounds of an adjacent plantation. After graduating he pursued a career in archaeology which saw him work on cultural resource surveys in thirteen states ranging as far south as the Florida Keys, as far west as Utah, and as far north as Vermont. The countless hours spent interacting with historic and prehistoric resources in the field only served to increase his love for history and his desire to see historic structures preserved before they become a part of the archaeological record.

## First Year Class



**Erin Briggs**

Erin Briggs (right) grew up in southern Wisconsin visiting local historical homes, churches, and cemeteries. She found a love for historic preservation on a school trip to Washington D.C., where she researched preservation studies and spoke to professionals in that field. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a Bachelor's Degree in applied social science and concentrations in history and political science. To pursue her passion for historic preservation she selected the University of Vermont's historic preservation program. For the future she hopes to work at the National Trust for Historic Preservation or the Smithsonian Institute. Erin enjoys learning about history and finding ways to protect remnants of that history in our built and cultural environments. In her free time, she likes reading, drawing and watching National Treasure.

**Emily Baker**

Emily Baker (left) is a recent Alumni of the University of New Hampshire where she received a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. She is currently a first-year graduate student at the University of Vermont where she is studying Historic Preservation. She hopes to use the skill she has acquired to help bring about a more diverse and inclusive age of Historic Preservation.





### Julia Brown

Hi, I'm Julia Brown! I'm from all over the place, but I moved here to Vermont from southeast Florida. Back in May of this year, I graduated from Flagler College with a Bachelor's Degree in art history. Alongside the creative arts, I've always had a deep love of history and old things, but I got started down the historic preservation path back in 2018 when I began working at my college's archives.

During my three years in the archives, I did a great number of quiet tasks: things like scanning, organizing, cleaning, writing, posting to Instagram, and of course, digitizing. It would be a lie to say that I found each of these activities thrilling on a day-to-day scale, but I can say that I found deep satisfaction in nearly every part of my work in the archives. I think it is that quiet contemplation that I valued the most. The opportunity to sit and ponder archival material, whether photographs, postcards, or

even documents that may not have been looked at in years, is something truly fulfilling and one that some may never get to experience. Yet the most wonderful part of working in archives is that we get to save these materials so that they might live on in this way, by carrying their significance of a past time into the future. Archival work makes it possible for future generations to experience these materials in their own profound ways. Like most historians, I dream about the past and love learning all the strange details of the people who came before me. I swoon over early 1900s dresses and love antique shopping. But above that, I decided to pursue a masters in historic preservation because I want to keep these quiet moments alive as long as possible. I want to be a part of safeguarding the past and its materials, and I even want to learn all the practical tricks and rules that come with keeping these items. The idea of helping link the past to the future is indeed something truly thrilling, and I'm so excited to be learning with and from people with this same desire here at UVM.

### Robin Fordham

Robin Fordham received her Bachelor's Degree in American history, with a focus on women's social history, from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Having worked for years as a bookkeeper and administrative assistant, she began to explore the world of historic preservation five years ago, which ultimately led her to the UVM Historic Preservation program. She currently sits on the Amherst Historical Commission in her hometown in Massachusetts, where she returns most weekends. Her on-and-off hobbies include skiing, knitting, baking, and beginner fiddle. Most of all she enjoys spending time with her two grown but not quite flown children, mushroom hunting with her Finnish mom, and daily walk-and-talks with her sister.





### Noah Sandweiss



Noah Sandweiss is in his first year at the University of Vermont's Master of Science Degree program in historic preservation. He has a Master Noof Arts Degree from the University of Leicester (UK) in museum studies and has worked for the past six years in museums and the field of historic preservation. In 2014 he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in history and archaeology from Indiana University, where he took particular interest in issues of historic preservation and heritage. While at the University of Leicester he authored a dissertation on environmental education and activism in community-managed landscape museums.

Prior to exploring museum work he held internships in historic preservation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the City of Bloomington Indiana's Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, and Indiana University. In the summer of 2019, he took an internship at York Castle Museum where he conducted research on graffiti left by prisoners at the site and helped care for the museum's diverse collections. Upon returning to America, he began work in Indiana University's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Noah has always been interested in old buildings and their histories and has seen preservation as a force that can encourage sustainable growth in communities. He applied to UVM's program out of an enduring interest in preservation and the program's history of leadership in the field. Whether he finds himself in a museum or doing regulatory work, he hopes to use his experience to promote an accessible and socially engaged approach to preservation.



