

October 15, 2018

To: Town of Milton Recreation Commission From: General Stannard House Committee

Dear Recreation Commission members,

Thank you for meeting with us again to discuss our move proposal for the General Stannard House. We originally presented the enclosed proposal and met with the Commission at your March 14, 2018 meeting. We had a positive discussion at that meeting, and I talked to Ben Nappi in September about obtaining documentation of the commission's approval. He reminded me that there was not a quorum for that meeting, so there was not a vote. This document contains the original information, with updates based on progress since March.

Background

The Town approached the Milton Historical Society in 2013 to see if there was any interest in the deteriorating farmhouse owned by General George Stannard from 1866 - 1872. There was, among the Society and other community members. Major General George Stannard is Vermont's first volunteer, and its longest serving and most important soldier of the American Civil War, directing the flanking maneuver that helped defeat Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, altering the course of the conflict. Although there are several places in Vermont associated with the general, the house is the only one that tells the story of his post-war farming activities. The house was constructed c. 1840, and is the last remaining building in Milton associated with the property the general purchased upon his retirement from the army. Our Committee formed in July 2014 in an effort to save the General Stannard House and return it to public use as a Historic Site honoring Stannard and Vermont's Civil War heritage. After initial explorations for a possible move of the house, it was decided that there were not viable location options, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP)recommended that we not move it due to the site being as important as the house. Negotiations with current owner Bob Miller led us to pursue property transfer with town ownership, of the house and small surrounding lot with an easement access road. We formed a proposal to restore the house in place, and received Select Board approval in April 2015. We went through the necessary state and town DRB approval process for subdivision and conditional use, and gained those approvals in February 2016.

Then in March 2016, the Town purchased the Bombardier property. Town Manager at the time, Donna Barlow Casey, had experience in multiple historic preservation projects and approached us in consideration of moving the General Stannard House to the newly acquired property. This new opportunity halted us in our tracks, and we explored it. VDHP staff visited Milton, viewed the site and met with us, and supported the concept as a "best sustainable use", and although it removes the house from its original site, they believed it was a better option. We formed a proposal and met with the state Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in July 2016, and received their enclosed approval.

From there Donna approached the SLB and the proposal stalled in the coming months, to the point where we decided that we should *first and foremost* continue with pursuing town ownership, and *then* return to discussion of the move. One thing at a time. In hindsight the committee would have focused harder on the move at that time.

GENERAL STANNARD HOUSE COMMITTEE

c/o Milton Historical Society * 13 School Street, Milton, Vermont 05468 * 802-734-0758 * Email: generalstannardhouse@gmail.com www.GeneralStannardHouse.org

This Year - 2018

So, completing the property transfer requirements has the been our primary focus since, a process that includes an Act 250 permit amendment, a deed transfer with site conditions, and a revocable license agreement to complete those conditions. Our Act 250 permit amendment was approved in April, and in late August the deed was transferred to the Town of Milton. Bob Miller's license agreement had these conditions, related to the subdivison site plan:

1) Construct the Route 7 access road and parking area. All access to the house must come from Route 7, and no work may be performed on the house until the road is built;

- 2) Remove the non-historic garage addition;
- 3) construct a board fence on 3 sides of the house; and
- 4) landscaping as per the site plan.

The road construction was assigned a deadline of 9/15/18, and the other work had a deadline of today, 10/15/18. All of the work has been completed on time. Concurrent to satisfying these requirements, we reopened the move discussion with the Town Manager in January, and he suggested that we first submit and discuss a proposal with the Recreation Commission for feedback. That led to our March meeting with the Commission, and to today.

Developing Value

Vermont in the Civil War Heritage Trail

Vermont has a compelling Civil War story to tell, and Stannard is arguably its most prominent figure. A key element to our vision for the saving and repurposing the Gen. Stannard House has been to create a *Vermont in the Civil War Heritage Trail*. The concept stems from Sen. Jim Jeffords and historian Howard Coffin's proposal from 1994. As a Trail site, the General Stannard House could be the focal point or "hub" in a mapped out, interpreted, cohesive tour of Vermont's significant Civil War-related sites in the Champlain Valley.

