



Contents

Burlington's Most Endangered 1

Burlinton's Lost Shul Mural..... 1

Happy Winter Carnival..... 3

Architecture Toolkit..... 4

Behind the Green Marker..... 5

President's Corner..... 6

Meet the Board Member..... 6

Events..... 7

Burlington's Lost Shul Mural

Aaron Goldberg

In 1910, members of the immigrant Jewish Community of Burlington, Vermont paid \$200 to a little-known Lithuanian painter for the purpose of painting the Chai Adam Synagogue. Little did they know that within a few decades, their synagogue mural would be one of the only ones left in the world to bear testimony to the beautiful and

continued on page 2



Caption.

The Sentinel

Winter/Spring 2015

Burlington's Most Endangered

Matt Viens

The Auto Garage

Burlington—like the rest of the country—became crazy for the automobile during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The addition of the automobile not only changed how people got around, it changed our architectural landscape. While in some instances structures that had been used to shelter horses were converted to house the family car or truck, the trend early on was to construct detached garages or “auto sheds.” These structures, typi-

cally built between the years of 1916–1926, are quickly disappearing from Burlington’s neighborhoods.

Because the structures are generally viewed as being too small for garages by today’s standards, many have been subjected to years of neglect and disrepair. Due to the dilapidated state of many early garages, there has been a push in recent years to have them removed. In the last year, the city has issued at least a dozen demolition permits for historic auto garages. Structures lost include ones at 85 Lakeview Terrace; 511 North Street (a spectacular barn

continued on page 2



Maggie Sherman of One of a Kind Bed and Breakfast transformed her single car garage into a lovely cottage for guests.

Our Business Members

Resourceful Renovator, LLC
 Blue Brick Preservation
 Wanamaker Restoration
 Pine Street Art Works
 Willard Street Inn
 Main Street Landing
 Carolyn Bates Photography
 Freeman French Freeman, Inc.
 Howard Street Guest House
 Grandview Farms Inc.
 Vermont Tours To Go

Officers

PRESIDENT: Matt Viens
VICE PRESIDENT: Norm Williams
TREASURER: Jack Mentes
SECRETARY: Daniel Goltzman

Board Members

Marge Allard
 Britta Fenniman Tonn
 Emily Lee
 Karl Lukhaup
 Liisa Reimann
 Tom Simon
 Ron Wanamaker
 Constance Kent
 Rebecca Reese
 Devin Colman
 Brennan Gauthier

NEWSLETTER DESIGN: Andrea Gray

Shul Mural

continued from page 1

unique immigrant folk art of the Eastern European Jewish community. For years, this mural was lost to our Burlington community, hidden behind the wall of an apartment building.

The Lost Shul Mural depicts the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) flanked by rampant lions and surmounted by a floating crown, all bathed with the rays of the sun, and

Endangered

continued from page 1

and auto shed); 65 Charlotte Street; 107 Ledge Road; and 287-289 South Winooski. Sadly, what was once a telling marker of a groundswell change in American mobility is now largely considered disposable.

While many homeowners have chosen to remove their historic garages, others, such as Maggie Sherman of

Lakeview Terrace, have opted to preserve and repurpose them. Maggie, who operates One of a Kind Bed and Breakfast out of her home, has transformed her single car garage into a lovely cottage for guests. Preservation Burlington urges greater awareness of these important historic structures with the hope that they can be preserved for future generations.



framed by architectural elements and elaborate curtains. It is a visual representation and local icon of Burlington's immigrant and historical legacy.

The Lost Shul Mural committee is seeking the support of local residents and the business community, as well as the worldwide community to raise at least an additional \$150,000 to complete fundraising for the actual move of the Lost Shul Mural and to begin the post-move restoration and education project. "Lost Shul Mural Movers" who donate an amount of \$10,000 or more will be recognized on a marble and brass plaque located just outside of the mural's new home. All donors will also be recognized online and listed in the educational kiosks to be located within the lobby and at the University of Vermont. Donations are welcome and are tax-deductible.

