



UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
HISTORY DEPARTMENT - WHEELER HOUSE - BURLINGTON, VERMONT

IN THIS ISSUE:

THEATER CURTAIN RESEARCH PROJECT
PAGE 1

GREETINGS
PAGE 2

CONSERVATION PRACTICUMS
PAGE 3

STUDENT PROFILES
PAGE 5

KIT HOUSE PROJECT
PAGE 7

STUDENT RESEARCH
PAGE 8

VYCC PROGRAM
PAGE 9

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
PAGE 10

FACULTY UPDATES
PAGE 11

ALUMNI GATHERINGS
PAGE 12

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS
PAGE 13

THANK YOU TO DONORS & SUPPORTERS
PAGE 14

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS & FACILITY UPGRADES
PAGE 15

UNFURLING THE PAST: PAINTED THEATER CURTAIN SHEDS LIGHT ON THE HISTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES



Burlington's painted theater curtain hangs in Contois Auditorium at City Hall.
Photo courtesy of Curtains Without Borders.

On September 10th, first-year historic preservation students in *HP5206: Researching Historic Structures & Sites* visited the Contois Auditorium at Burlington City Hall. There they met Chris Hadsel, director of Curtains Without Borders, a non-profit organization founded in 1996 that documents and preserves historic painted theater scenery across New England and the greater United States. From 1890 to 1940, painted curtains were used in theaters, town halls, and grange halls as scenery for stage performances and to advertise local businesses. Burlington's advertising curtain dates from c.1935 and was hand painted by artist Lucretia Rogers, founder of the Granite State Scenic Studio in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The curtain depicts thirty-one businesses, ranging from fur companies to bakeries to Rogers' own studio. Each student was tasked with researching the history of five businesses depicted on the curtain using city directories and newspapers. The results revealed that only thirteen of the businesses advertised on the curtain were

(continued on page 4)

GREETINGS FROM WHEELER HOUSE

Dear Students, Alums, and Friends,

It's an exciting time to be part of the UVM Historic Preservation Program, as reflected by the articles in this issue of our annual newsletter. Nine new students began their studies in late August, and they bring enthusiasm and curiosity to the classroom every day. Our second-year students have completed their summer internships and are busy wrapping up their final classes and studying for the comprehensive exam. We wish them all the best in their preservation careers following graduation.

As you may have heard, one of the most concerning issues in academia these days is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) by students to complete reading and writing assignments. While issues related to independent scholarship and investigative reasoning in the age of AI are valid, I also take solace in the fact that the field of historic preservation is, at its core, rooted in direct engagement with tangible places and authentic people. Candidates for admission to the program consistently express that what attracts them to the field of historic preservation is that it combines academic study with physical investigation. Historic preservation demands that we get out of the classroom and away from our computers to visit a site in person. To fully understand our built environment, we need to physically occupy it and use all our senses. This type of experience simply cannot be created virtually, and navigating Google Streetview will never replace the feeling of walking down South Willard Street while admiring its collection of Federal, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne houses. An image generated by ChatGPT cannot replicate the sensation of touching the massive, rough-cut blocks of Longmeadow sandstone of which the Billings Library is constructed. A compelling face-to-face conversation with a property owner about their efforts to preserve and maintain their historic home cannot be generated by a chatbot.

That said, we are embracing new technologies as appropriate. A recent guest speaker in the *Researching Historic Structures and Sites* course demonstrated the use of LiDAR scanning and photogrammetry for the documentation of historic interiors. The resulting information can be used for recordation and planning purposes, structural analysis, and the creation of measured drawings. Students continue to share their research projects via websites developed in class and are actively using the ever-expanding body of reference materials available online through research databases and digital archives. It's wonderful to have so many resources at our disposal, both physical and digital.

I'll conclude with grateful acknowledgement of three major financial gifts made to the program by Marc Vincent and Alexander Nalbach, the Robert Fleming & Jane Howe Patrick Foundation, and the Clara E. and John H. Ware, Jr. Foundation. These funds are instrumental to both our immediate and long-term success, enabling us to offer competitive scholarship packages to admitted students, upgrade our teaching facilities in Wheeler House, and take students to regional preservation conferences. All donations to the Historic Preservation Program have a direct and positive impact on the educational experience of our students, and we are grateful for the generosity of our program supporters.

