Behind the Green Marker

PB’s series of most endangered structures and sites is intended to bring much needed attention to historic properties that are being threatened by development projects or neglect. This property stands at 3 George Street in Burlington. Its owners wish to demolish it.

Burlington’s Most Endangered

The brick building at southwest corner of George and Pearl Streets (3 George Street) appears on an 1857 map of Burlington and may have been built as early as the 1830s. Throughout the years the building has been home to a great number of occupants, but perhaps none better known than General George J. Stannard of Civil War fame. Reported to be the first Vermonter to volunteer for duty in the war, Stannard fought in a number of pivotal Civil War battles, including the First and Second Battles of Bull Run and the Battle of Gettysburg. He was seriously wounded twice during battle. From 1881 until his death, Stannard served as the Doorkeeper of the United States House of Representatives.

Other occupants of the building at 3 George Street included Dr. A.S. Pitkin, its probable builder.

Behind the Green Marker

Since its inception, PB has offered Burlington’s home owners the opportunity to purchase historic house markers displaying the years their homes were built. Today, these markers adorn houses in virtually every neighborhood of the city. Behind each marker lies a bit of history — sometimes mundane, other times fascinating. No one knows this better than Marge Allard, long-time PB board member.

For many years Marge has helped PB track down when homes were built. Sometimes this is as easy as checking Vermont’s Historic Sites and Surveys catalogue. Other times it requires a more thorough search of Burlington’s land records or perhaps a visit to UVM’s Special Collections. As of this issue of our Newsletter, PB introduces a new series intended to highlight Marge’s work and the history she has uncovered.

The National Register of Historic Places describes 266 South Union Street as one of the finest structures in Burlington. The home is Chateauesque (or Romanesque Revival) in style with a Colonial Revival front.

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President’s Corner

Well, it’s been a busy summer so far for Preservation Burlington. The season began with our annual Homes Tour on June 9. We had terrific turnout of folks who took advantage of the chance to get “up close and personal” with some of Burlington’s most beautiful homes. This year’s tour included the Edward Wells House, 61 Summit Street; 17 and 77 Overlake Park; 115 Robinson Parkway; 266 South Union Street; and the Rambler Ranch, 216 Battery Street.

Our thanks go out to the homeowners: the University of Vermont, Harry Bliss and Sofi Dillof, Bill Harwood and Elaine Hubert, Nicholas Gotelli and Maryanne Kampmann, Eric Oliver and Tess Stimson, and Rick Nocross. Thank you also to the dozens of volunteers who supplied refreshments, guidance to those on the tour, and generally made the tour run smoothly.

Next year’s tour will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2013. If you
PB created the Ray O’Connor Award to acknowledge and give thanks to fellow citizens who have shown outstanding commitment to the community. In past years, recipients have worked diligently to foster community outreach, resist overdevelopment, and protect our historic buildings and our waterways.

The 2011 award, which was presented this past spring during a reception at the Main Street Landing’s Black Box Theater, went to Allan Hunt for his public opposition to routing the Champlain Parkway through the King Street neighborhood.

The King Street neighborhood is listed in the National Register of Historic Districts. It is a unique community, with a diverse population and a good deal of public investment in many of the properties. Building the Parkway is expected to result in a nearly 30% increase in traffic in this neighborhood, which is not consistent with its historic, residential character.

In opposing the building of the Champlain Parkway, Allan has defended a vulnerable neighborhood from the effects of poor regional planning that would create an onslaught of vehicular traffic putting neighbors and historic buildings at risk. Allan has given both his time and money to presenting the other side of the Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway project.

Due in part to Allan’s advocacy, PB’s board of directors has taken the position that plans to build the highway through the King Street neighborhood threatens one of Burlington’s most historic and vital neighborhoods. As an alternative, PB advocates for an alternative route, referred to as the Battery Street Extension, which would exit onto Battery Street.

Burlington to Host American Institute of Architects New England Annual Conference

Burlington will be hosting the annual conference of the New England chapter of the American Institute of Architects. As part of the program local architecture firm Truex-Cullins has enlisted the help of Tom Simon, board member of Preservation Burlington, to help lead a tour of downtown Burlington and Church Street. Church Street Marketplace director Ron Redmond will also accompany the group, who head out on the afternoon of Saturday October 20.