The Lost Shul Mural Educational Project will tell the multi-faceted story of the mural, in the contexts of immigrant art, the history of the artist, Burlington and Vermont's immigrant history, and the Lost Shul Mural's historical context.

Preservation of the mural has been endorsed by internationally renowned museum and art experts and has received local and national attention. Mark S. Hudson, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society, states, "The Lost Shul Mural is a cultural treasure that should be preserved for the enrichment of Vermonters today and for generations to come. It shares a rich story of the immigrant experience and the religious diversity of our state."

Mayor Miro Weinberger, issued the following testimonial: "The Lost Shul Mural is a unique icon of the American immigrant experience and a local treasure.... Promoting and celebrating the history and stories of Burlingtonians highlight the vibrancy and diversity of our City. The effort to preserve the Lost Shul Mural fosters our commitment to diversity and deserves the generous support of our community."

continued on page 3

Happy Winter Carnival – 1886!

Hugo Martínez Cazón

The winter months are the right time to consider how the long lost ravine played a principal role in the 1886 Winter Carnival, which in turn involved: the Earliest International Ice Hockey Championship, a direct precursor of the Stanley Cup, the development in Burlington of Bobsledding (long before it was recognized internationally), the early use of artificial illumination at sporting events, drawing tens of thousands of visitors to a completely Free event (reflective of Olmsted's vision of democratization in park activities).

The ravine was a center of winter activity. The earliest known ice rink was at the pond, which now is the public library. F. L. Taft, dedicated to the making of medicinal toothpaste, was also the founder of the Myrthlin Sliding Company (my favorite), with a large steep constructed launching ramp, located at the edge of the ravine, directly behind today's courthouse. The ravine provided the extra 20 feet of vertical drop, as well as a flat landing pad. There were dozens of toboggan runs, fittingly as the

first manufactured toboggans were built at the Burlington Manufacturing Company (The Star Toboggan).

The center of attention at the time were the races down Main Street in early bobsleds. Burlingtonians called these "Traverses," but their design equals that of the bobsleds recognized



by the International Olympic Committee as the "first" bobsleds in 1927! We were quite a few years early, along with efforts in Montreal and Albany at early bobsledding. The launch was at South Williams and Main. The end of the run during the carnival was in front of what is now Nectars. The significance is that those early bobsleders had one thing to do before reach-

ing the end of the run, they had to cross the ravine! Going at 50 to 60 miles an hour, in 1886, this was the fastest sport in the world....and it was Co-ed!

Today, however, I feel that the unknown new sport of ice hockey is the amazing story. In searching for the 1850s-era municipal sewer map that finally showed the breadth, and location of the entire ravine, I came across this gem. Having grown up with a coach for a Dad, I was curious when I started to see listings for sporting events, snow shoe races, ice yatching, etc., while I researched the ravine. Side-tracked I found that this late addition to the winter carnival was in the fact the earliest international ice hockey game (February 26, 1886), nine years earlier than one claimed by Yale University. I even found the medal for the game, and the puck on it was square!

Our somewhat forgotten ravine provided a lot entertainment! If you look at *Genius of Place*, the biography of Olmsted, you'll see a picture of his children, wearing the uniform and colors of the Burlington Coasting Club, the organizers of the Winter Carnival. Salut!

Hugo Martínez Cazón is an environmental engineer and lifelong historical researcher.

Shul Mural

continued from page 1

PHASE I is nearing completion: Stabilization of the paint on the plaster on lath was completed in 2014. The mural must be moved to protect the stabilization and first cleaning that has been done, placing it in an environment where temperature and humidity can be controlled. To date, the project has raised over \$300,000, allowing us

to do the intricate work of preparing the mural to be moved to its new home, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue's public vestibule, less than half a mile away, in May, 2015. Photos of the work are shown on the project website.