Yours sincerely,



Devin Colman
Director, UVM Historic Preservation Program

UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

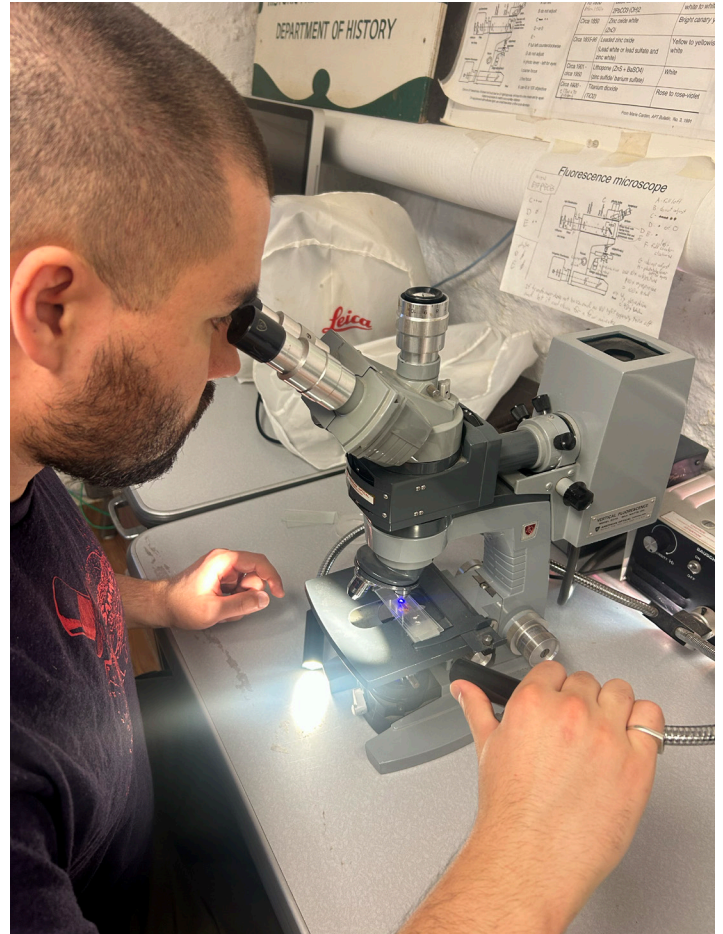
Editors-in-chief:	Managing Editor:	Content Editor:	Layout Editor:
Devin Colman	Sierra Whitaker	Frankie Voss	Ryan Barney
Thomas D. Visser			

Contributors: Ryan Barney, Trisha Curtin, Denise D'Abramo, Aaron Denamur, Paul Fish, Maggie Hicks, Justin Humphries, Ian Komorowski, Faith McKenna, Frankie Voss, Sierra Whitaker, Aileen Williams

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION PRACTICUMS



Students Aileen Williams and Justin Humphries examining historic photos of Wheeler House, home of the UVM Historic Preservation Program.



Justin Humphries examining historic shellac in the conservation laboratory using the ultraviolet fluorescence microscope.



View of the conservation laboratory optical microscopes used for paint sample analysis.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2026 ENROLLMENT. COME JOIN US!

Synchronous course instruction is available via in-person and virtual instruction, with on-campus practicum sessions each semester. Full or part-time enrollment is available to suit your educational needs. As a leader in the field of historic preservation education for nearly 50 years, we strive to develop long-term professional practitioners with knowledge and training in the appropriate skills to support their careers.

For more information, please contact the
University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program
at historic.preservation@uvm.edu

UNFURLING THE PAST

(Continued from Page 1)



From left to right, Ian Komorowski, Sierra Whitaker, Ryan Barney, Maggie Hicks, Trisha Curtin, Frankie Voss, and Chris Hadsel. Photo by Devin Colman.

located in Burlington. Of the remaining seventeen businesses, thirteen were in St. Albans, two were in Newport, and two were in Essex Junction. At least one of the businesses, Lippa & Co. Jewellery, remains active today. Other businesses, although no longer operational, will be familiar to those in the preservation community. Bruhn's Office Equipment Co. was owned and operated by the parents of Paul Bruhn, longtime executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Tracing the evolution of business enterprises from beginning to end provided valuable insights into the obstacles encountered in archival research. For example, the St. Albans city directories are only available for select



Chris Hadsel demonstrating the curtain lowering process from the fly space about the Contois Auditorium Stage. Photo by Devin Colman.

years, so pinpointing when businesses began, ended, and changed names was not always possible. Colloquial variations in business names (i.e., "Deming's Market," "Demings Market," and "Deming Market") rendered some enterprises difficult to identify in newspapers.

Despite archival research challenges, the project provided a deeper understanding of historical advertising methods and the diverse businesses that existed in Vermont's primary metropolitan center. The rich and ever-unfurling history of the Burlington area leaves much more to be discovered.

To learn more about the Curtains Without Borders project, visit www.curtainswithoutborders.org or purchase the award-winning book *Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater Scenery in Northern New England*, published in 2015.



