

Society for Industrial Archeology – Industrial Heritage Preservation Grant Application

Vermont Marble Company Finishing Shed Measured Drawings

Submitted by Ann Cousins, Preservation Trust of Vermont

Project Summary

The Preservation Trust of Vermont requests a \$3,000 grant to help complete measured drawings of the former Vermont Marble Company finishing shed, also known as the manufacturing plant. The large industrial building located in the center of Proctor, Vermont, houses the Vermont Marble Museum, two stone carvers, an architectural stone company, and several businesses. The Preservation Trust of Vermont purchased the privately-owned museum in December 2012 in order to save the museum from closing and prevent its collection from being sold piecemeal. The Preservation Trust has an option to purchase the building. Measured drawings, an environmental assessment, and an engineering assessment are the next steps in planning for the industrial building's rehabilitation. A Community Development Planning grant will cover part of the costs; a grant from Society of Industrial Archeology, if awarded, will help with the required 25% match.



Vermont Marble Company Building that houses the Vermont Marble Museum, Proctor

Project Narrative

In December 2012, the Preservation Trust of Vermont purchased the Vermont Marble Museum and its collection in order to save the museum from closing and its collection from being sold piecemeal. The Trust has an option to purchase the historic industrial Vermont Marble Company finishing shed that houses the museum.



Interior, Vermont Marble Museum, Proctor

In preparation for the acquisition and to plan for rehabilitation, the Preservation Trust is doing due diligence and studying the building. In partnership with the Preservation Trust, the Town of Proctor and the Rutland County Regional Planning Commission are applying for a Community Development Planning Grant (CDPG) that will help pay for a preservation architect to do measured drawings, an engineer to do an engineering assessment of the building, and an environmental engineer to do a Phase 1 environmental assessment. Because the CDPG is a federal grant, there is a requirement to solicit three bids from qualified consultants after the grant is awarded. A grant from the Society of Industrial Archeology will help pay for the measured drawings portion of the work and will contribute to the 25% required match.

The Vermont Marble Company finishing shed, also known as the manufacturing plant, is a physical landmark in the center of Proctor. In its heyday between 1880 and the 1930s, the Vermont Marble Company grew to be the largest marble company in the world and one of the world's largest companies. This building was the center of activity for carving and finishing stone products.

Proctor marble was the material of choice for many monumental buildings throughout the United States and in Washington D.C. Within the walls of the finishing shed, carvers--many of whom were skilled immigrant laborers--created some of this country's most important monuments including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the capitals for the U.S. Supreme Court building.



U.S. Supreme Court was built of Vermont Marble Company marble. Its capitals were carved in Proctor.

The measured drawings will help to document this historically and architecturally significant building. Drawings will be stored in the museum's archives and will be reproduced to:

1. plan for the building's rehabilitation;
2. serve as in interpretive visual aid for museum visitors;
3. supplement National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination documentation.

Ann Cousins of the Preservation Trust of Vermont will administer the grant and the project. (resume attached)

Project Budget (attached excel)

Historic photos from the museum's approximately 2,000 glass plate negative collection will enhance the public's interpretation.