PHASE II will commence immediately following the move. The Lost Shul Mural will be installed for public viewing and be a part of a larger educational exhibit. We seek to preserve a

very rare visual guide, a guide that will connect Vermonters to the depth of Vermont's immigrant history, art and cultural diversity that created this work of art. All work is being documented and will be shared with schools, universities and museums around the world.

The project website is www.lostshulmural.org. All photos, press links and testimonials are online at the project website.

A Place-based Historic Architecture Toolkit for Burlington Students

Karyn Norwood

As a youth, I loved history. Yet, I knew nothing of the local history of my community, nor how the very history I loved shaped the places I lived in and frequented. I certainly did not know what historic preservation was (I confess that I learned of this field only several years out of college!), nor was I aware of how important historic architecture is for telling the story of a community. I now know, of course, that history is all around us—our built environment holds visible clues to the past. It is a truth I wish I had learned much earlier.

It was with this acquired understanding in mind, then, that I set about creating a hands-on, place-based Burlington architectural toolkit for school-age children for Preservation Burlington. This fulfilled both a community project requirement as a graduate student in the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation Program and a professional goal of my own to teach younger audiences about the importance of preservation and local history.

The toolkit aims to reach students between the ages of 8 to 13 (or 4th to 8th graders), but its contents, I think,

can be easily differentiated and are of interest to audiences of all ages. The kit includes building materials, books, lesson plans and activities specific to Burlington. Integral to this toolkit is a field notebook for each student, which is easily downloaded via an included cd. The notebook corresponds to various lessons in the toolkit but it can also stand alone as a guide to Burlington's historic architecture.

The toolkit is divided into three sections, each with 3 to 5 lessons, with an ultimate goal of helping students to develop knowledge of historic architecture and how Burlington has grown over time by examining its built environment. The sections are scaffolded in a way to build understanding in an approachable manner with the educator leading the lessons--all lessons are tied to the Common Core and Vermont Standards.

The first section of the toolkit aptly focuses on historic building structure and building materials. Five lessons delve into the components of historic buildings and the common materials of which they are composed. Two

lessons are neighborhood walks, while another lesson focuses exclusively on the study of the thirty-two different historic building materials included in the toolkit—each material comes with a note card detailing what the item is and its historical uses. Through place-based and interactive learning, students will complete this section with a basic understanding of the parts of an historic home and common building materials found in Burlington.

The second section of this toolkit is dedicated to developing an understanding of how Burlington changed over time using a variety of primary source materials, including maps and photographs. This section also delves into map-making and identifying common buildings in a community area (be that a particular neighborhood or the whole city of Burlington).

The final section deals with identifying Burlington's historic architecture—students will be out and about using their field notebooks, learning how to really look at buildings in their neighborhoods. A cumulative research project is recommended: students can study a particular Burlington building or architect or an architectural style. Finally, there is a selection of additional lessons available such as studying John

continued on page 5



Caption. One line each is best.



Caption.



Caption.

Behind the Green Marker

Marge Allard

76 Brookes Avenue

76 Brookes Avenue is an example of the Queen Anne style homes built in Burlington at the turn of the twentieth century. The Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey notes: "Unusual to this house is the relatively high style Colonial Revival barn/garage to the rear. The fact that this house has its own barn reflects the relative prosperity of its original owner, Mrs. E.B. Collins, a widow."

Electa Baker Collins, born in Cha-teaugay, NY, was the widow of Frank B. Collins, a Colchester farmer who had died on April 25, 1897, of scarlet fever. At the time of his death, the Collins family was farming in the Intervale in Burlington. Electa and her children, Ray and Winifred, initially lived at 57 Brookes Avenue. In January 1901, she bought the lot at 76 Brookes Avenue from Mary E. Collins and built the home that now stands there.

