SHOWCASING POWNAL

with the Pownal Historical Society

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Environmental Planning Workshop
Williams College, Class of 2022
Land Acknowledgement

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are working and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land.

Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin, and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

As we live and learn on these territories, we must keep in mind community struggles for self-determination and the colonial legacies of scholarly practices, acknowledging the truth of violence perpetuated by settler colonialism.

We pay honor and respect Mohican elders past, present, and future as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.
INTRODUCTIONS
Mission

Create a platform to showcase Pownal's rich history, beautiful landscape, and present day assets.
PROJECT GOALS
1. SHARE POWNAL’S RICH HISTORY AND LANDSCAPE
2. ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3. BUILD COMMUNITY
Deliverables

**Pownal Historical Society website**

Which includes separate *History* pages on Pownal's churches, cemeteries, schools, people, places, and maps. It also includes an *Explore* tab, with sections on recreation and businesses (past and present), as well as a tab for *Driving Tours*.

**Driving tour template**

"Churches" driving tour that takes visitors to each of the five churches in Pownal, including a graphic map and written instructions. This will serve as an example for future driving tours.

**Interviews**

To learn more about Pownal's history and residents, provide content for website pages, and provide content for a potential podcast published by the Pownal Historical Society podcasts.
PROJECT BACKGROUND

About Vermont and Pownal

Carl Villanueva
Vermont small rural (61%) agricultural history

Key Challenges

- workforce ➔ unemployment rate: 3.0% (2021)
- equity
- affordability
- investment
- education ➔ high school grad. rate (Pownal): 87%
- broadband
- digital economy
- housing ➔ second-home ownership: 17% (2017)
- infrastructure
- environment
- demographics
- healthcare
- transportation
- coordination

Demographic Information

Population: 3,527 (2010)
Race: 95.7% White (2010)

Median age: 45.6 years old (2019)
  - Population over 50: nearly 40%

Median household income: $57,267 (2010)

Poverty rate: 9.4% (2010)
  - Child poverty rate: 24.0%
  - 65+ poverty rate: 21.5%
  - Low-income elementary students: 96.33%

Number of housing units: 1,614 (2010)

Statewide Goal

“To provide a strong and diverse economy that provides satisfying and rewarding job opportunities and that maintains high environmental standards, and to expand economic opportunities in areas with high unemployment or low per capita incomes.”
Pownal Economic Development Goal

“Enhance Pownal’s appeal as a seasonal and tourist destination as well as a profitable destination for businesses to locate and for prospective residents to live.”
Objective: “Increase the region’s visibility and its visitor tourism economic activities through partnerships with allied groups in the region and through local activities and initiatives that highlight Pownal’s unique traits.”

Action Item: “Create informational materials for the town’s website describing and mapping Pownal’s historic, environmental, scenic, recreational, and cultural assets.”

Action Item: “Work with the Pownal Historical Society to promote Pownal as a heritage tourism destination...”
"The purpose of this website is to share Pownal’s rich history, beautiful landscape, and present day assets, as well as the stories of its residents. We recognize that it is incomplete and look forward to adding more information. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or suggestions via the Contact Us page. Thank you for your help."
Layout of Website

1. About Us
2. History
   a. Churches
      i. Faith Church, NPCC, PCCC, PUMC, Our Lady of Lourdes RC
   b. Cemeteries
   c. Schools
   d. People
   e. Places
   f. Maps
3. Explore
   a. Recreation
      i. Mountain Meadow Preserve, Center Street Skatepark, Hoosic Bend Trail, Barber Pond
   b. Businesses
      i. Past
         1. Sheep Raising, The Mills, North Pownal Tannery, Green Mountain Racetrack
      ii. Current Local Businesses
         1. Gammelgården Creamery, Hill Top Farm, Wildstone Farm, Winchester’s, Jackie Sedlock
4. Driving Tours
   a. Church Driving Tour
5. Contact Us
History Pages
Pownal's Churches

North Church
Located in Pownal, the original Baptist Church was built in the 1860s and is currently a community hall. It serves as a meeting space for community events and gatherings.