EXPLORING GRASSE MOUNT

Grasse Mount, a mansion built in 1804 for Captain Thaddeus Tuttle, is one of Burlington's most recognizable landmarks. The interior features elaborate decorative wall paintings created in the 1850s by Italian artisans.

Owned by UVM since 1895, Grasse Mount is an excellent subject for field study. Students Justin Humphries, Aileen Williams, and Denise D'Abramo, accompanied by Devin Colman and Thomas Visser, recently had the opportunity to tour the house and study the wall paintings up close. As seen in the group photo on the left, the trompe-l'oeil effects in the belvedere continue to deceive the eye more than 150 years after their creation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION STUDENT PROFILES

Ryan Barney grew up in Rhode Island. She is in her final undergraduate semester at the University of Vermont, finishing her Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Museum Studies. She is a part of the Accelerated Master's Program, allowing her to take a semester of graduate-level coursework that counts toward both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Her interest in the field of historic preservation stems from spending summers at her grandparent's cottage on Martha's Vineyard, an island off the coast of Massachusetts. Located within the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, a National Historic Landmark, Ryan grew up surrounded by history. Her time spent in the cottage is a constant reminder that some of her favorite memories would not have been possible without the help of preservation.

Trisha Curtin is from Syracuse, New York, and graduated from Ithaca College in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a minor in History. Through her studies, she learned to appreciate the varied connections that cultures have to their past. She became hooked on historic preservation as an intern at the Seward House Museum in Auburn, New York. This Civil War-era museum preserves the former home of William Henry Seward, Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln. Trisha moved to Vermont in 2024 and is happy to call New England "home" with her partner, who is a Vermont native. Outside of school, she is a member of Green Mountain Roller Derby and hosts her own radio show, "The Hippie Hour," on Burlington's community radio station, WBTV-LP. She believes history should be accessible for all communities and cultures, and is excited to be a part of the continuing process of historic preservation.

Denise D'Abramo is a part-time graduate student in the Historic Preservation Program and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fibers from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She is also a Field Service Representative with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, where she works closely with local organizations to support the stewardship of historic resources across the state. Based in Vermont for the past twenty years, she has a deep appreciation for the architecture and cultural landscapes of the Northeast. She is particularly interested in the adaptive use of rural historic buildings as community-serving spaces.

Aaron Denamur received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a minor in Ethics from Utah Valley University, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Vermont in 2023. He first became interested in historic preservation in his current role as Director of Planning and Zoning for the town of Shelburne, where he serves as Shelburne's Certified Local Government Coordinator. Aaron has long had a love of history and old architecture.

Paul Fish is a senior at the University of Vermont, with an individually designed major in Architecture, Society, and Applied Economics and a minor in History. He enrolled in the Accelerated Master's Program for Historic Preservation a year early to support his self-designed undergraduate curriculum. He became incredibly interested in the intersections of architecture and anthropology after taking an anthropology course titled "Ruins," which inspired his individually designed major. In his free time, Paul loves skateboarding and being with friends.

Maggie Hicks has had a passion for history and preservation from a very young age, beginning when she explored the woods behind her Cincinnati neighborhood and discovered the remnants of a late 19th-century midden. That passion only grew with time, leading her to earn undergraduate degrees in Archaeology and Anthropology from the University of Cincinnati in 2023. She has experience in a variety of heritage-related jobs, including internships at the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum, as well as a summer study abroad at the Egyptian Museum in Turin, Italy. Prior to pursuing a master's degree in historic preservation, Maggie worked as an archaeological technician throughout the Midwest. In her spare time, Maggie is happiest outdoors; hiking and camping, rockhounding, riding her bike, and exploring nature. She is thrilled to be a part of UVM and is eager to learn all she can while enrolled in the Historic Preservation Program. After graduation, Maggie hopes to combine hands-on work with archival research to help preserve the heritage of historically marginalized communities, ensuring that future generations can retain a meaningful connection to the past.

Justin Humphries grew up in southeastern Connecticut, graduating from University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. He has since worked as a field archaeologist with the Storrs-based cultural resource management firm Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. He interned this summer with Docomomo US, the United States chapter of Docomomo International, a non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the modern movement. He advanced the goals of the organization by writing about three conservation projects of his choosing (including the acclaimed renovation of Hotel Marcel, in New Haven, CT) to be shared with Docomomo International and added to the Docomomo US website; wrote new entries for the popular "Styles of the Modern Movement" resource on the Docomomo US website; penned an advocacy article detailing recent developments in the ongoing proposal process for the redevelopment of the Boston Government Center; and assisted in preparing and publicizing the 2025 Modernism in America Awards. He gained valuable perspective on the great breadth of architectural modernism and on the particular challenges and complexities inherent to its preservation—as well as on the inner workings of a preservation non-profit.