The son of the house, Ray Collins, was a celebrated athlete, first at UVM, and then as an outstanding big league pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. After successful seasons, including 1912 when he was a member of the Red



Sox world champion team, Ray hit a less-successful streak and retired. After his playing career, Ray returned to Vermont where he served as UVM's baseball coach. (In 2012, he was part of the inaugural class of the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame.

Ray's sister, Winifred, remained on Brookes Avenue after Ray and his

mother relocated to a family farm in Colchester. Winifred, a teacher, made extra income on the side by renting out rooms. By 1921, G. Raymond Stimets and his family were living at the house. Raymond worked as an accountant for the T.A Haigh Lumber Company and eventually become city treasurer and a member of the board of alderman. The home would change hands three more times before being purchased by its current owner, Mark Porter, in 2012.

Toolkit

continued from page 4

Roberts, a prolific Burlington builder, ordering mail-order homes, or developing an adaptive reuse project.

Upon completion of the toolkit, students will be awarded the title of "Junior Preservationists" by Preservation Bur-

lington. In the near future, the toolkit will be available to teachers and home-schooling parents to borrow for between 1 to 3 weeks, depending on their unit emphases and available time-frame.

Thank you to Preservation Burlington and the many donors who made this kit possible. I sincerely hope

that this toolkit demonstrates that learning about history can be relevant, place-based, hands-on, and fun! Historic architecture and the built environment, I believe, hold invaluable keys to unlocking an early passion for history and its stewardship in younger audiences.



President's Corner – Matt Viens

On January 25, Preservation Burlington joined with the Chittenden County Historical Society to sponsor an event celebrating Burlington's becoming a city 150 years ago. The event offered those who attended an interesting glimpse into what life was like in Burlington in 1865. Presenters included Vince Feeney and Britta Feniman Tonn, a member of PB's board of directors, who explored the physical, social, economic and political aspects of Burlington as it transitioned into a city more 150 years ago.

The January 25 event also provided Preservation Burlington with the perfect forum for presenting its annual Historic Preservation Awards. (Please see numbered photos on the opposite page.) The Residential Property award was presented to Matt and Kim Donaldson and Jeff Fellingner for the restoration of 169-171 North Winooski Avenue (1). The property was meticulously restored by Jeff Fellingner and sold soon thereafter to the Donaldsons. The Commercial Prop-

erty award was presented to Furst Management Ventures, LLC, owners of the Exchange Block at 156-158 Church Street (2). The property recently underwent extensive interior and exterior renovations, including installation of individually milled windows to match the arched contour of the originals and repairing and repainting the metal cornices on the building's Church Street and Main Street facades. This year PB presented two Spirit of Preservation awards, one to John, Marlene, and Marijean Phillips for their beautifully maintained duplex at 157-159 North Winooski Avenue (3); and the other to Jim and Cynthia Barr for their stately home at 21 Chase Street (4). The Ray O'Connor award, which is given annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of our community, was awarded to Norm Williams, an original and soon-to-be retiring member of PB's board of directors (5).

And speaking of Norm, I want to acknowledge his work, as well as

that of other Preservation Burlington board members and Burlington residents, in negotiating a deal with the City of Burlington and Champlain College for a vastly improved design for the future Eagles Landing building on Saint Paul Street. Not only have these efforts resulted in a more palatable design, but also a memorandum of understanding between Preservation Burlington, Champlain College, and the City of Burlington to advance newly created "Neighborhood Project" — a plan to re-shape the nature of growth in residential communities.

Lastly, now that winter is half way through, it is time to start thinking about spring! So that you save the date, our annual Homes Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 6. This year's tour will include a mixture of beautiful homes, including Englesby House, the home of UVM President Tom Sullivan and his wife, Leslie. As with previous years, tickets will be available in the weeks preceding the tour at the Flynn Center Box Office or flynntix.org. I look forward to seeing you soon!



