

PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT (PTV) VISIT AND 1772 FOUNDATION GRANT

Last newsletter (Jan 2020) we told you we hoped to apply for a grant from the 1772 Foundation to help us paint Pratt Hall. This required a screening visit by the PTV. They were impressed enough to mention us in their February 27th newsletter below.

Pratt Hall, Montgomery

Do not let this town's small size fool you, this community cares about preserving their historic buildings. The Montgomery Historical Society continues to be an excellent steward of the 1835 Church located

on VT-118. With a long history of fundraising, planning community activities, and preserving the c. 1870 Gothic Revival details of the iconic Pratt Hall, the Historical Society is applying for a grant funding to repaint the building.



1772 GRANT

We were one of 26 organizations, out of 46 statewide submitting Letters of Interest, who were invited to submit an application. We think about half of those will receive grants, and should hear how we fared soon. Keep your fingers crossed.

One question the 1772 grant application includes is "Why does this project matter?":

Our response: When this building was teetering on demolition in 1973 and the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont was considering its options, it was clear we almost lost this jewel due to the cumulative lack of normal, routine, periodic maintenance, and because there were no longer any clear local stake holders with the power to bring resources to bear.

The community response was emotional which speaks to the building's importance to our sense of community, place, and heritage. Keeping this building in great shape and using it matters because it is a critical ingredient of who we were and who we are. It connects us to our past and to each other, and as sociologists warn this social capital and connectedness is a critical ingredient for strong communities and social networks.

In a more physical sense, until now, grant dollars were not available for this type of maintenance. Water is the enemy of buildings and without this painting the building would likely suffer more serious damage that would be even more expensive to remedy in the future, possibly even compromising the structural restorations we've already done. Deferring maintenance is unavoidable sometimes. This grant will help us complete an overdue project and extend the legacy of those early settlers who arrived nearly 227 years ago.

PRATT HALL PAINTING PROJECT UPDATE

We were awarded a \$10,000 painting grant! Probably starting in August the entire exterior of Pratt Hall will be scraped, then primed, then given two coats of finished paint by Precision Coatings of Vermont. This will be the first time the entire building has been painted since 2006. The grant amounts to about one third of the anticipated cost.

This project was assisted by a preservation grant made possible by a partnership between the 1772 Foundation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Thank you!