

DRAFT for 2022-2026 Vermont State Plan

May 4, 2021

1. GOAL: Advocate for Historic Preservation

I. Improve the coordination of activities under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Vermont Historic Preservation Act.

- 1) Assist state and federal agencies in fulfilling their stewardship responsibilities.
- 2) Evaluate State-owned properties to identify potential historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeological sites.
- 3) Stimulate wider participation in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.
- 4) Update the Vermont Historic Preservation Act Rules.

II. Educate the public that historic preservation is culturally, financially, and environmentally beneficial and worthwhile.

- 1) Provide information about energy efficient features inherent to historic properties and current guidance on how to improve energy efficiency while still maintaining the historic integrity of the resource.
- 2) Compile economic and technical feasibility information regarding replacement materials such as exterior siding, roofing, and windows.
- 3) Foster Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC) and State Downtown & Village Tax Credit programs.
- 4) Promote successful historic preservation projects to influence perceptions about historic preservation.

2. GOAL: Recognize Historic Places

I. Identify and document Vermont's archaeological and historic resources

- 1) Provide guidance on the importance of survey, the advantages of designation to the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and the requirements of the designation processes.
- 2) Evaluate designations for the State-owned Historic Sites.
- 3) Update statewide historic context information used to identify and evaluate archaeological and historic resources.
- 4) Identify and document historic cemeteries and unmarked burials

5) Educate municipalities about why and how to establish a local historic district, and how to prepare guidelines and ordinances for design review and demolition.

II. Support cultural resource disaster planning and recovery

1) Create pre-disaster preparedness and recovery planning guidance that addresses determination of eligibility procedures, project review, and compliance efforts.

2) Establish pre-disaster preparedness and recovery plans for the State-owned Historic Sites.

3) Leverage partnership with the Vermont Arts & Cultural Disaster and Recovery Network (VACDaRN).

3. GOAL: Expand Public Outreach and Information Collaboration

I. Continue development of computer tools for staff and easily accessible public interfaces.

1) Identify and implement data collection and mapping tools and databases.

2) Undertake the digitization of archival materials and artifacts, slides, and other photographic formats in archives.

II. Collaborate with educational partners

1) Develop lesson plans and programs that incorporate preservation and archaeology.

2) Launch an illustrated timeline as an educational tool to promote understanding of Vermont history.

III. Provide guidance and programming on research, documentation, and best preservation practices.

1) Develop survey documentation guidance and documentation forms for above-ground resources.

2) Develop training materials and programs on best preservation techniques.

3) Conduct and coordinate consultant and preservation partner trainings, workshops, and networking.

4) Establish a partnership between the Vermont Historical Society and VT SHPO to support Vermont history and heritage programs

5) Organize and collaborate with partners to support Vermont Archaeology Month and the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center.

6) Update *Guidelines for Conducting Archaeology In Vermont*

4. GOAL: Cultivate Pride of Place and Stewardship

I. Advocate for the value of historic preservation through cultural tourism.

1) Work with tourism partners to promote cultural tourism as asset and economic driver.

2) Plan and promote the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War and the commemoration of the founding of the Republic of Vermont (2025-2027).

II. Encourage responsible stewardship of archaeological and historic resources.

- 1) Demonstrate best preservation practices in the care and maintenance of historic resources and showcase application of The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- 2) Pursue State Archaeological Landmark Designation for the Native American Cemetery at Monument Road in Highgate.
- 3) Update operational manuals for State-owned Historic Sites, Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center, Roadside Historic Site Markers, and Underwater Historic Preserves.
- 4) Increase focus on care and management of collections and archives at the State-owned Historic Sites and Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center.