(continued on page 6)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION STUDENT PROFILES

(continued from page 5)

Ian Komorowski received his Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management with a minor in Anthropology from North Dakota State University in the spring of 2023. Prior to admission into the Historic Preservation Program, he worked full time as a Safety Specialist at Amazon. He first heard about the field of historic preservation while researching higher education opportunities in Vermont and thought historic preservation would align well with his career goals. In his spare time, he enjoys biking when the weather permits and watching movies of all genres.

Faith McKenna is a first-year master's student in the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont and a second-year law student at Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida. She graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology. Her current studies allow the exploration of the intersection of historic preservation practices and legal protections. Faith's interests are focused on land use law and preservation planning, property law easements, and legal protections for historic sites. Faith hopes to practically apply her multidisciplinary skills to serve her community.

Frankie Voss grew up outside of St. Louis, Missouri, and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art History and French with a minor in Theology from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her capstone thesis focused on a restoration project at the Strasbourg Cathedral in France, which she observed during a semester abroad. Her research provided the opportunity to experience historic preservation in an international setting and inspired her to explore the field more deeply upon her return to America. After graduation, Frankie completed a six-month internship with the National Park Service in Omaha, Nebraska, where she drafted and edited records of historic structures and cultural landscapes in a cultural resources database. Her first project focused on a cattle ranch in Custer, South Dakota, and her second centered around on-site documentation of the French colonial town of Ste. Geneviève, Missouri. Frankie is excited to expand her knowledge of preservation trades and planning as a graduate student and is particularly interested in employing her French background to protect and maintain French colonial architecture.

Sierra Whitaker received their Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Liberal Art from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. They started their historic preservation journey in the fall of 2025 as a full-time student. They first heard about the field of historic preservation while looking for programs about object conservation and fell in love with the idea of protecting the history of places through preservation for the benefit of future generations. In their spare time they enjoy crocheting and chatting with friends.

Aileen Williams is a native of California and graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Geography and a minor in History. Following graduation she worked at the local historical society and immersed herself in the world of archives and history. It was this experience that led her to pursue a Master's Degree in historic preservation at the University of Vermont. During her studies she has completed a National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Charlotte Grange; a research project on the Vermont Barn Grant Program; and a research project on the history of Wheeler House and its residents. She spent her summer interning at the Shelburne Museum paint shop. There, she completed an exterior restoration of the Electra Havemeyer Webb Memorial Building and assisted with the restoration and repainting of the steamboat *Ticonderoga*. After graduation she hopes to stay on the East Coast and work at a conservation firm or in the museum field. In her free time, she enjoys knitting and studying fashion history.



The annual Fall Reception on the Wheeler House veranda is a longstanding tradition that brings together new and current historic preservation students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the program for casual conversation, snacks, and networking. This event is typically held during the first week of the fall semester, and everyone is welcome to attend.

PHYSICAL INVESTIGATION: KIT HOUSE OR NOT?



View of the east and north elevations of the Pillsbury House at 25 University Terrace in Burlington. Photo by Sierra Whittaker and Ian Komorowski.

Keith and Penny Pillsbury have lived in their home at 25 University Terrace since 1974. Their house is a green and white, two-story, square building with a hipped roof, a dormer on each side, and a large entry porch. Family tradition maintains that it is a Sears, Roebuck & Co. kit house, specifically the *Chelsea* model. Descendents of the original developer told the Pillsburys that the house was built in 1927 by a man who ordered it for his wife. She ultimately did not want to live in the house because it did not include a pantry.

Students in *HP5206: Researching Historic Structures and Sites* used the Pillsbury house as a case study for historic site documentation. After touring the house, students worked in pairs to conduct an oral history interview with the Pillsburys, photograph the house inside and out, and prepare a measured drawing of the floorplan. Based on their investigation, the students determined there is not conclusive evidence that this is a Sears, Roebuck & Co. kit house. Notably, comparison to published plans for the *Chelsea* model reveals that the footprint of the Pillsbury house is smaller and the arrangement of interior spaces and stairs are different. Archival deed research confirms that the house was actually constructed in 1926, but production of the *Chelsea* model ceased in 1922.

The form, detailing, and materials of the house, however, are in keeping with kit house designs of the early 20th century, and further research may reveal it to be a model produced by a different manufacturer. Through this project, students learned the value of balancing oral histories, architectural drawings, photography, and physical investigation to develop a complete view of a building's history.