The emphasis of the tour will be buildings and sites of architectural and historic significance, with the itinerary including Firehouse Gallery, City Hall, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, St. Joseph’s Co-Cathedral Interior, Merchant’s Bank, Follett House, and City Hall Park.
Hand Hewing Workshop

Written by: Karl Lukhaup

Long before carpenters went to the lumber yard, or even a saw mill, lumber was shaped from trees on the land a home was built. This process was done entirely by hand with a broad ax, and although laborious, the skill continued well into the era of the saw mill (due to the simple ease of not having to transport a whole log many miles to the mill, and for what I believe was the pure joy of shaping a round log into a square hewn timber with an ax).

On July 21, 2012, four students learned this joy as they took part in the Measure Twice School’s first hand hewing workshop. The workshop was instructed by me and cosponsored by Preservation Burlington, Building Heritage, a Huntington, VT based timber frame restoration company, and RE Source. Materials were provided by Miles Jeness who felled all logs and dragged them out of the woods with his oxen.

The morning was spent going over basic ax care and maintenance, as well as a tutorial on sharpening. The afternoon involved a little more labor. After moving the logs with two-man timber carriers, we found a nice grassy place to work off of Pine Street in Burlington.

After snapping a chalk line along the length of the log, the hewer stands on top of the log and uses a felling ax to make a series of cuts into the face of the log while being careful not to cut into the line. This process is called “juggling the line”, and one works down the length of the log making quick cuts to remove the “meat” of the round log.

Once juggling is complete, the hewer moves down the log while using the felling ax to make cuts that run parallel to the chalk line (removing the meat between the ax cuts as he goes). When this step is complete, the log is rather rough, and the process of hewing is ready to begin.

The broad ax is a rather specialized tool used for producing a smooth surface over a large area. It is somewhat like an ax, in that it has a handle and is swung, but it also works more like a chisel because it is flat on one face and beveled on the other. Using this tool requires brawn, brains, and a lot of finesse to be able to create a smooth surface. The other defining features of a broad axe are its broad edge, ranging in length from 8 to 15 inches, and an offset handle to protect the hewer’s knuckles from scraping the log.

Once a side of the log has been completely hewn with the broad ax, the log is rotated, and the next side is hewn. This process is repeated until all four sides have been cut.

Generally, large timbers were hewn to be used as the main framing members in timber framed structures. Such Buildings are held together by mortise and tenon joinery, rather than nails.

Hewn lumber has many applications in modern timber framing as well as in historic preservation. Hewing not only creates square timbers, but tapered and curved ones as well. It also allows a carpenter to completely forgo the saw mill, and create what he needs from the land. Knowing such skills is liberating—as it requires a trust in your own physical abilities which produces a sense of self-sufficiency and independence.
Porches of North America by Thomas Durant Visser

Review written by: Ron Wanamaker

If you are a fan of Preservation Burlington or preservation in general for that matter, then I’m sure you know about the renowned Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont. And if you are familiar with that program, then you have also heard of Thomas Visser, UVM professor and a founding member of Preservation Burlington. You may have already bought his first book, A Field Guide to New England Barns and Out Buildings, and poured over the beautiful photographs and interesting descriptions of our endangered agricultural past.

If this is true, then I wholeheartedly recommend Visser’s second book, Porches of North America. For his latest work, the author uses a different format— eschewing the field guide style for an oversize, coffee table style— that this gives him room to elaborate on his topic. While exploring the histories of some specific porches, including how the porches have changed over time to adapt to each generation’s expectations and needs, Visser delves into the very history of outdoor living itself. Porches of North America, which is artfully illustrated with breathtaking photographs and drawings depicting the evolution of the porch, is a book you’ll return to time and again.

Join me for an informative interview with Thomas Visser on the joys and history of America’s front porches, CCTV Channel 17. Also, please join Preservation Burlington on October 9, 2012 for a presentation and discussion led by the author. This event will be held at the Phoenix Bookstore, 191 Banks Street, Burlington, VT, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

Hand Hewing Cont’d

In my early days as a carpenter I traveled a lot in order to gain new skills. One of these “jobs” I took was at a living history park, where twice an hour for spectators. I became better with each demonstration until I could create surfaces smoother than if they had been cut by saw. It is a skill I have added to my tool box, and now use it in the process of restoring timber framed barns. I am part of a small club of people that can call themselves professional hewers.