### Cheyenne Stokes

Cheyenne Stokes grew up in Houston, Texas and is an alumna of University of Houston and Lone Star College. Throughout her childhood, she held a love for New England, particularly Lake Champlain and the surrounding mountains. Cheyenne loves the smell of old books, exploring museums, and learning new things, no matter the topic. Her love of the German language spurred her love of history and encouraged her to pursue historic preservation. In her free time Cheyenne enjoys cooking, baking, and watching documentaries.

**Fall Tour** (continued from page one)

far in the distance, all contribute to the site's appeal. Rehabilitation work was underway when the group arrived, resulting in a cheerful chat about topics as diverse as proper caulking and the Boston Red Sox. The group also explored Rockingham village and several late eighteenth-century houses that reflected settlement patterns in the Connecticut River valley.

The next stop was Bellows Falls, which is enjoying a renaissance after being placed on the National Register in 1980, an important step that spurred the rehabilitation of several important buildings. The group toured the downtown district and nearby railroad station, and then walked by the Period Revival United States Post Office, built in 1930 with a mixture of Spanish and Georgian references, the Exner Block with beautifully restored stamped-metal exterior sheathing ((pictured below), a post WWII gas station, and the 1930s Vilas Bridge across the Connecticut River, one of the region's few open-spandrel, reinforced-concrete-arch bridges. The status of that bridge remains a contentious topic between the two states, and demolition by neglect seems to be the route this bridge is taking. The group also crossed the old Bellows Falls canal and studied the masonry railroad tunnel that extends beneath the downtown district and continues to serve Amtrak's Vermonter. The travelers then retreated to Walpole's elegant Town Common for lunch, enjoying sandwiches in the shelter of a bandstand.

Next stop: Harrisville NH. Harrisville is a well-maintained mid-19th century mill village that is also a National Historic Landmark. Erin Hammerstedt, a 2002 graduate of UVM's Historic Preservation Program and currently Executive Director of Historic Harrisville, provided an informative tour of the village and several of its mill buildings.



*Exner Block on Canal Street in Bellows Falls, Vermont. Constructed c. 1850 as tenement housing for workers employed by the city's paper industry, the original building stood two-and-one-half stories with a gable roof. Between 1905 and 1907, workers added a third story and clad the entire building in polychrome, rock-faced pressed tin in varying patterns. By the 1990s, the building had deteriorated, but with financial assistance from several parties including Housing Vermont, the Rockingham Area Community Land Trust rehabilitated the building for commercial space and affordable housing, helping to revitalize the downtown historic district, which the students visited on their fall tour.*

*St. John's Episcopal Church, Walpole, NH. Mauran, Russell and Garden Architects. 1902-1903. Adjacent to the Walpole Town Common*



En route, the group's reading materials included the Rockingham Meeting House National Historic Landmark Nomination, the Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District National Register Nomination, a chapter from John Borden Armstrong's book *Factory under the Elms: A History of Harrisville, New Hampshire, 1774-1969*, and the "Declaration of Historic Preservation Covenants" for the 1971 agreement between Historic Harrisville and the former owners of the community, Cheshire Mills. The chapter from Armstrong's book, "The Mills of Harrisville, 1799-1861" describes the beginning of the woolen industry in Harrisville and its processes through the early construction of the first mill by Bethuel Harris and his son Cyrus in 1823. This detailed history of the mill in its heyday illustrates the difficult and time-consuming measures taken to produce cloth in the 18th and 19th centuries due to labor intensive procedures. Mill owners often faced ruin as operating the mills was dependent on raw material speculation, market fluctuations for the finished product, the dynamics of competition from other mills and mill owners, plus worker and housing shortages. The death of Cyrus Harris from tuberculosis led to the annexation of the mills by the "Cheshire Mills" group in the mid-19th century. The tired travelers returned to Wheeler House by 7:30 PM.