First-year preservation students with Keith and Penny Pillsbury on the front porch of their residence. Photo by Devin Colman.



Trisha Curtin emerging from a kneewall attic space after searching for evidence of marked kit house components on the framing of the house. Photo by Devin Colman.

STUDENT RESEARCH: HARBORSIDE INN RECONSTRUCTION



The Harborside Inn on Block Island, RI, following a fire on August 18, 2023. Photo courtesy of The Block Island Times.



The Harborside Inn site on Oct. 9, 2025. What was once a grand inn is now a cluster of tents used for bicycle and moped rentals. Photo by Ryan Barney.

Each fall, graduate students in *HP6304: Seminar in Contemporary Preservation Policy & Planning* undertake individual research projects to study a preservation or planning initiative of their choice. The subjects of this year's projects are located across the country and include the rehabilitation of a historic university dormitory in Oklahoma, neighborhood revitalization in Cincinnati, and a major restoration project at the Rockingham Meeting House in Rockingham, Vermont. Accelerated Master's Program student Ryan Barney selected a topic close to home: the historic Harborside Inn on Rhode Island's Block Island.

On August 18, 2023, a fire broke out in the kitchen of the Harborside Inn on Block Island, and quickly spread throughout the rest of the building. No one was injured, but the building was destroyed and torn down in September 2023. Built in 1879, the Harborside Inn was a contributing resource in the Old Harbor National Register Historic District, a point of pride for the 1,000 year-round residents on the island.

Mike Finnemore of VVO Real Estate Holding LLC, owner of the property at the time of the fire, expressed his desire to rebuild the Harborside Inn quickly. In November 2023 project architect Glen Fontecio presented preliminary

design plans to the New Shoreham Historic District Commission, which is tasked with protecting the unique and historic architecture and identity of Block Island. Fontecio explained that the reconstructed Harborside Inn would retain many of its original characteristics, but its height would need to be raised to follow current building codes, requiring a variance from the zoning board. The Historic District Commission received his design proposal positively, praising him for respecting the building's historic character.

Finnemore hoped the reconstruction would be completed by summer 2024, but after withdrawing his variance application in August 2024, the project seems to be at a standstill. In the meantime, the site is home to canopy tents from which mopeds and bicycles are rented. The current use of the property is a controversial topic on the island.

Through her research on this project, Barney gained insight into the many difficulties that come with building in a historic district. Most importantly, she has discovered the emotional impact of the loss of a historic building; while the new Harborside Inn will look almost identical to its predecessor, it will not hold the same memories that are carried in the minds and hearts of Block Island locals.

SUPPORT STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Do you work for a preservation organization that employs student interns? Would you be interested in hosting a UVM Historic Preservation Program student over the summer? If so, please reach out!

The summer internship is an important component of our curriculum, and we're always on the lookout for good in-

ternship opportunities for our students. Internships need to be at least eight weeks long for 30 to 40 hours each week, and payment is strongly encouraged.

To learn more or share information about an existing internship opportunity, please contact Devin Colman at devin.colman@uvm.edu.

***TIMBER!* A SPOTLIGHT ON TIMBER FRAMING PRE-APPRENTICESHIP**

On October 1, 2025, first-year student Trisha Curtin travelled to the East Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont, to observe firsthand the state of the building and its ongoing rehabilitation. When Curtin arrived, she was greeted by a group of students from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) who were hard at work. They were using everything from chisels and hammers to heavy machinery to undertake projects around the campus. Behind the East Monitor Barn, three students were assembling a timber frame for a new cabin to be built on-site, the biggest project of the program.

The East Monitor Barn and its twin to the west are owned by the VYCC. On approximately 400 acres of land, the VYCC offers paid employment open to anyone aged 15 and up, ranging from farming, conservation, and skilled trades. The program taking place during Curtin's visit was the Timber Framing Pre-Apprenticeship, a 17-week program in partnership with Building Heritage LLC, a construction and restoration business run by UVM Historic Preservation Program alumnus Eliot Lothrop. This was Lothrop's second year leading the program, and he is seeing positive growth in it, including an increased diversity of students.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, Curtin is eager to see representation in places she wouldn't typically expect. The four students in this year's timber framing workshops were open about their sexuality and gender expressions, many of which went against the social norm within the trades field. Upon interviewing these students, many expressed worries coming into the program but quickly

formed permanent friendships with their cohort, bonding over their shared love of working with their hands and a comfort in knowing they are safe to be themselves.