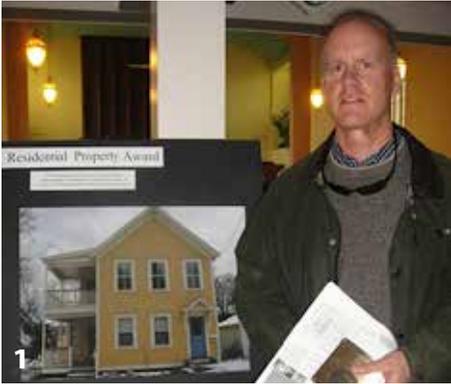
Meet the Board Member – Devin Colman

Born in California and raised in Minnesota, Devin Colman completed his eastward migration in 2004 when he moved to Burlington to attend graduate school at UVM. After earning a master's degree in Historic Preservation in 2006, Devin began working at the Vermont Divi-

sion for Historic Preservation. He is now the State Architectural Historian, a job that involves nominating historic properties to the State and National Registers of Historic Places and researching and documenting Vermont's built environment. Of special interest to Devin is architecture and design of the mid-20th century

throughout the state, which he documents online at www.vermontmodern.com.

A board member since 2014, Devin and his family live in the South End in a historic 1956 ranch house. In addition to history and preservation, Devin is an avid hockey fan and is researching the game's roots in Vermont.



1



2



3



4



5

Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference

Each year, the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Downtown Program work together to host an annual statewide conference.

The conference will offer different tracks with inspiring presentations and discussions from downtown and historic preservation leaders. Experience Burlington through walking tours of downtown and the historic waterfront, as well as a look into innovative business success stories and unique historic building renovations.

2015 DOWNTOWN AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION CONFERENCE
Friday, June 5
Main Street Landing

FOR INFORMATION OR REGISTRATION GO TO:
www.ptvermont.org

IPTW 2015 - "All the Trades Under One Roof"

The International Preservation Trades Workshop is the only annual event in North America which brings the foremost practitioners of the traditional trades together in a single event, dedicated to sharing the skills and knowledge of all of the trades employed in conservation of the built environment. Since 1997, masons, timber framers, carpenters, painters, roofers, plasterers, metal workers and practitioners of other traditional trades from more than a dozen countries have come together to share their knowledge and demonstrate their skills.

19TH ANNUAL INTERNAL PRESERVATION
TRADES WORKSHOP
July 22-24
Shelburne Farms Coach Barn

FOR INFORMATION GO TO:
info@ptn.org or 866-853-9335

Preservation Burlington Walking Tours

Walking tour season is just around the corner! Burlington's fascinating history and alluring architecture come alive through guided walking tours. Our knowledgeable guides will entertain you with stories of the past and introduce you to Burlington's diverse architectural styles. We offer a number of different types of tours and cover a variety of Burlington's neighborhoods.

PRESERVATION BURLINGTON WALKING TOURS

FOR INFORMATION:
info@preservationburlington.org
802-522-8259

Downtown Burlington: Uncover the intriguing history and architecture at the heart of Vermont's bustling Queen City.

Waterfront: Explore Burlington's thriving industrial and maritime past while taking in the beauty of the Lake Champlain shoreline.

Old North End: Experience Burlington's most diverse neighborhood through an historic and architectural lens.

Willard Street: A gorgeous tour through Burlington's stately hill section. Learn about the high-style architecture and influential Burlington residents of the Gilded Age.

Pine Street: Discover the commercial and industrial history of Burlington's South End and pop into funky art galleries along the way.

Stay tuned for more information on our scheduled walking tours for 2015. Or contact us to arrange your own private tour! See you on the streets!

Preservation Burlington T-Shirts

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
WITH RESPECT FOR THE PAST

Only \$15. Available in Forest Green
unisex adult sizes S-XXL

Contact info@preservationburlington.org



Historic Building Markers

Preservation Burlington Historic Markers
celebrate the age of your home!

Cost: \$75 includes:
basic research on your home,
a marker, and one-year membership
to Preservation Burlington.



PRESERVATION BURLINGTON

PO Box 481
Burlington, VT 05402