

Vermont Farmers Food Center Campus Renovation Project Update #3



Saying Bye to Old Blue

VFFC Campus Renovation Project Community Update #3.

Summer construction season is underway, and our campus remains fully operational as the next phases of VFFC's redevelopment project move forward.

The biggest update we have to share is that it is time to say goodbye to "Old Blue" the [historic Blue Building on our campus, originally built in the 1860s](#).

When VFFC began this phase of our campus redevelopment journey in 2021, our vision was to rehabilitate the Blue Building and transform it into a shared use commercial kitchen with processing and climate controlled storage space. While years of environmental assessment and remediation work focused our attention on the Green Building, Old Blue waited patiently for its turn.



Difficult Realities

When we were finally able to revisit plans for the building, updated structural assessments revealed a difficult reality: the cost and timeline to rehabilitate Old Blue had far exceeded what was financially feasible for our organization.



Old Growth Making Room for New Possibilities

Over the past year, we explored alternatives and creative solutions to preserve Old Blue. Ultimately, our board, funders, and key stakeholders agreed that redirecting resources to renovating the Green Building and constructing an addition would achieve the same mission driven goals while remaining financially feasible and allowing the project to move forward on a much faster timeline.

After careful consideration, VFFC's Board of Directors decided to demolish the Blue Building and reaffirmed its commitment to investing in the facilities and infrastructure needed to advance its mission and long term sustainability.

While this decision has not come easily, we are reminded that sometimes new growth requires letting go of what came before. After standing watch over our community for more than 160 years, Old Blue will come down next week. (**we will be saving and relocating the Greta mural).*



In True VFFC Fashion

This milestone is becoming a community effort, with local contractors generously donating their time, equipment, and services to support the demolition, akin to a modern day community barn raising, or perhaps in this case, a community barn razing.

How Far We've Come

We are also working with [Art Jones of Great Jones Productions](#) to document this important chapter in our history and create a new short film about this moment of transformation. If you haven't seen Art's original films chronicling VFFC's beginnings and the early stages of its campus rehabilitation effort, check them out here and see how far we've come together.



Do you have a story or memory of Old Blue to share?

If you have memories, photos, or stories connected to Old Blue, we'd love to hear them. Join the conversation on our social media channels and help us celebrate the history and character of this beloved Rutland building.

Time and again, VFFC has been a place that illustrates what is possible when community comes together around a shared vision. This moment is no different. Together, we are honoring our past while building the future.

We are grateful for the incredible community that makes this work possible.