### **Greetings From Wheeler House** (continued from page 2)

an outgrowth of the programmatic agreement with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and we plan to offer that course as soon as all curricular changes are in place. We also hope to build interdisciplinary education with other university programs including the Department of Engineering, the newly-created Department of Geography and Geosciences, and the Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources.

In a related initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the university's department of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE), we will retain a consultant to develop curricular models that combine residential, on-campus instruction with long-distance or low-residency learning in ways that maximize the strengths offered by UVMHPP and its preservation partners, including the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation; the Preservation Trust of Vermont; the Preservation Education Institute; and the National Park Service; all in the Vermont context.

### **Fall Tour** (continued from page 7)

That organization traces its origins to the 1960s, when a group called the Friends of Harrisville sought to preserve the village by continuing to use the mills for commercial and industrial purposes. Rather than turning to tourism as a source of revenue, the group hoped to maintain the tradition of a community where mill owners and workers lived and worked together. The friends group formed the non-profit organization, Historic Harrisville, which continues to own and manage many of the buildings in the village and holds protective easements on some of those buildings. The community also has adopted a local historic district ordinance.



## Greetings From Wheeler House (continued from page 8)

The recommendations will be used to develop a curriculum that responds to the current and future goals of historic preservation education in America and establishes a pathway to the program's long-term future. The study will consider broad trends in the field of historic preservation and its subset of preservation education, including increasing focus on diversity, inclusion, social justice, ecological sustainability, and energy efficiency, as well as more traditional subjects that are essential components of education for professionals in our field. The goal will be to craft educational models that take full advantage of available technology but also consider the educational limits of that technology in the field of historic preservation, a discipline that relies heavily on field study or workshop settings.

On a separate but parallel tack, we are exploring educational models elsewhere in the country that combine dual degrees in fields related to historic preservation such as public history or museum studies, thus developing a foundation for diversified instruction during an era of economic shifts in education. In turn, that diversification may also benefit assessments regarding sectors of the discipline, whether non-profit organizations, cultural resource management, private consulting, or other areas that offer the greatest potential for steady or increasing employment during the coming years for students embarking on careers in historic preservation.

Concern for the welfare and educational success of our students will remain paramount, and we are exploring ways to rectify another challenge that has emerged in recent years at UVM, namely the paucity of adequate housing for our graduate students. That problem has directly affected our enrollments and has led to withdrawal from our program by several outstanding students. Discussions are underway regarding a suitable Preservation House in Burlington or nearby communities to be used exclusively by our graduate students. Depending on the outcome of those discussions, we may also be able to combine housing with the type of workshop space desirable for the courses to be offered in collaboration with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

Finally, and of greatest importance, we have reached an understanding with the university that carefully defines the program's goals, and we will have a letter from Dean William Falls of the College of Arts and Sciences outlining that understanding and setting forth the program's future benchmarks in terms of enrollments and faculty. With that letter in hand, we can at long last begin the fundraising campaign that will assure the program's long-term future.

With best wishes for Vermont's  
preservation community,  
Robert L. McCullough  
Director



*Tracy Martin (UVMHP 2008), Vermont State Historic Sites Section Chief, and Jamie Duggan (UVMHP 2008) and Director of Preservation at the historic sites, meet with our graduating class, (left to right): Connor Plumley, Marissa Gibbs, Gabrielle Perlman, and Marcella Hain at the Justin Morrill Homestead in Strafford, one of Vermont's National Historic Landmarks.*