There is a significant concentration of Civil War related sites along the Route 7 corridor. We have organized Trail Committee meetings with statewide sites and stakeholders in Ferrisburgh, Bennington, Rutland, St. Albans and Colchester in 2017-18, and the Trail was launched in August 2017 with a web site, Facebook page, development and distribution of brochures (see attached), and a presence on the VT Tourism web site.

There are many ways that the Trail can be further enhanced and developed, and next level planning is ongoing, with a video series and individual site identifying signage as upcoming proirities.

Medal of Honor Recommendation for General Stannard

An official Medal of Honor Recommendation for Major General George Stannard, researched and authored by Liam McKone, was submitted to Senator Leahy's office on February 13, 2018. Our Committee helped with the document, which we feel presents a very strong case for the award. McKone is Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Stannard Camp, and made the presentation in Brigadier General's uniform to Senator Leahy himself on Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

The Recommendation entered proper Army channels for what could be a lengthy determination process, and just this past week we received an initial response from the Adjutant General through Senator Leahy's office. More in-depth research is being required, and McKone and our Committee will work together to decide on next steps. The Recommendation can be viewed here:

https://www.generalstannardhouse.org/uploads/1/8/9/8/18989561/gengeorgestannard_mohrecommendation_020918_final.pdf

Please read the opening Caution Notice. This is a Recommendation only, without guarantee of the Award, and it must always be presented as such.

Benefits and Reasons and Proposed House Locations on Bombardier Property

Here are several benefits to moving the house to the Bombardier Property:

- Association with historic barn, similar to Stannard's. (VDHP endorses the move as a preferred location for the historic resource, stating "the existing location of the building at 951 Route 7 in Milton, has lost integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The Stannard Farm was listed in the State Register of *Historic Places in April 1980*". *Moving the house adjacent to an historic agricultural resource such as the* c. 1850 Bombardier barn retains the state historic register status. The General Stannard House Committee was awarded a \$30,000 matching Cultural Facilities Grant from the state for Phase 1 restoration work.) - Park like setting with attractive view corridor

- Adjacent to other town facilities
- Safer access and less isolation than current location
- More surrounding space to allow for outdoor interpretation, period gardens and walkways
- Larger event opportunities
- Pedestrian-friendly
- Close to Senior Housing, a potentially significant volunteer and visitor population

The following page shows a proposed placement of the house. The existing tree-framed corridor presents an interesting park-like setting, with Cobble Hill in the background and possible event space directly behind the barn. We propose six parking spaces in front, with a winding walkway leading to the house, to present an attractive welcome. Walkways at the side and back to lead to the back of the house and the barn. The tree corridor and placement choice also prevents interference with the adjacent Rescue Station and Ruth Bombardier's current home, as there is ample space.

We would propose that the house be placed where shown, or closer to the barn. We do not recommend placement behind the barn or in another location on property.

What this Means for Milton

A relocated General Stannard House, and a further developed Vermont in the Civil War Heritage Trail would be very beneficial to the town and state. With the house as a Trail hub, Milton would have a heritage tourism destination with the potential to draw visitors and dollars to our town.

We do not wish for the house move to interfere with current and future plans of the newly acquired Bombardier property, as it relates to recreation or other ideal uses. We believe that the fairly localized footprint of our proposed house location and purpose will enhance the property, while allowing for the many other surrounding uses that are surely being proposed or in process. Please see the enclosed comparison to a Minnesota restoration project, which shared a similar vision.

We welcome your feedback, and appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill Kaigle Kate Cadreact **Committee Co-Chairs**

Bill Karga Kato Cobreact



Proposed General Stannard House Location



Proposed General Stannard House Location, Bombardier barn



General Stannard House and Barn, 1988





Proposed General Stannard House Location, viewed from Bombardier Road

A Few Historical and Pre-Restoration Views of the General Stannard House



A Similar Historic Minnesota House over Time, Including Restoration

Next Similar?

