

Chittenden County Historical Society

July 22, 2007

Chittenden County Historical Society Presents

2007 PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Chittenden County Historical Society (CCHS) announced the winners of this year's **Preservation Awards** at the group's annual meeting on Sunday, July 22, at the Huntington Public Library.

The eight winners in six categories are:

Residential:

The Northern Lights Consortium of HowardCenter, Mercy Connections, Vermont Works for Women, Vermont Children's Aid Society, Burlington Housing Authority, Burlington Community Justice Center, Lund Family Center, and Women Helping Battered Women for preservation and restoration of Varney House at 76 Cherry Street, Burlington and creative use as a supportive home for women returning from prison.

Special Recognition:

Ted and Joyce George as examples of Living History, for the preservation of the Star Press family business and conservation of historic printing practices.

Special Recognition:

Charlie Auer, Jr. and Christine Auer Hebert as an example of Living History, for continuing to operate Charlie's Boat House in much the same manner as their father who founded it nearly 80 years ago.

Education:

Tim Bourne, Matt Kihm, Suzanne Richard, Ann Thomas, Chris Varney, and Hinesburg Community School, especially the 5th and 6th grade student volunteers, for the One Day Town History Museum Project.

Education:

Scott McLaughlin of the University of Vermont for his class Cemeteries as Social Documents, which used the Jericho Center Cemetery to study how history, culture, geography, technology and individual human stories are intertwined.

Community:

Town of Williston for the publication of "Historic Williston Walking and Driving Tours," that helps focus attention on the town's significant historic district.

Commercial:

Redstone for renovation and restoration of the historic Shelburne Inn for creative use as restaurant, shops and offices, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures.

Public Building:

The University of Vermont and Black River Design for outstanding restoration of the architecturally significant structure at 438 College Street and its adaptive use to house offices of the UVM College of Arts and Sciences.

The University of Vermont warrants special mention this year. UVM received an award in the Public Building category for its outstanding restoration of 438 College Street. According to Gail Rosenberg, a preservation committee volunteer, "UVM continues to provide models for historic preservation. In addition to restoring this local treasure, it promotes historic preservation through its Historic Preservation program and Special Collections. Other winners used UVM resources to research their projects. This year UVM faculty member Scott McLaughlin also received an award in the Education category for a special project to preserve Jericho's social history."

Members of this year's Preservation Awards Committee are:

- Richard Allen, Enrichment Teacher, Williston School District
- David Barber, Historic Preservation classes; researcher, New Sherwood Hotel Project
- Josh Masters, IT; amateur historian and genealogist
- Aron Merrill, Williston Central School
- Bob Neeld, Engineering Ventures; Williston planning and historic preservation committees
- Gail Rosenberg, President, CCHS; Development & Public Relations Manager, HowardCenter
- David White, David White & Associates, planning /development..

The Chittenden County Historical Society is a non-profit membership organization, with the mission of encouraging discovery and publication of historical material, and promoting original research about Chittenden County and the Champlain Valley Region. CCHS annually publishes a quarterly bulletin, presents six programs a year, provides grants for research, and presents preservation awards.

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Full descriptions of the project and contact names and numbers to reach award winners follow.

RESIDENTIAL:

The Northern Lights Consortium of HowardCenter, Mercy Connections, Vermont Works for Women, Vermont Children’s Aid Society, Burlington Housing Authority, Burlington Community Justice Center, Lund Family Center, and Women Helping Battered Women for preservation and restoration of Varney House at 76 Cherry Street, Burlington and creative use as a supportive home for women returning from prison.

Varney House was rescued from demolition. Itself a symbol of survival, it now shelters women returning from prison as they construct new and better lives.

Northern Lights accepts ten women residents at Varney House, for up to one year. Each woman works to build a safe and productive life in the community, under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. These women receive support from community members, service providers, and most important, each other, as they develop skills, seek employment, improve their health, and make positive connections.

David Varney, an ardent abolitionist, lived at 76 Cherry Street from 1865 until his death in 1877. Six other inhabitants followed; miraculously no one painted the oak woodwork or destroyed the wonderful architectural details.