## Student Projects

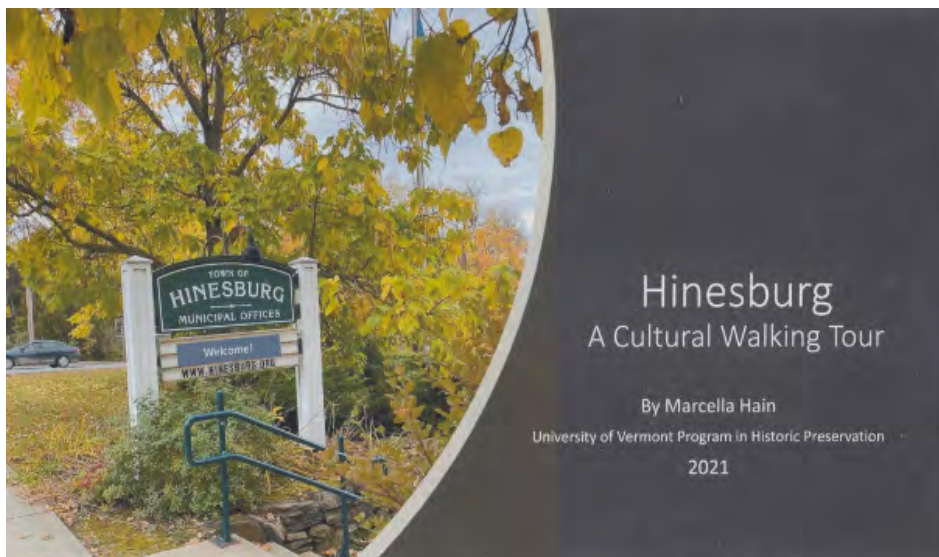


*Marissa Gibbs prepared a historic building report for Moscow Mill in the village of Moscow, an excellent example of an early 19th century Vermont sawmill. Built in 1822 by Alexander Seaver, who also constructed the first dam on the Waterbury River, the mill rests on a fieldstone foundation with two stone arches in the south elevation, and another stone arch in the west elevation. Marissa worked with the Stowe Electric Department and the Stowe Historical Society to develop plans to restore the building for interpretive exhibits.*

*Gabrielle Perlman, Dominick Agresta and Connor Plumley worked with the City of Burlington's Department of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront to draft a National Register nomination for Redstone Cottage, built in 1912 for Dr. Walter Berry, owner of the Lake View Sanitarium, and designed by Burlington architect Frank Lyman Austin. Connor found original plans for the building, the interior of which is very well preserved, and the city plans to begin rehabilitation in the near future.*

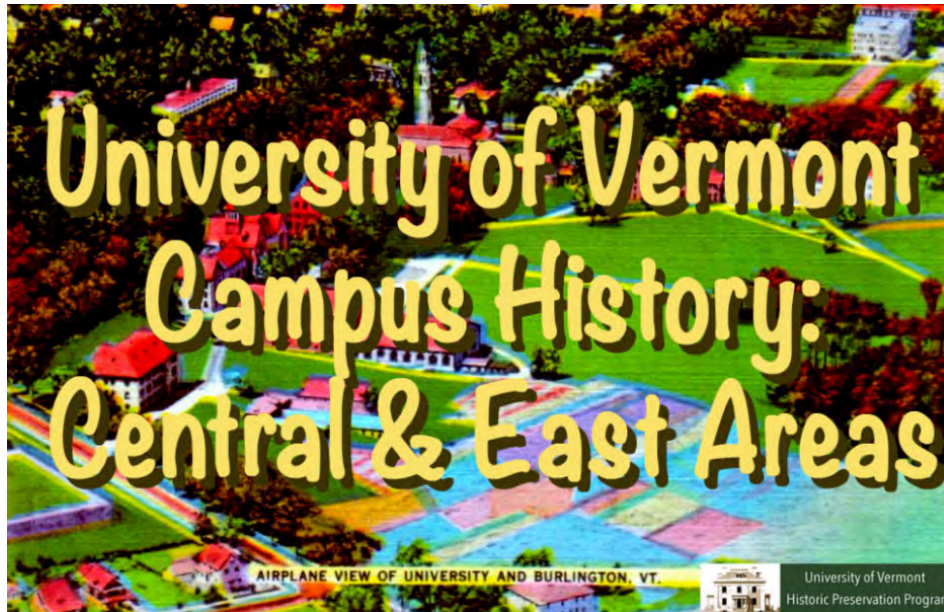


*Marcella Hain prepared this Cultural Walking Tour for the village of Hinesburg, documenting the community's historic homes as well as the many different tree species that also contribute to the quality of the historic district. The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Council sponsored the project, intended to foster collaboration among advocates for both cultural and natural resource protection in Vermont. Students in the program have prepared similar tours for Stowe, Shelburne, and Rutland.*