My current mission is to create series of self-supporting workshops from hewing to timber framing, while at the same time sending a message that not everything has to be bought or sold. There was a time (and perhaps will be again) when men and women were directly linked to the material objects that surrounded them. Things they created for themselves. Our next workshop on hand hewing is planned for this fall. Stay posted to PB’s website or contact me at karluk-haup@gmail.com for more details.
Sally Zimmerman Comes to Burlington - Written by Matt Viens

As the old saying goes, “a man’s home is his castle.” But what color should the castle be painted? The City of Burlington places no restrictions on the colors a homeowner can paint his or her house. If you’ve noticed some of the day-glow colored buildings dotting the city, you probably didn’t need me to tell you that.

When it comes to choosing house colors, even the most creative among us can use a little help. Well, that’s where Sally Zimmerman, manager of Historic New England’s Historic Homeowner’s Program and author of various works on historic paints, comes in. Earlier this summer Sally came to Burlington to speak on the sometimes contentious issue of historic paints. Sally’s visit was co-sponsored by Preservation Burlington and Burlington’s Certified Local Government and began with a presentation on — you guessed it — the history of house paints.

The next day Sally and long-time PB tour-guide, Patricia Araujo, led a group through the Old North End on what I affectionately referred to as the “dos and don’ts” of historic paint colors tour. Needless to say, the tour was a blast! We admired the choices of many, while questioning, shall I say, the more “daring” color combinations used by others.

All kidding aside, Sally’s time spent in Burlington was, at least for me, enlightening. For starters, I learned that a building has

Show your pride and buy a new Preservation Burlington T-Shirt!
PB’s logo on the front and motto, “Looking to the future with respect for the past” on the back.

Only $15. Available in Forest Green unisex adult sizes S-XXL
Contact info@preservationburlington.org to order.

Continued on page 7
three main elements to consider when deciding on paint color: body/clapboards, trim, and window sashes/doors. She distinguished the elements as follows, “the body” of the structure is the clapboards or stone. Everything else is trim—unless you can walk on it, or “it moves” (i.e. windows and doors). Historically, these three elements would each be painted a different color.

Sally explained that in the early 1800s the body color and trim color would vary only slightly in their shading. Usually, earth tones were used. It was not until the 1830s and later that darker shades began to appear on shutters and doors.

Sally also noted that the bright whites and vibrant colors that we see on houses nowadays, and often applied to Victorian homes, would not have existed earlier than the 1920s because the chemicals needed for their production (titanium dioxide used to brighten the paint) were not available. She noted that the current use of many of these bright colors was the result of the “Painted Ladies” craze of the 1980s spurred on by the works of Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen.

The standard in the 19th century was for houses to be three different colors, though it was not uncommon for a simpler house to be monochromatic. Sally pointed out that in the later years of the 19th century, the triple color scheme was still the norm. However, the trim, window sashes, and doors would most likely have been painted darker colors and the body would have remained a lighter shade.

This building once stood on the corner of King St. and Battery St. The sign at the end of the building advertises “M.A. Ryan’s Grocery and Meat Market.” This past year a new building was constructed by Investors Corporation of Vermont at this location. The owners of the new building plan to install an exhibit of photographs and information describing the rich history the area. They continue to search for additional photographs of this building as well as others in the area. If you have any information, please email us at: info@preservationburlington.org.
Liisa joined PB’s board of directors in 2010 and has become instrumental maintaining our website and advertising our events. An architectural historian at Blue Brick Preservation and an adjunct instructor at Plymouth State University, Liisa specializes in National Register research and documentation (figuring out what separates the significant from the ordinary and recording it) as well as regulatory compliance (helping people update their historic buildings without inadvertently disqualifying themselves from tax or other benefits). Her 2006 book, *Burlington Firefighting*, originated with a class project at UVM, where she attained her Master’s degree in Historic Preservation. She has participated in projects at Las Flores Adobe National Historic Landmark, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Death Valley National Park and Shelburne Farms National Historic Landmark. Her favorite buildings are, not too surprisingly, historic fire houses. She also has a soft spot for 1950s Ranch houses and has been to known to defend the value of the misunderstood split-level. When she’s not in the archives or doing field work, Liisa is usually in the gym or somewhere out on the water. An avid dragon boater, she coaches for Dragonheart Vermont, a local breast cancer survivor and supporter club whose red boats are visible on the Burlington waterfront most weeknights, and travels to paddle and train several times a week with an elite team in Montreal. In July she and her Quebec crew earned two gold medals at the Club Crew World Championships in Hong Kong, beating out teams from across the globe and earning the title of World Champions! Training is far from over though, as next summer she hopes to make the cut for team USA and compete at the ultimate competition, akin to the Olympics of dragon boating: the World Nations Championships to be held in Szeged, Hungary.