In the 1970s this neighborhood was decimated by so-called urban renewal. This house was spared, perhaps because it was identified with Pine Street, which remains substantially intact. Liz Pritchett, an architectural historian wrote, “In my opinion...76 Cherry Street deserves to be preserved. Its significant as housing during early periods of history in Burlington, its survival of the urban renewal movement in the 1970s, and its intact condition as a good example of vernacular Queen Anne housing in Vermont, support its importance and its justification for its preservation.”

The property is listed on the State Register of Historic Places as part of the Burlington Urban Survey, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its local historic significance and architectural merit. The Catholic Diocese was its owner two years ago and considered tearing it down. Local efforts were made to save it and the Consortium was formed to preserve the house and adapt it to its supportive use. Community volunteers decorated and furnished the interior. The restoration was beautifully done by G.V.V. Architects, with Frank Guillot as the lead architect.

Lis Mickenberg, HowardCenter

488-6228

lism@howardcenter.org

Frank Guillot, G.V.V. Architects

862-9631

Note: Gail Rosenberg recused herself from this vote because of her connection through HowardCenter.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Ted and Joyce George as examples of Living History, for the preservation of the Star Press family business and conservation of historic printing practices.

Near the southern end of Burlington's North Avenue, a small family-owned print shop produces work for the twenty-first century with all the style and integrity of its founder—and much of his original equipment as well.

Today, Ted and Joyce George run the historic Star Press, the business Ted's father founded. Ted George began working here as a teenager, learning his way around Letterpress printing – a technique that offset printing and “instant” computer printing have rendered largely obsolete. Yet the elegant, textured effect created by the Letterpress method just can't be duplicated by a computer. The shop also uses an offset press for some print jobs.

At the Star Press, each individual letter, each block, every piece of equipment seems to be nestled into the place where it has lived for decades. And some of those places are rather unexpected.

For example, when Ted wants to print individually numbered pieces without changing the press for each piece, he reaches for a counting mechanism that is kept soaking in an ancient olive jar – the kind you might find in your great grandmother's wood shed. Why? Ted's father simply loved olives and so the jars were everywhere.

At the Star Press, most things never change...and that's just the way their customers like it!

Ted & Joyce George
(o) 862-2130

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Charlie Auer, Jr. and Christine Auer Hebert as examples of Living History, for continuing to operate Charlie's Boat House in much the same manner as their father who founded it nearly 80 years ago.

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Ride to the north end of the Burlington bike path, just before the bridge over the Winooski River, and visit the Auer Family Boathouse. Charlie's Boathouse, as it is often called, is like a step back in time. The Boathouse was established by their father, Charlie Auer, Sr., in 1928, and Charlie, Jr. and his sister, Christine, have been running it for many years in much the same manner as their father did.

Walking into the store can evoke memories of childhood summer camp, or long days at the shore. Old oars and handmade fishing poles hang on the walls. The piano you'll see there was played by Charlie and Christine's mother to accompany silent movies at Strong's Theater in downtown Burlington before "talkies" came along. You can still rent a rowboat to go fishing, buy bait, sodas, or nickel candy (penny candy when their Dad operated the store).

Ask Charlie or Christine about the history of the boathouse and you'll hear stories of soldiers coming down during WWII, or dances that used to be held there. Christine might show you the remains of an old wooden rowboat that was built by her father, but was smashed by vandals during the 1940s. Maybe you'll hear about how they, with their siblings and parents, moved the original building by rolling it on logs up from its first location closer to the shore, and how Charlie helped his father expand it over time. Perhaps they'll tell you about the folks who didn't have much who came there to fish for their families' evening meals.

It's rare to find a business that remains in the same family after nearly 80 years, let alone one that is still much as it was way back when. In recognition of this and to honor Charlie and Christine, the CCHS awards them this Special Recognition as Living History.

Charlie Auer

Christine Auer Hebert

862-9840 (Boat House)

(Accepting the award Sunday – David Arms – a long time friend of Charlie's and a Burlingtonian)

EDUCATION:

Tim Bourne, Matt Kihm, Suzanne Richard, Ann Thomas, Chris Varney, and Hinesburg Community School, especially the 5th and 6th grade student volunteers, for the One Day Town History Museum Project.

