



# Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

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*Our mission is to enlighten our community with an understanding of our past to promote an objective vision of the future.*

[www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org)

## PERKINS HOUSE RESTORATION UPDATE

The Community Historical Museum has undertaken restoration of Perkins House (c. 1850) in order to provide year-round display and storage facilities to complement the existing seasonal Blacksmith Shop. The plan to restore the historic building was devised so that the project would qualify for preservation grant funds. This summer Phase 1 of the Perkins House Restoration Project was completed. This phase included the deconstruction of the barn, the lifting of the house off its foundation, the installation of a drainage system around the entire building, the pouring of a new foundation under the house and barn, the construction of new flooring for the house and barn and the reinstallation of the house on its new foundation. The cost was \$67,500; the work was completed by local contractor David Josselyn. The funds for the project were raised by the Museum Board of Directors and came from community members and friends of the Museum.



*Perkins House, August 2006. Phase 1 complete.*

During the summer, the Museum Board of Directors continued to plan for Phase 2, which includes the reconstruction of the barn, the roofing of the house and barn, the installation of doors and windows (windows in the house will be restored and weatherproofed), and the electric panel in the basement. **In October we were notified that we had received a \$45,000 grant from The Preservation Trust of Vermont made possible by a partnership between The Preservation Trust and the Freeman Foundation.** The bid for Phase 2 came in at \$62,000. With the grant money and our continued success with the capital campaign we have enough money to fund this phase. Construction will begin this winter.

At the same time we must replace the leaky roof on the Blacksmith Shop building. After consulting with several local roofers who all told us that a metal roof was not appropriate for the uneven rooflines, we decided to install new plywood, rubberized sheathing and asphalt shingles at a cost of \$6,000.

Phase 3 of the Perkins House Project includes the coming together of the interior gallery, kitchen, handicapped bathroom, office, storage and work space. It is likely that we will need a consultant for the important work of developing effective storage facilities, gallery spaces, and display areas. We have not put this phase out to bid, so we do not know exactly what the costs will be. We are hoping that local businesses will find our project worthy and perhaps donate bathroom, kitchen and office materials.

In the meantime, friends and a major grant have funded Phases 1 and 2. We now turn our sights on raising funds for Phase 3. There are several grant applications pending and our December 2 Festival of Lights fund raiser is expected to be a great success. In anticipation of maintaining a building with year-round heat, light and activity, we recognize the need to secure funds above and beyond the restoration costs to keep the Museum operating on a year round basis.

The Museum Board of Directors is gratified that the project has moved forward with quality workmanship, organization, timeliness, and significant community support and involvement. In October we took on a special challenge: to finish the building by 2009, the Museum's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Because of the outstanding progress in the last two years, this goal seems well within reach.

We have recently received the donation of the Belmont Surrey for display in the Perkins House barn and also a fine set of 1860 dining room furniture. We have been promised the return to Mount Holly of the mastodon tusk and tooth from the University of Vermont Geology Department.

When the Perkins House project is complete, the community will have a Museum which will attract local, regional and state visitors. School children will have access to the collections in a heated, up-to-date facility. Donated artifacts will receive the care, storage and attention they deserve. Having heat and running water will allow expanded hours of operation and more and varied programming. Our small town has a remarkable history and we have been able to keep our small Vermont village look. As part of this village, the Museum looks forward to keeping local history alive and well.

We encourage your suggestions and support.

*Lory Doolittle, Chair, Board of Directors*