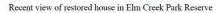


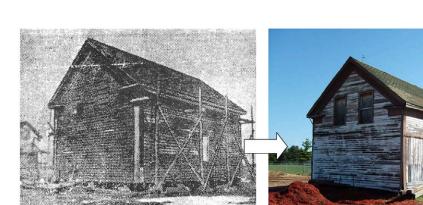


Historic Pierre Bottineau H













State of Vermont[phone]802-828-3540Division for Historic PreservationDeane C. Davis Building, 6th FloorOne National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501www.accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/preservation/

Agency of Commerce and Community Development

August 8, 2016

Mr. William Kaigle, Committee Co-chair General Stannard House Committee c/o Milton Historical Society 13 School Street Milton, Vermont 05468

RE: Relocation of the General Stannard House

Dear Mr. Kaigle: Bill

The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Division for Historic Preservation greatly appreciate the detailed information provided by the General Stannard House Committee regarding the proposed relocation of the General Stannard House in Milton, Vermont. The efforts to document and restore this historic house on the part of the committee, historical society, and the residents of Milton are certainly praiseworthy. The property was listed in the State Register of Historic Places in April 1980. The documentation noted the agricultural setting, supporting outbuildings, and the architectural detailing of the house, especially its cornice, frieze molding, and entry surround. The significance of this rural property is tied to its tenure as the home of Civil War General George Stannard from 1866 to 1872.

Relocation of the General Stannard House was presented to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at their July 21, 2016 meeting. The State Register criteria limit the consideration of moved properties because significance is embodied in the locations and settings as well as in the properties themselves. Relocation of an historic resource destroys the relationships between the property and its surroundings and destroys associations with historic events and persons. A move may also cause the loss of historic features such as landscaping, founds, and chimneys, as well as loss of the potential for associated archaeological deposits. The new location often creates a false sense of historic development. However, the substantial changes to the current location of this historic house due to new construction and the loss of the supporting agricultural buildings has affected the integrity of setting and location, thus compromising the eligibility of the resource for listing in the State Register of Historic Places.

The proposed new location on the property formerly owned by Ruth and Bert Bombardier provides a comparable orientation, setting and general environment to those of the historic location. Relocation of the Stannard House to the Bombardier parcel once again associates the house with supporting outbuildings and an open setting more comparable to its historic agricultural fields. Moreover, the



General Stannard House Relocation August 8, 2016 Page 2 of 2

relocation of this house shall incorporate it better with Milton's plans for economic development and tourism programs such as the *Vermont in the Civil War Heritage Trail*.

The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, voted unanimously to support these efforts at their meeting on July 21, 2016. The Division for Historic Preservation applauds and supports your efforts to save, relocate and adaptively use the General Stannard House. We look forward to working with you in the future on the siting of the house in its new location, rehabilitation efforts, and commemoration of General Stannard and his home through the Roadside Historic Marker Program.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve Vermont's heritage.

Sincerely, Uer

Laura V. Triesckmann State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: John Vetter, chair Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation



Trail Site Addresses & Contact Information Updated July 2017

- Bennington Museum 75 Main Street, Bennington 802-447-1571 | www.benningtonmuseum.org
 Vermont Veterans' Home 325 North Street, Bennington 802-442-6353 | www.wh.vermont.gov
 Garrison Monument Old Bennington Village Green, Monument Avenue
- Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home 1005 Hildene Road, Manchester 802-362-1788 | www.hildene.org
 The Equinox Hotel (Resort) 3567 Main Street, Manchester 802-362-4700 | www.equinoxresort.com
- Bardwell Hotel 142 Merchant's Row, #1, Rutland (Now Bardwell Apts.) Gen.Wheelock Veazey Home 55 Pleasant Street, Rutland Rutland Fairgrounds US Route 7 South, Rutland 802-775-2006 | www.rutlandhistory.com
- 4 Brandon Museum & Welcome Center 4 Grove Street, Brandon 802-247-6401 | www.brandon.org/the-brandonmuseum
- § Middlebury Congregational Church 2 Main Street, Middlebury 802-388-7634 | www.middleburyucc.org Middlebury College 14 Old Chapel Road, Middlebury 802-443-5000 | www.middlebury.edu
- 6 Vergennes Railroad Depot VT Route 22A and US Route 7, Vergennes Downtown Vergennes Village Green and Park, Main Street, Vergennes www.vergennes.org
- **Adams Ferry** Arnold's Bay Road, Panton. Historic Marker on site.
- 8 Rokeby Museum 4334 US Route 7, Ferrisburgh 802-877-3406 | www.rokeby.org
- 9 Shelburne Museum 6000 Shelburne Road, Shelburne 802-985-3346 | www.shelburnemuseum.org
- Battery Park Along Lake Champlain waterfront, Battery & College Streets, Burlington 802-864-0123 | www.enjoyburlington.com
 Lakeview Cemetery 455 North Avenue, Burlington, 802-863-2075 *** Please note: The following are now private residences. *** Gen. George Stannard Home 1871-1873, corner of George and Pearl Streets, Burlington
 Gen. William Wells Home 1877-1892, 158 South Willard Street, Burlington

Gen. Oliver Otis Howard Home 1892-1909, 26 Summit Street, Burlington G.G. Benedict Home 31 South Prospect Street, Burlington

- II Winooski Mill Museum 20 Winooski Falls, Winooski 802-355-9937 | www.thernillmuseum.org
- [2 Gen. George Stannard Home and Farm 1866-1871, I-89 Exit 17 East, US Route 7 North I mile, Milton. 802-734-0758 | www.generalstannardhouse.org
- [] Gen. George Stannard Birthplace and State Mounument 2.5 miles North of Georgia, on US Route 7
- 14 Taylor Park & Saint Albans Museum Main Street and 9 Church Street, Saint Albans | 802-527-7933 | www.stamuseum.org One Federal Restaurant Former Stannard Foundry, corner of Federal and Lake Streets, St. Albans
- [5 1864 Saint Albans Raiders' Escape Route Rte 105 North of St. Albans to 2.5 miles North of Route 104 intersection. On to Canada via back roads.

Wby this Trail is being organized

The Vermont in the Civil War Heritage Trail follows US Route 7, South to North. Each site is a link to the crucial contributions Vermont made to the preservation of these United States in the American "War Between the States." There are also many little-known connections critical to that War, and it is our Mission to better illustrate and explain those connections. From Abolitionist John Brown to Stephen Douglas to William Lloyd Garrison to Frederick Douglass to the Northernmost land battle of the Civil War, to the General who made the decision to flank Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, Vermont has a significant story to tell.

The contributions and influences Vermont had on the Civil War are not widely known or appreciated, even within the state. We are here to fix that. There are other important sites and connections to the Civil War in Vermont, but the majority of our sites are found along the 'western coast' of Vermont, along the Route 7 corridor. Future expansion of our Trail may include Eastern sites such as the rifle, machinery and clothing factories of the Connecticut River Valley, and more.

What's next?

We are looking at a lot of improvements ahead for our Trail. They include plans for a website, geo-locating application, QR codes for additional information and pictures, virtual reality tours, and local/statewide Public Broadcasting videos and presentations. Our current brochures are only the beginning!