Pownal Center Community Church
First organized in 1854, the Alleluya Baptist Church was built in the middle of the town as a community center. It is open to all community gatherings.

North Pownal Congregational Church
Formerly the First Baptist Church, the North Pownal Congregational Church was built in 1884 and is a historic landmark. It is now a community center.

Pownal United Methodist Church
Dedicated in 1897, the Pownal United Methodist Church is the oldest church in Pownal. It is a historic landmark and is open for community events.

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
In the town of Pownal, the oldest Catholic Church is the Our Lady of Lourdes Church. It was built in 1898 and is a historic landmark.
Cemeteries

Pownal's Cemeteries

Bushnell and Barney Lot
Carpenter Lot
Dunn-Ell Cord Lot
Edgar Rathbun Farm
Eldred Lot (Towler Farm)
Emma Paddock Farm
Enos Hicks Farm
Gardiner Historical
Joseph Barber Farm
Lovett Yard
Mason Hill Lot
Morgan-Tovalea Memorial Cemetery
North Pownal Cemetery
Oak Hill Cemetery
P.H. Thompson Farm
Potter - E Wilcox Farm
Potter Lot (Wm. Arnold Farm)
Pownal Center Cemetery
Reuben Jepson Farm
Sherman Yard (Pownal Station)
White Oaks
Woodlawn (J. Wilcox Farm)
1. Start your tour at Faith Church (formerly Pownal Baptist Church), at 82 Main Street in the Village of Pownal (across from the Solomon Wright Public Library).

2. Turn around, re-cross the railroad tracks. Pownal United Methodist Church, 284 Church St, in the Village of Pownal, sits on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main St, Church St, and Rte 346.

3. Turn left onto Rte 346 North and drive 2.6 miles to the Village of North Pownal. Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church (now a private home) is on the right, at 330 Rte 346.

4. Continue .2 miles on Rte 346N to North Pownal Congregational Church, on the right at #3554.

5. Continue north for .1 mile and turn right onto North Pownal Road. Follow North Pownal Road for 2.9 miles to Center Street. Turn right onto Center St; the Pownal Center Community Church (formerly known as the Union Church) will be on your left past the cemetery. This section of Center St is the State Historic District of the Village of Pownal Center.

6. To return to your starting point, turn around and go back to the intersection of Center Street and North Pownal Rd. Turn right, and right again onto Rte 7S. Continue down the mountain and turn right onto Rte 346N and follow it down to the intersection of Main Street, continuing straight across the intersection onto Main Street, to Faith Church/Solomon Wright Public Library.

Hope you enjoyed your driving tour!
Explore

Pownal Historical Society

Recreation

Businesses

Explore

Explore
Recreation

Pownal Historical Society

Recreational Areas & Scenic Views

Mountain Meadow Preserve
Take a leisurely walk through the 80 acres of this beautiful nature preserve.

Center Street Skatepark
Come skate in the open space park in Pownal Center.

Hoosic Bend Trail
Take a stroll alongside the Hoosic River and catch a glimpse of its beauty.

Barber Pond
Sit by the water and enjoy various water activities at Barber Pond.
BUSINESSES
Past

Farms
Courtesy of Rachel Mason

Green Mountain Racetrack
Lewis Hine, 1910

Mills

North Pownal Tannery
Diane Murphy, North Pownal Tannery
INTERVIEWS
with current small business owners
Marilyn and Crystal Gardner, Hill Top Farm
John and Joy Primmer, Wildstone Farm
Stina Kutzer, Gammelgården Creamery
Jackie Sedlock Pottery
Jim Winchester, Winchester's Store & Deli
CONCLUSION

- History and present day assets, simultaneously
- Centralized platform
- Value of collaboration and diverse perspectives
- Building the website, building community
- Model for others
FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add to the website: businesses, recreation, history pages, driving tours
  - with input from residents
- Mohicans page
- Podcasts
- Ecotourism
- Internship/job position
- Promote this resource
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Questions?