Lothrop expressed confidence in his students' abilities to become future trades workers and make a positive impact in the field. Curtin would like to thank Lothrop and his students Emma, Anna, Jesse, and Tyler for taking the time to meet with her and discuss their experiences with the program. She wishes them the best in their future endeavors and hopes that if others are curious about learning a trade, they will reach out to the VYCC and find a program that is right for them.



The East Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont, was built in 1901 and features an innovative design meant to improve air circulation and the health of dairy cows inside. After falling into disrepair, the barn is being rehabilitated by UVM Historic Preservation Program alumnus Eliot Lothrop. Phase I in 2023 consisted of stabilizing the barn on a new foundation and timber repairs. Phase II in 2024 consisted of upper-level repairs to the timber frame and slate roof. Upon completion, the East Monitor Barn will serve as program space for Vermont Youth Conservation Corps activities. To learn more about this exciting project, please visit <https://eastmonitorbarn.org>. Photo by Trisha Curtin.



From left to right: VYCC students Anna, Jesse, and Tyler deep in thought, determining how to adjust their mortise and tenon frame to align the peg holes. Photo by Trisha Curtin.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

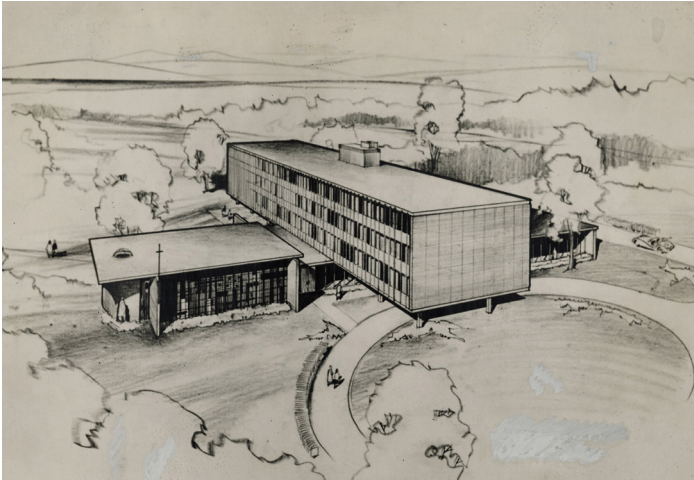


Wheeler House in September morning light provided a compelling field sketching subject for undergraduate students in Professor Visser's new HP 1990: Heritage Studies course (above). Architectural History I students exploring the first floor of the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, VT, (left) and the Vail House in Sudbury, VT (below). Photos by, respectively, Thomas Visser and Frankie Voss.



FACULTY UPDATES

Devin Colman presented the 21st Annual Roland Batten Memorial Lecture in April 2025, titled “The Ultramodern Edifice: Modernist Architecture of Burlington, Vermont.” The illustrated lecture highlighted notable examples of modernist architecture in Burlington from the 1930s to the 1970s and explored how these buildings embody a mid-20th century willingness to experiment with new forms, materials, and design concepts. Buildings discussed in the talk included McAuley Hall, a 1958 International Style dormitory on the Trinity Campus.



Designed by local architect Julian Goodrich and completed in 1958, McAuley Hall is an excellent example of the International Style. Image courtesy of UVM Special Collections.



Kona Gray, ASLA President, presents Devin Colman with his ASLA Honorary Membership certificate. Photo courtesy of ASLA.

In October 2025 Colman was recognized with an honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Selected by ASLA’s Board of Trustees, the honor recognizes individuals who have provided notable service to the profession of landscape architecture. The study of cultural landscapes, which are historically significant properties that show evidence of human interaction with the natural environment, is an important component of the UVM Historic Preservation Program curriculum.

Celebrating forty years of teaching, research and service at the University of Vermont, Professor **Thomas Durant Visser’s** “Vermont Milk Chocolate Company Factory: A Bittersweet History” article was published by the Vermont Historical Society in their 2025 Volume 93 of *Vermont History*. His research explored how Burlington learned hard lessons over a century ago as Progressive era optimism dwindled amidst unforeseen challenges wrought by misfortune, war, disease, and global trade chaos.

Professor Visser’s invited public service presentations in 2025 included speaking about the historic Franklin County Superior Courthouse for their St. Albans Church Street Event organized by the Saint Albans Museum and the Franklin County Superior Court. To support the online publicity for the event, he produced this watercolor sketch (right).

In September, Professor Visser shared preservation perspectives on the significance of Vermont Barns for the Central Vermont Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Montpelier, VT.

In November, he gave an illustrated lecture titled, “Rokeby & UVM: Partners in Preservation” at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, Vermont that recounted how Rokeby and the University of Vermont have collaborated since the 1980s to meet the critical preservation needs of the museum’s historic buildings, while also serving as a remarkable field research laboratory for students and faculty in the UVM Historic Preservation Program.