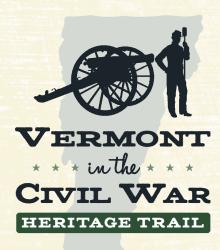
Cover image: William W. P. Heath, 4th Vermont Infantry (Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress)



Contact: vtcivilwarheritage@gmail.com * www.facebook.com/vtcivilwartrail

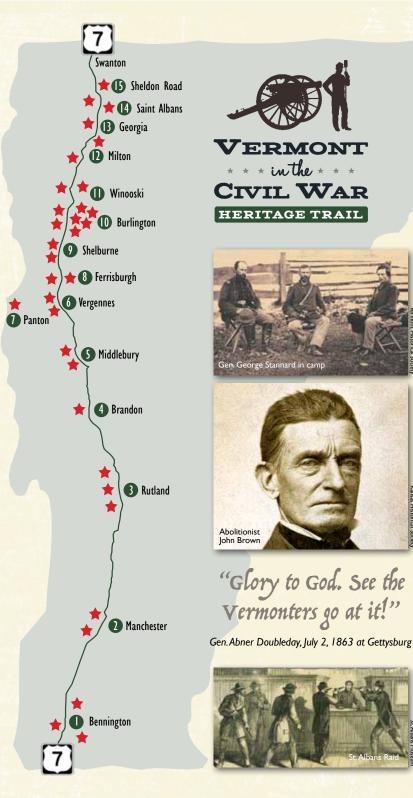
www.vtcivilwarheritage.net

V1 7/2017





Explore Museums, Historic Sites, Exhibits and more, defining Vermont's important role in the American Civil War



Site Listing

Special thanks to Howard Coffin's "Something Abides". All information is as of July 2017. Some sites may charge admission.

- Bennington Bennington Museum contains Civil War stories and artifacts, including some for George Stannard, as well as Clyde du Vernet Hunt's famed statue "The Lincoln Trilogy." Vermont's first Veterans' Home, 1887, with a graveyard including veterans from every Vermont Civil War Regiment, is just North of the Museum on Route 7. Bennington is where young newspaperman William Lloyd Garrison started the anti-slavery Journal of the Times in 1828, which later became the impetus for the anti-slavery movement, The Liberator, published 1831-1865.
- **Manchester** Hildene, home of Robert Todd Lincoln. The Lincoln family also had reservations at The Equinox Hotel for the week after Lincoln's assassination. They had vacationed there the two prior years.
- Rutland The famous Bardwell Hotel was a gathering place for numerous important Civil War figures, both North and South. Rutland includes the home of General Wheelock Veazey, and the Fairgrounds were the site for training of Lt. Col. William Y.W. Ripley's famous 1st U.S. Sharpshooters and mustering site for departing troops. Ripley's younger brother, Brig. Gen. Edward Hastings Ripley, led the Union Army into Richmond, the Confederate capitol.
- () Brandon Birthplace of Stephen Douglas, the Great Debater and Lincoln's opponent in 1860 election. The home is currently the site of the Brandon Welcome Center and the Brandon Museum.
- Middlebury Famous public address site, the Congregational Church, with Wm. Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. It was the site of The Great Convention, abolitionist event of July 1863. Middlebury College 1860 commencement speaker Edward Everett, Mass. Governor and Harvard President, gave the main address at Gettysburg cemetery just before Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The College graduated Alexander Twilight, the first black person to earn a degree in America.

"Put the Vermonters ahead and keep the column well closed up."

Maj. Gen. Sedgwick, Commander of VI Corps that included the 1st VT Brigade, rushing to Gettysburg on July 1, 1863