## Student Projects (continued from page 10)



UVM historic preservation and history students Emily Baker, Erin Briggs, Julia Brown, Robin Fordham, Noah Sandweiss, Cheyenne Stokes, and Brooke Talbott conducted research to discover more about the heritage of the University of Vermont's central campus in the HP 206: Researching Historic Structures and Sites course taught by Professor Thomas Visser. For this Fall 2021 semester project, their major research sources included UVM Silver Special Collections Library, University Archives, and photographs curated by the UVM Landscape Change Program, as well as maps, yearbooks, newspapers and postcards, combined with on-line and on-site field research, interviews, and observations. The findings are published in the UVM Campus History: Central & East Areas web site at [www.uvm.edu/~hp206/2021/](http://www.uvm.edu/~hp206/2021/). This project continues the series of public service HP 206 Researching Historic Structures and Sites class projects completed over the past two decades, most of which are accessible online at [www.uvm.edu/~hp206/](http://www.uvm.edu/~hp206/).

## Alumnus Spotlight Eliot Lothrop



Soon after graduating in 2002, Eliot Lothrop formed his own business, **Building Heritage** in Huntington, Vermont, and began restoring historic barns and other timber-framed structures in New England. He is active in the Timber Framers' Guild, and also a member of the Timberframers Research and Advisory Group. In 2018 he organized the design and framing of a shelter to commemorate a member of his crew, Scott Killian, who died that summer. The gathering took place in Strafford, Vermont, and in this image, Eliot demonstrates a hand-powered Miller's Falls boring machine.



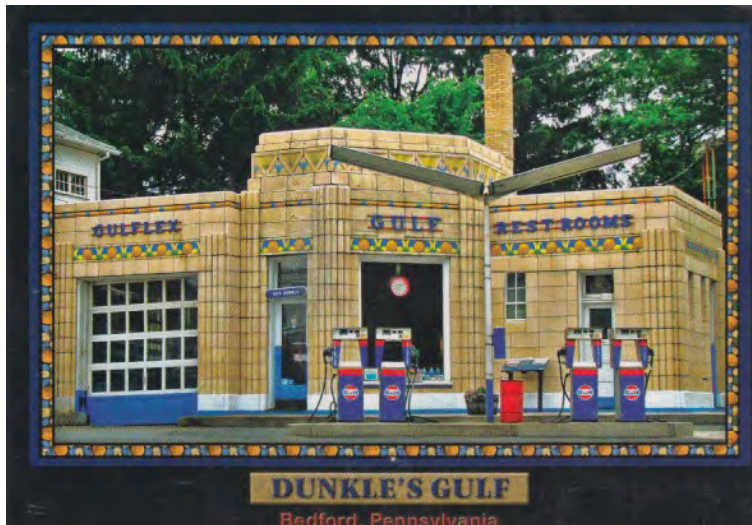
**Student Projects** (continued from page 11)

*UVM historic preservation students in the HP 306 Architectural Conservation I class taught by Professor Thomas Visser visited the Wadhams House and the Wadhams Carriage Barn on the University of Vermont campus and met with representatives from UVM Physical Plant and SAS Architects to assist with planning the preservation of these two historic campus structures by researching evidence of historic finishes using microscopic analysis.*



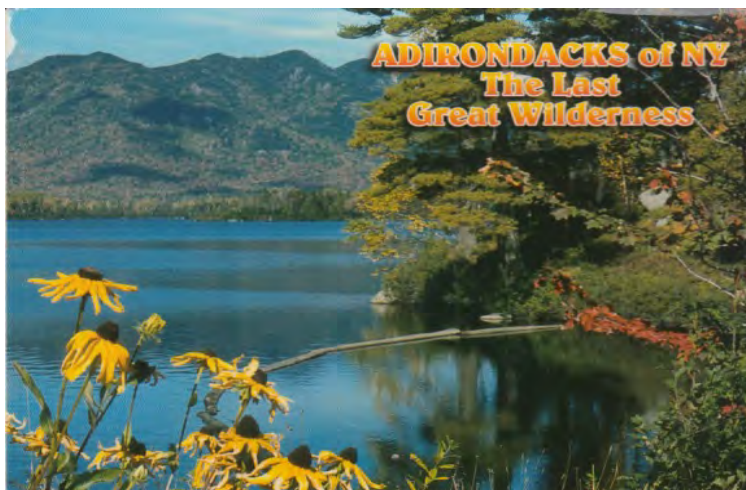
## Alumni Looking Around

We often receive postcards from traveling alumni, whose discoveries are worth sharing with all of you. Here is a sampling, some recent and some not-so-recent, with sincere thanks to the writers for keeping in touch - and for adding to our valuable collection of postcards here in Wheeler House!



