

How to be a Preservationist

20 Ways to Support Historic Preservation

1. Show your kids the place where you went to school or where you got married.
2. Shop in a historic commercial district, such as Historic Downtown Wilmington. Be sure to look up so you can admire the detail of the buildings' upper floors.
3. Visit a place where history was made or a museum dedicated to history.
4. Eat at a restaurant in a historic building. If you like the atmosphere, tell the owner or host.
5. Attend a live performance or movie at a historic theater.
6. Walk around a historic residential neighborhood.
7. Join an organization – even better, more than one – dedicated to historic preservation. Historic Wilmington Foundation would love to welcome you as a new member. Visit us at 516 North 4th Street and find out more about us at www.historicwilmington.org. Become a member of the National Trust (visit www.nthp.org), or find out about groups in your area. (Locate some at www.nthp.org/help/statewide_org.asp. They can direct you to others.
8. Stay in a historic hotel – the 185 members of Historic Hotels of America are listed at www.nthp.org/historic_hotels/index.asp – or at a historic B&B.
9. Attend services in an historic church.
10. Take a tour of historic houses in your community.

11. Buy a historic house and rehabilitate it.
12. Reuse an old building in downtown for your business or organization.
13. Keep the Post Office in your town center. For more information read "Developing Community Post Offices" on the Preservation Trust of Vermont website (at www.ptvermont.org/books.html)
14. Say no to sprawl development that would undermine the vitality of your community. (Learn more about this issue at www.nthp.org/issues/smart_growth.html)
15. Let your town or county board know that old buildings are important to your community. Encourage them to keep municipal offices in your downtown or village center.
16. Tell your representative and senators to support the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act, which would give tax credits to people who buy and rehabilitate older homes. (Find out more from Preservation Action at www.preservationaction.org)
17. Encourage your friends and neighbors to learn more about historic preservation.
18. Convince your school board to keep using your historic schools. (Go to www.nthp.org/historic_schools.html to see how other communities have done it).
19. Encourage an ethic of stewardship and high quality rehabilitation work in your community. No vinyl siding!

Volunteer with organizations where preservation makes a difference: the planning commission, development review board, and library board, downtown organization, regional planning commission or the Historic Wilmington Foundation! To find out more about our volunteer opportunities, visit the Historic Wilmington Foundation at 516 North 4th Street and on the web at www.historicwilmington.org