Professor Visser also launched a new undergraduate Heritage Studies course focusing on Burlington, Vermont in the fall 2025 semester. He is also continuing to teach graduate and undergraduate historic preservation courses.



Watercolor sketch by Professor Visser of the entry doors to the Franklin County Superior Courthouse in St. Albans.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS



Current UVM Historic Preservation students and alumni gathered at the annual Historic Preservation Consultant Training hosted by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation in Barre, Vermont. The day-long training introduced attendees to best practices for regulatory reviews, survey and documentation projects, and the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit program.



Volunteers taking a break in Rudyard Kipling's library.
Standing: Tracy Martin, Caitlin Corkins, Denise D'Abramo,
and Devin Colman. Seated: Amy Worden and Anne Cousins.

The UVM Historic Preservation Program Alumni Association (HPPAA) organized a service project for students and alumni at Naulakha, the former home of renowned author Rudyard Kipling in Dummerston, Vermont. Built in 1892 and now a National Historic Landmark, Naulakha is where Kipling wrote *The Jungle Book*, *Captains Courageous*, and portions of the *Just So Stories*.

Owned and operated by the non-profit Landmark Trust USA, Naulakha was the site of a HPPAA work weekend in April 2025. Projects included cleaning out the former horse barn, painting outdoor furniture, oiling decorative interior woodwork, and moving interior furnishings in anticipation of a floor refinishing project.

Follow the HPPAA Facebook page for information about future service projects and alumni opportunities.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PRESENTATIONS



2025 UVM Historic Preservation Summer Internship Presentations with graduate students Justin Humphries and Aileen Williams. Photo by Rolf Diamant.



Aileen Williams and Justin Humphries presenting posters about their summer internship experiences at the Preservation Burlington Fall Meetup. Photo by Devin Colman.

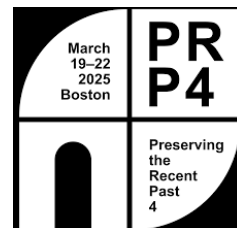
Many students in the Historic Preservation Program undertake a summer internship between their second and third semesters, with the goal of gaining real-world experience and making professional connections in the preservation field. Aileen Williams interned at the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont, where she assisted with the conservation of the Electra Havemeyer Webb Memorial Building. Justin Humphries interned with Docomomo US, where he helped with advocacy efforts for modernist architectural resources and wrote entries for their “Styles of the Modern Era” online guide.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS

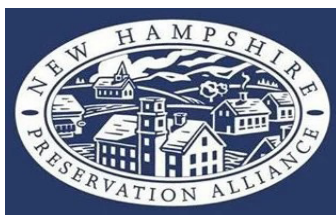
In an ongoing effort to broaden the reach and impact of the UVM Historic Preservation Program, we sponsor a broad array of historic preservation programs and conferences. These gatherings provide excellent learning and networking opportunities for our students and we’re proud to offer them our support. Recent sponsorships include:



Historic New England Summit
New Haven, CT



Preserving the Recent Past 4
Boston, MA



New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Conference
Exeter, NH



PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT

Village Meet-Up
Reading, VT

DONORS PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT BOOST TO FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Thanks to the generosity of program alumni and supporters, the UVM Historic Preservation Program is making great strides in its fundraising efforts. Major support has been received in the past year from the following donors:

Alexander Nalbach & Marc Vincent donated \$40,000 to establish a Historic Preservation Program Discretionary Fund. Recent improvements to the Wheeler 101 classroom, including a new table, chairs, lighting, and interactive technology were supported with this funding.

The Clara E. and John H. Ware, Jr. Foundation donated \$80,000 to establish a Scholarship Fund. Trustee Paul Willard Gates is a graduate of the UVM Historic Preservation Program, and these funds help offset the cost of tuition and support program-related activities for our students.

The Robert Fleming & Jane Howe Patrick Foundation donated \$300,000 to be distributed amongst existing program endowment and scholarship funds. Trustee Harriet S. Patrick is a long-time supporter of the UVM Historic Preservation Program and its students.

THANK YOU!