- **()** Vergennes Deep connections to Abolitionist John Brown. Very large crowd attending Brown's funeral procession back to his North Elba, NY farm for burial. He had frequent trading visits, with his 20 children over the years prior. Vergennes Railroad Depot oldest depot in VT received Brown's casket en route to NY. Main Street downtown contains some of original trading area used by John Brown family.
- Panton Ferry crossing at Arnold's Bay to NY State, for John Brown's body returning to his North Elba farm for burial. A State marker is at the site.
- Ferrisburgh A documented stop on the Underground Railroad, is now the Rokeby Museum. Downtown Ferrisburgh Park also has a historic marker for Frederick Douglass speech at Town Hall in July 1843.
- Shelburne The incomparable Shelburne Museum. Two Civil War-era homes, the Dutton House and the Settlers House, show daily life of the time. Some Civil War connections with the Webb family and Shelburne Farms as well.
- Burlington Battery Park with its statue of Gen. William Wells was also a drilling site for Capt. John Lonergan's troops, many later becoming Fenian members. Lakeview Cemetery contains monuments for Generals Oliver Otis Howard and William Wells, as well as the large family plot for Gen. George Stannard, hero of Gettysburg. His is the only statue in the Cemetery in human form. The Hill area of the city has homes of Generals Wells and Howard and the G.G. Benedict House, from the Civil War historian and later publisher and owner of *The Burlington Free Press* for 40 years.
- **Winooski** Site of many woolen mills that provided fabric for Union uniforms and blankets.
- Milton The General George Stannard House (and farm site) and the Milton Historical Museum, with its monument to all of Milton's Civil War served and fallen.
- B Georgia Monument at the birthplace of General George Jerrison Stannard.
- Saint Albans Saint Albans Museum and Taylor Park, main site of the famous St. Albans Raid of 1864, the Northernmost land battle of the Civil War. Many buildings original to Civil War remain, including the current One Federal/The Foundry Restaurant. This former foundry was first operated, then owned by Gen. George Stannard. A substantial portion of Stannard's home at the time still stands.
- **(b)** Sheldon Road (current VT Route 105) was the escape route for Confederate Raiders of 1864, including the wooden bridge they attempted to burn. Escapees fled into Canada through Highgate, Vermont.

www.vtcivilwarheritage.net 📑

Town of Milton, Vermont Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Recreation Office Milton Municipal Building 43 Bombardier Rd Milton, VT 05468 Tuesday, October 16, 2018 6:00pm

Attendance:

Recreation Staff: Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Coordinator
Recreation Commission: John Lindsay (Chair), Sharon Radtke (Vice-Chair), Wayne Peters, Paul Morits and Renee Berteau
Absent: Ben Nappi, Assistant Recreation Coordinator
Guests: Members of the General Stannard House Committee: Kate Cadreact, Terry Richards and Bill Kaigle

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Lindsay, Recreation Commission Chair

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Public Forum: None

Approval of Minutes: Berteau moved to accept the September 12, 2018 minutes. Morits seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Recreation Commission Report:

General Stannard House Presentation and Discussion:

Members of the General Stannard House Committee presented a project update to the Recreation Commission. There was discussion about the General Stannard House being moved from route 7 to the property near the Bombardier Family Barn on the corner of Middle/Bombardier Roads. The General Stannard House committee has met all of the permitting and other requirements to move the house and has been in discussion with the Selectboard and Town Manager about doing so. The Selectboard and Town Manager asked that the Recreation Commission weigh in on this as well. The GSH committee would like to begin moving the house in pieces and want to store them in the Bombardier Family Barn beginning in early 2019. Although they have received a state grant to do this, they still need to raise more funds to complete the project. They are having a fundraiser at Boves on Saturday, October 20. After some discussion, Milton Recreation Commissioner Berteau moved to recommend having the General Stannard House erected somewhere near the Bombardier Barn property pending the completion of the Milton Recreation Master Plan in 2019. This was seconded by Morits. During the needs assessment/public forum piece of completing the updated Milton Recreation Master Plan in 2019, a section of the Plan and questions during public forum will relate to the recently purchased Bombardier property and what community members might support there. The goal of the General Stannard Committee is to have the house reconstructed by October 20, 2020, which will be General Stannard's 200th birthday.

Fall Programs:

- Fall Programs are going well. Tai Chi has 40 participants and has been moved to the Milton Grange. It has two classes on Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30 am and 6:30 pm. ThinkSafe (Stranger Danger) has a wait list.
- Monster Mile will be on Saturday October 20. Need volunteers about 2 pm. The race begins at 2:30 pm.
- Trunk or Treat is on Friday, October 26 and has 25 businesses and organizations signed up. Set up will be at 5 pm. The event begins at 6 pm. There will be an award for Best Decorated Vehicle (car magnet). McDonalds is donating coffee. We will provide hot cider. The site will move south from the fieldhouse.