

Last time I wrote, I ask you to look at the old homes, farms and buildings in Pownal and think of the history they represent. I spoke of preserving the past for the future. In 2010, Pownal will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary. The town has seen many changes over the centuries. Some, I am sure would make our forefathers proud, while others would probably make them want to cry. We've lost our covered bridges, some fine old schools, churches and mills. Large general stores are now just a thing of the past. Wouldn't it be nice to still have the trolley, what with the price of gas today? I know we must move forward but there are times when I feel going back would not be a bad idea. There is an area in Pownal that whenever Joyce and I visit we can't help but feel that we have taken a step back. That's Center Street in Pownal Center. Whenever we go up to the Town Office or to visit friends we can't help but comment on how that section of Center Street looks and feels like you have taken a step back in time. When I last wrote I spoke about the Historical Society looking into a State Historic District. We feel that this section of Pownal would be perfect for a State Historic District. A Committee was formed to investigate what it would entail. We had a telephone meeting with Sue Jamele, Register Specialist at the VT Division for Historic Preservation. Of course, we had many questions and Sue was great about taking the time to explain everything to us. This is a brief summary of what we learned.

- *An area designated a state historic district does not have to be on the federal register.*
- *There are no restrictions for property owners in a Historic District unless federal or state money is used or if they apply for a state or federal permit (act 250).*
- *Although we seek town and property owners support, the application for a Historic District does not have to be approved by the town or the property owners. The listing is based on the historic architecture. It is recognition of the historic character of the area.*
- *Historic District is defined largely on the concentration of buildings that relate to each other as a district.*

With all of this in mind, the Board decided to continue with this project. We will have a meeting this fall, inviting all the property owners, the town fathers, and the public. Maybe we can't go back in time when we visit Center Street but we can honor the past by designating it a "Historic District".