The One Day Town History Museum Project was inspired by a town project in Italy that educator Chris Varney discovered. The project grew from her efforts along with the help of Suzanne Richard and Ann Thomas, both parent volunteers. The One Day History Museum created an opportunity for local residents to bring in objects that connect to the town's local history and share the objects with the community and the school.

As objects came in during the day, students of Hinesburg Community School completed forms on each object and took pictures of the objects. The objects were then put on display for the public to see. Educator Tim Bourne supported the students in creating a digital archive of the information. Students have already started to use the archives when producing social science projects. A web page documenting this project is also in the works for the Hinesburg Historical Society.

The day generated wonderful intergenerational connections as community members shared their stories with the students. It also connected community members to each other as discoveries revealed how one home or family was once connected to another in the past. The project will continue as an annual event for the town and school.

The 5th and 6th grade student volunteers deserve special thanks: Lindsay Gardner, Kristin Place, McKenzie Tobrocke, Wesley McEntee, Miles Lamberson, Thomas Keller, Laurel Hulbert-Severance, Nathalie Nostrand, Alice Reed, and Keith Gallagher.

Ann Thomas
482-3889
aadl@madriver.com
Matt Kihm
Suzanne Richard

EDUCATION:

Scott McLaughlin of the University of Vermont for his class Cemeteries as Social Documents, which used the Jericho Center Cemetery to study how history, culture, geography, technology and individual human stories are intertwined.

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For many people, walking into a cemetery brings up sad thoughts about loved ones who have passed away. Some visitors to a cemetery are interested in genealogical connections of the persons buried there, or in the different styles of grave markers – ranging from flat stone markers to grand mausoleums. Scott McLaughlin looks at a cemetery and sees social history. He views cemeteries as social documents that when deciphered tell stories about a community and the people who lived there – their culture, religion, industry, and even technology. McLaughlin, an adjunct professor at the University of Vermont, taught a course this past year titled “Cemeteries as Social Documents” and used the Jericho Center Cemetery as its focus. The class was comprised of college students and also two members of the Board of Trustees of the Cemetery. So the research, analysis and planning that occurred was not simply an academic exercise – the ideas generated have the potential to be carried through.

Class members looked into geography, history, geology, cultures, and changes in community and religion. They compared and contrasted headstone styles and learned what they said about religious beliefs during different eras, as well as cultural shifts and new stone cutting technologies. One student researched and mapped the physical boundaries of the Cemetery. The class developed a database linking burials to specific locations. The whole class discussed the newest section and how it might be developed. Should it be done in a modern up-to-date style? Or allow it to be the same as was done in the past? Each student undertook a different research project, selecting a topic of personal interest. One was intrigued by a zinc headstone and through research discovered that such headstones were made for only a brief time. The technology for producing them was developed around the turn of the 20th century. A company in Massachusetts produced the Jericho headstone, but with the advent of WWI, all zinc was needed for war efforts so production of zinc headstones was ended.

A publication about the Jericho Center Cemetery is being produced based on the research papers written by the students. It will discuss elements of the cemetery as a whole as well as stories of individuals buried there.

In recognition of McLaughlin’s creative approach to teaching history, including involving community members, CCHS is pleased to present this Education Award.

Scott McLaughlin

899-4275 Accepting the award Sunday – Sylvia Bugbee, UVM Special Collections

COMMUNITY:

Town of Williston for the publication of “Historic Williston Walking and Driving Tours,” that helps focus attention on the town’s significant historic district.

In the last decade, Williston has changed dramatically. With all of the new construction -- big box stores and chains, and the highways that serve this expanded commercial center -- a group of residents wanted to remind both Williston residents and the larger community that Williston Village was still historically significant. The walking tour in particular invites people to explore the core district of Williston at leisure, bringing the residential and community aspects of the town into focus.