*Amanda Ciampolillo (2005), who is currently Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – National Team, with the Federal Railroad Administration in Cambridge, MA, travels frequently and writes that this Art Deco Gulf gas station in Bedford, PA is fantastic and still functions as a filling and service station - a rapidly disappearing building type.*

*Lois Coulter (2003), who is EHP Advisor, Office of Environmental Compliance and Historic Preservation, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, found this spectacular example of Egyptian Revival architecture in Nashville, TN, the Downtown Presbyterian Church designed by William Strickland and built between 1849-1850. The church also served as a Union hospital during the Civil War.*



*Daniel Leckie (2013) spent a summer at Camp Santanoni as an intern, working for Adirondack Architectural Heritage and its director, Steven Engelhart, who recently has retired. After hiking to the summit of Mount Marcy, Daniel found himself thinking about the history of footpaths and the importance of connecting natural and built environments.*



## Alumni Looking Around (continued from page )

*Liza Smith-Vedder (2008) visited the Caen Hill Flight on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Devizes in southern England, a waterway linking Bristol with Reading on the Thames via two navigable rivers. The fifty-seven-mile canal section includes this two-mile series of locks, which take seven to eight hours to traverse, depending on traffic!*



*Kate Hovanes (2014), Historian for the Columbia-Cascades Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation in Yakima, WA, visited familiar haunts in Northampton, MA, where she attended Smith College, and mailed this postcard of the Northampton Cycle Co., a short-lived bicycle manufacturer with a factory in nearby Springfield that has not survived. However, shops of the Hampshire Cycle Company, maker of Nonotuck and Kathrine bicycles between 1895 and 1898), is still standing in Northampton, located behind Pleasant Street near the railroad depot restaurant, and much altered.*

*Brennan Gauthier (2011), Archaeologist for the Vermont Agency of Transportation working on project to document historic stone culverts, stopped by the Adamant Cooperative in East Montpelier, which claims to be the oldest cooperative food store in America. The post card is a reproduction of a painting by local artist Janet MacLeod. Members of the class of 2016, including Ben Haley, Julia Grey, Jessie McNabb, Dan Rhode, and William Grenier embarked on a country bike ride from Montpelier to Adamant in the fall of that year.*







*Sparta Train Station,  
Sparta, NJ, 2000 and  
2021*



In the October, 1921 issue of the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, Benton MacKaye published his proposal for the Appalachian Trail Regional Plan. Both he and his collaborator, architect Clarence Stein, intended that article as little more than a rough sketch of his farsighted ideas, and during the spring and summer of 1923, with Stein's financial assistance, MacKaye developed a cross-sectional prototype of the AT Regional Plan, "*explained cross-wise rather than length-wise*," in the Columbia Valley of northwestern New Jersey. MacKaye used the Hudson Guild Farm near Netcong as a model for the communities that he envisioned throughout the undeveloped Appalachian region, all stitched together with a long-distance footpath. He also mapped and opened a ten-mile trail, the Hudson Guild Link, leading northerly from the farm along a ridge of the Walkill Mountains to a railroad depot at Sparta Station, where he hoped to beckon New York City hikers to an expedition by rail and foot, a spur trail to the larger AT where explorers could draw from the energy of nature and view a better way of living.

The Appalachian Trail never developed according to MacKaye's full plan, and only in New Jersey's Columbia Valley, where faint traces of the Hudson Guild Link survive at Hudson Farm, now privately owned, and where Sparta Station and its companion water tower recently have been restored, can we glimpse the MacKaye-Stein panoramic conception for the AT Regional Plan. Only in Sparta, too, does the link between railroads and footpaths, so fundamental to MacKaye's plan for the AT itself, become visible.

## Connecting With the Past



*Founder and former director of the UVM Historic Preservation Program, Chester Liebs (right), and former Vermont SHPO and frequent lecturer during the program's early years, Eric Gilbertson. Burlington, 2015.*