Most Endangered Cont’d

and for whom Pitkin Street is name, and Henry Stanton, who ran the nearby Stanton House hotel and livery stable. By 1905 it appears to have been operated as a lodging house, as city directories list three widowed women living there – a Mrs. Lucy Sweeney, Mrs J.C. Parker, a music teacher, and Mrs. Cornelia Fisk. During the 1940s the building housed a store and was subsequently converted to apartments in the 1950s.

The structure is currently owned by Rick Bove who recently applied to the city for a permit to demolish the structure and replace it with a four story mixed use building and parking lot. Bove has made this request despite the fact that 3 George Street was specifically preserved as mitigation for the loss of two historic structures that were demolished in 2001 to make room for “Victoria Place”, a mixed use structure with retail establishments on the ground floor and 34 residential units on the others. While the proposal has met with opposition from the city’s Department of Planning and Zoning, it remains under consideration.
Historic windows are often the first elements of an older home to be replaced. They are threatened because of a dwindling amount of skilled workers to restore historic windows properly and an ever-increasing push for newer, more “efficient” synthetic windows. PB’s Historic Wooden Window Workshop focuses on providing training for regular people to learn the necessary skills to restore and repair historic wooden windows. Ron Wanamaker and Amy Mentes of Wanamaker Restoration will share their window restoration knowledge with workshop attendees, and provide helpful “how-to” tips to make your historic windows more energy efficient. Attendees will learn that a properly restored historic window with a functional storm window is just as efficient a new vinyl window. The restoration process may take more time, but the end product is more aesthetically pleasing and often less expensive. The workshop will take place on Saturday, February 4th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact info@preservationburlington.org for details.

Historic Pine Street Walking Tours
Celebrate the history of the South End during Art Hop!

Saturday, September 8, 2012
Meet in front of the SEABA office at 404 Pine Street
4 tours offered: 10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm
$10 suggested donation www.preservationburlington.org
would like to offer your home, or suggest a home that you would like to tour, please email Tom Simon at tps@mc-fit.com. As usual, the proceeds from this year’s tour will be used to further PB’s mission of providing Burlington’s residents with educational and preservation-friendly resources.

The warm weather also saw a renewal of PB’s commitment to highlighting our city’s cultural and architectural history through a series of walking tours. This year’s walking tour program has been invigorated with the arrival of several new tour guides who have joined with our veteran volunteers. Please make sure to join us on September 8th during the South End Art Hop for our walking tours of Pine Street. Participants will explore the commercial and industrial history of one of Burlington’s most vibrant neighborhoods.

Over the next weeks and months PB will continue provide its members with programs that entertain, educate, and inspire. As our motto says, we continue to look to the future with respect for our past. Thank you for your continued support!

Matt Viens, President
Preservation Burlington

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**Become a member today!**

Join in a growing effort to preserve Burlington’s historic architecture and neighborhoods by becoming a member. Membership donations allow for Preservation Burlington to provide the programs and events that we all love, including forums, tours, and awards. Without your help, our organization would not exist.

All members receive a newsletter, a discount for a building marker, and early notification for the Homes Tour. Also our members are included in our e-mail lists, which provide first hand knowledge of events and alerts related to Historic Preservation.

For more information, please go to www.preservationburlington.org.

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**Volunteers Needed!**

Volunteering for Preservation Burlington is a great opportunity to learn about historic preservation, Burlington’s history, and the people who love both. We offer a range of opportunities to match your interests and availability.

We are currently seeking new members for our board of directors. If being on the board is more than you can do, you might be interested in joining one of our committees or helping our organization with a special event. Volunteers provide an invaluable service to our organization. Want to volunteer?

For more information, please contact info@preservationburlington.org.
Burlington Waterfront Walking Tours

Preservation Burlington's tours of the Waterfront are back!

Every other Saturday, August 4 through October 27
Meet at the visitor's center at the bottom of College Street
1:00 pm $10 suggested donation
www.preservationburlington.org
Historic Building Markers

Preservation Burlington Historic Markers are the perfect way to celebrate the age of your home!

The markers can be hung on the exterior or interior of your home.

Cost: $75

Includes: basic research on your home, a marker, and one-year membership to Preservation Burlington.

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