The UVM Historic Preservation Program has a long-standing tradition of meaningful engagement with community members and preservation professionals. We express our gratitude to the following individuals who hosted site visits, presented guest lectures, assisted with research, and led tours for our students during the 2024-25 academic year:

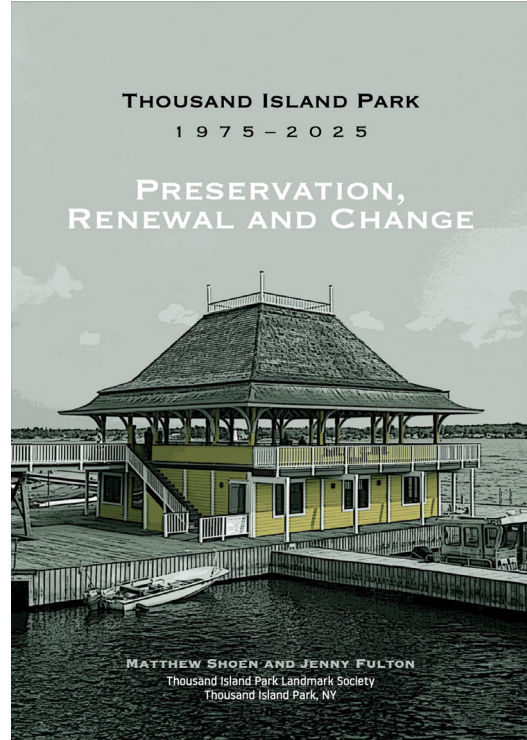
John Alexander, American Precision Museum
 Randall & Kathleen Brisson, Stonecrop Ledge Rehabilitation Project
 Cindy Brockway, Trustees of Public Reservations
 Mal Chase, Congregational Church of Middlebury
 Lorna Condon, Historic New England
 Mara Coven, Homeowner
 Wyndeth Davis, Keweenaw National Historical Park
 Prudence Doherty, University of Vermont Library Silver Special Collections
 Barbara George, American Precision Museum
 Gail Golec, Independent Scholar
 Scott Goodwin, University of Vermont Planning, Design & Construction
 Elise Guyette, Burlington History & Culture Center
 Judy Hayward, Historic Windsor, Inc.
 Bob Heiser, Vermont Land Trust
 Gail Henderson-King, FASLA, Henderson-King Consulting LLC
 John Horan, Homeowner
 Lola Houston, North Star Community Hall (German Club) Burlington
 Bob Joly, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum
 Rick Kendall, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
 Christina Marts, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
 Phil Morin, University of Vermont Fleming Museum of Art
 Gail Rosenberg, Burlington History & Culture Center
 Lisa Ryan, The Nature Conservancy
 Margaret Tamulonis, University of Vermont Fleming Museum of Art
 Matthew Thomas, PhD
 Charlene Wallace, North Star Community Hall (German Club) Burlington
 Walter Wallace, Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission
 Ron Wanamaker, Shelburne Museum

RECENT ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS



Many alumni may recall the hulking mass of the Moran Electric Light Plant on the Lake Champlain waterfront from their student days in Burlington. The three-story, coal-fired electric power plant operated from 1954 to 1986 and then sat vacant for three decades. Following numerous unsuccessful reuse efforts, partial deconstruction of the Moran Plant began in 2020.

The history of the property is documented in the 2023 publication *Fearless Relook at Moran Electric: The (Re)generation of the Moran Plant*. UVM Historic Preservation Program alumni Matthew Shoen, Britta Tonn, and Kaitlin O'Shea all contributed to the creation of this publication. A digital version of the book is available here: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/663/Moran-Ed-Booklet-PDF>.



New York's Thousand Island Park is located on Wellesley Island in the St. Lawrence River. Established in 1875 as a Methodist campground, the Thousand Island Park community is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The past fifty years of its history are documented in the 2025 book *Thousand Island Park, 1975-2025: Preservation, Renewal and Change*. Researched and written by UVM Historic Preservation Program alumni Matthew Shoen and Jenny Fulton, the book is available for purchase from the Thousand Island Park Landmark Society.

FACILITY UPGRADES



Room 101 in Wheeler House is sporting a new table and chairs, as well as a new 4K 70" wall-mounted display and video conferencing system. The new furnishings provide space for all students at the table, and make the room ADA-accessible.

The display and video conferencing system enables our remote students to engage directly with their peers in the classroom, participate in discussions, and share presentations. It also broadens opportunities for presentations and guest lectures by experts across the country who cannot visit us in person. Being able to share the perspectives and experiences of preservation professionals from beyond Vermont is a great enhancement to our curriculum.

Funding for these improvements was provided by the Alexander Nalbach & Marc Vincent Program Discretionary Fund.

Historic Preservation Program
Department of History • Wheeler House
133 South Prospect Street
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont 05405



Local photographer Louis L. McAllister captured this view of Church Street looking north from Bank Street in July 1931. Students in HP5206: Researching Historic Structures and Sites used the Louis L. McAllister Photograph Collection to study transportation-related resources in and around Burlington from the first half of the 20th century. Image courtesy of UVM Special Collections.