Those who served on the Williston Historic Preservation Committee at the time the tour was developed were: Bob Neeld, Chair; Phil Swett, Vice Chair; Ginger Isham; Nancy Cleveland; Elizabeth Jordan-Shook; Rebekah Bose; Barbara Mieder; and Town Manager Richard McGuire.

The brochure contains details on buildings in the historic village center that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, historic photos, a table of architectural terms, a capsule summary of the town’s history, and a guide and map for driving tours.

The brochure was prepared by UVM students Elizabeth Andre and Gregory Tisher for the Williston Historic Preservation Committee. Funding was provided by a Federal matching grant through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Historical information in the brochure was based on: Williston Historical Society archives and publications; the Vermont Room collection at the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library in Williston Village; National Register of Historic Places; Louisa Judge Mathew architectural survey (1979); Williston historic homes “Walking Tour” (1989), and “Walking/Driving Tours” (1996) brochure; and the kind assistance of many Williston community members. Historical images are courtesy of the Williston Historical Society through the University of Vermont’s Landscape Change Program. Special thanks were given in the brochure to Thomas Visser, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, University of Vermont,

Richard McGuire

rmcguire@willistontown.com

**Terence Macaig, President, Williston Historical Society
878-3872**

Note that Bob Neeld recused himself from this vote.

COMMERCIAL:

Redstone for renovation and restoration of the historic Shelburne Inn for creative use as restaurant, shops and offices, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures.

The recent restoration of the Shelburne Inn and its current use as offices, restaurant, and retail space has brought new life to the corner of the Route 7 Intersection of Falls Road and Harbor Road.

Dating from 1796, this building is the oldest in the Shelburne National Register District. The Shelburne Inn was constructed by Benjamin Harrington ("long a sea-faring man" according to Rann's *History of Chittenden County*) who came to Shelburne from New Haven, Connecticut after the Revolutionary War. In 1788 Harrington purchased a farm in the center of town. The next year he laid out the main road from Middlebury to Burlington, now U.S. Route 7, and soon was serving travelers and locals alike with his strategically-sited Inn.

An 1839 survey lists this property as the Hiram Pierson "Old Tavern Stand," and appraises it at \$1,500. It has known many owners, and has served a number of community functions: tavern with a second story ball room, post office, meeting hall, and apartment dwelling. A photograph taken around 1896 shows a porch with large columns, and a hip roof extending to the sills of the second story windows. This porch was replaced by a shallow-pitched shed roof that didn't reach the second floor windows, and rested on inelegant posts.

Redstone Development followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and was able to use federal tax credits to full advantage. During the restoration, features added in the 1960s and 1970s, including three-part picture windows, were removed. Restoration also included removal of the deteriorated 1910 porch, and reconstruction of the porch and windows to their original glory.

John Wakefield, Redstone
658-7400 ext 28

PUBLIC BUILDING:

The University of Vermont and Black River Design for outstanding restoration of the architecturally significant structure at 438 College Street and its adaptive use to house offices of the UVM College of Arts and Sciences.

The University of Vermont and Black River Design, working collaboratively at every step with the State Historic Preservation office, have succeeded in restoring 438 College Street to its former elegance.

This 1908 brick and terracotta building is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture. It was built as a stately residence for Edward R. Booth who was manager of his family's extremely lucrative lumber and packaging business. The Booth family resided in the home until about 1950, when the Roman Catholic Diocese purchased the property and converted it to a convent and chapel to provide a home for the sisters of the Religious Hospitaliers of St. Joseph who ran the Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital.

UVM acquired the property in 1997 but did not begin restoration until 2005. The main façade of the building was meticulously restored to its 1907 appearance, which included replacing its *porte cochere* and decorative balustrades. It is remarkable that, throughout a century of history, almost all the building's interior fixtures remained intact. A new two-story addition with an elevator was added at the rear of the building to increase accessibility.

This stately building at 438 College Street is now a vibrant center of the University's academic life as well as a treasured community landmark and a contemporary reminder of the value and importance of historic preservation.

Shirley Fortier, UVM

656-8057

Keith Robinson, Black River Design, Architects PLC

802 – 223-2044