

A Short Modern History of Pratt Hall



Summer 2006

The building now known as Pratt Hall was Montgomery's first church. Completed by the Episcopalians in 1835, it was consecrated as Union Church by John Henry Hopkins, the first Episcopal Bishop of Vermont. He was a proponent of Gothic Architecture which no doubt influenced our building's design. In 1897 it was re-consecrated as St. Bartholomew's and remained so until purchased by the Montgomery Historical Society in 1974 for \$1.00. It was renamed Pratt Hall in 1977 in honor of Larry Pratt.

In 1927 St. Bart's ceased regular church services except for once-a-year Old Home Sundays. They ended in the early 60s and the church sat unused and unmaintained for at least 14 years. As talk of demolition swirled local people organized and the Montgomery Historical Society formed to save the building from demolition and make it available for community events.

Since taking over the building the Society has added electricity, water, heating, and a new roof. We have repaired and restored the tower, clock and bell and returned gothic moldings and the crenellation to the top of the tower. The stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired. Major structural restoration of the tower and west wall and clock faces were completed in the last few years.



New plate with braces attached to new right front corner post. Tower Project 2011.



West Wall Timber Frame Repair 2015

The building is also home to a modest collection of artifacts, documents and ephemera, and houses periodic exhibits. It is also a “living artifact” and serves as a venue for weddings, funerals, concerts, speakers, art shows, holiday caroling, school visits, and many other community events. Many are probably familiar with our Summer Farmers Market, Holiday Happiness, Candles and Carols, Memorial Day Commemoration, concerts, and speakers.



Farmers Market 2019



Holiday Happiness 2019

All of these efforts and activities are funded by membership dues, private donations, and grants. The only direct revenue ever received from the Town tax rolls was a donation to help fund the publication of a Town History in 1976 as part of the U.S. Bicentennial.

While the work never ends there is great satisfaction knowing the community will enjoy the sight of the building and associated activities at our local landmark now, and for **future generations**. We appreciate the support from our membership and community.

Thank you!!

Donations of artifacts from Montgomery’s past gladly accepted.

Not a member? Why not join us? Memberships start at \$10.
Please give us a call or send us an email for more information.



Montgomery Historical Society
P.O. Box 47
Montgomery, VT 05470
pratthall@gmail.com
www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org

The Montgomery Historical Society Board is:
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