

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Division for Historic Preservation administers the Historic Preservation Grants program, a state-funded program awarding one-to-one matching grants for the rehabilitation of civic and community buildings that are a vital part of Vermont's historic downtowns, villages, and rural communities. Since the creation of the Historic Preservation Grants in 1986, more than 550 historic buildings owned by municipalities and non-profits have received nearly \$5 million, leveraging five times as much in non-state funds for these projects.

Grant funds awarded to historic community buildings such as libraries, community halls, town halls, museums, and churches, help pay for repairs to deteriorated foundations, roofs, steeples, structural members and exterior cladding, and windows. Often, this work results in new uses for underutilized or vacant buildings. The work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reviews the applications and awards funding each year. The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 and projects must be completed within two years of the award.

In 2016, the Advisory Council awarded fifteen grants totaling \$198,179, resulting in an \$626,511 investment in our iconic community buildings. The grants will aid in the preservation of the historic lantern windows of the First Unitarian Universalist Society Meeting House at the head of Church Street in Burlington and the masonry repairs to the brick parapet of the Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes. Additional projects include structural and foundation repairs at the Robinson Sawmill in Calais, installation of a new foundation at the Root Schoolhouse in Norwich, structural repairs at the Wheelock Town Hall, and restoration of windows of historic buildings in Bristol, Chester, Fairfield, and Weathersfield.

Preservation of these historic civic and community resources not only protects Vermont's architectural legacy, it also generates jobs, supports independent businesses, increases civic participation and bolsters a community's sense of place and pride, while enhancing the experience of visitors. This program is continuously growing as completed projects promote community pride and awareness of grant opportunities. The trend shows an increasing number of project applications, with 37% funded annually.

Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/historic-preservation-grants>

Historic Preservation Grant Award and Investments

Fiscal Year	# of Grant Applications	# of Grants Awarded	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost
2017	48	15	\$712,016	\$198,179	\$626,511
2016	56	12	\$871,939	\$199,367	\$561,565
2015	40	18	\$631,794	\$253,220	\$877,957
2014	50	17	\$756,855	\$257,404	\$627,788
2013	36	15	\$486,245	\$224,225	\$615,961

Capital Budget Year	FY2014 Capital Budget	FY2015 Capital Budget	FY2016 Capital Budget	FY2017 Capital Budget
Appropriation Amount	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$200,000	\$200,00
Bond Amount	(\$1,340)	(\$733)	(\$1,007)	(\$1,821)
Amount Available to Grant	\$223,660	\$224,267	\$198,993	\$198,179
Expenditures to Date	\$220,572	\$80,997	\$22,142	\$0
Encumbrances Remaining	\$2,750	\$26,788	\$176,850	\$2,400
Remaining Balance	\$0	\$1.64	\$0	\$195,779



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Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Division for Historic Preservation administers the Historic Barn Grants program, a state-funded program awarding one-to-one matching grants to individuals, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic agricultural buildings that are the icons of Vermont's rural landscape. Created in 1992, the program is the oldest state-funded barn grant program in the United States. It has cumulatively provided over \$3 million in grant assistance for the preservation of 384 historic barns and agricultural outbuildings statewide, with over \$8 million in total projects costs.

Program funding assists with such work as the restoration of deteriorated foundations, roofs, timber frames, and, cupolas. Rehabilitation efforts support the continued use of these agricultural buildings and, in a few cases, allow for non-agricultural purposes for underutilized or vacant buildings. The work must conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reviews applications and awards the funding each year. The maximum grant amount is \$15,000 and projects must be completed within two years of the award.

In 2016, the Advisory Council awarded 20 matching grants totaling \$232,467 to aid in the restoration and maintenance of significant buildings that contribute to Vermont's agricultural history. This funding will leverage \$765,457 in investment. Forty-eight applications were reviewed, with funding requests totaling \$633,637. The grant applications for FY17 were received November 7 and will be awarded in February 2017.

Preservation of our historic agricultural resources not only protects Vermont's architectural legacy, it also generates jobs, supports independent businesses, increases civic participation and bolsters a community's sense of place and pride, while enhancing the experience of visitors. This program is continuously growing as completed projects promote community pride and awareness of grant opportunities. The trend shows an increasing number of project applications, with slightly more than half fully funded annually.

Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/barn-grants>

Historic Barn Grant Award and Investments

Fiscal Year	# of Grant Applications	# of Grants Awarded	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost
2016	48	20	\$633,637	\$232,467	\$765,467
2015	32	21	\$378,559	\$247,134	\$589,887
2014	39	20	\$531,080	\$282,778	\$659,192
2013	38	19	\$482,547	\$240,182	\$545,301

Capital Budget Year	FY2014 Capital Budget	FY2015 Capital Budget	FY2016 Capital Budget	FY2017 Capital Budget
Appropriation Amount	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Bond Amount	(\$1,340)	(\$733)	(\$1,007)	(\$1,821)
Available to Grant	\$223,660	\$224,267	\$198,993	\$198,179
Expenditures to Date	\$223,660	\$104,966	\$19,822	To Be Awarded 2/2017
Encumbrances Remaining	\$0	\$39,312	\$177,092	\$0
Remaining Balance	\$0	\$0	\$2,079	\$198,179



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Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Historic Sites Program, within the Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), manages the appropriation funding the repair of the 1858 library, plaster and stair restoration, and preparation of a conditions assessment for the Justin S. Morrill State Historic Site. Home of Senator Morrill, the homestead was constructed in 1851 and enlarged just seven years later. The house is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing in the early 19th century. A scholar who read and collected books, Morrill used Downing's architectural handbooks to design his dream house, adapting the forms and details to suit his own particular vision. Morrill also planned the surrounding gardens, studying the romantic landscape movement with its formal yet picturesque plantings but selecting only those which would survive the wintery Vermont climate.

The homestead Justin Morrill created in Strafford is a National Historic Landmark, the first such honorary designation in Vermont. The property includes the house – dressed in furnishings from Morrill's Washington, D.C. home – carriage barn, cow barn, icehouse, foundation of a hothouse, sheep barn, farm shop, corncrib, and recently constructed education center. The FY2015 appropriation was to undertake the following projects:

- The library addition was added to the homestead in 1858. Archiving manuscripts owned by Senator Morrill, the library restoration included shoring of the failing foundation, reconstruction of roof cresting and repair of the corner finial, and recladding and painting of the flush exterior siding. This work was completed in the spring of 2014.
- Preparation of a conditions assessment report. The documentation will ensure proper preservation, restoration and maintenance of this historic building, prioritizing the work over a ten-year period. The last assessment was prepared in 1997 and much of the work outlined in that report has been completed or justifiably abandoned. This new assessment will provide 21st-century restoration ethics and techniques with a focus on how to implement best practices, ensuring deferred work is highlighted and budgets are appropriately prepared.
 - ❑ The assessment completed in winter of 2016 in partnership with BGS.
- Restoration of the damaged plaster along the stair wall extending back into the second-floor rear room of the 1858 addition. This work was to be completed before the opening of the 2015 season; however, during the winter months, the deteriorated condition of the plaster accelerated, exposing the source of the problem to be the roof and drainage. This roof is sheathed in pressed metal shingles, which is original to Justin Morrill's tenure 157 years ago.
 - ❑ Roof repairs, Phase 1: \$14,500
 - ❑ Roof repairs, Phase 2: \$21,875
 - ❑ Drainage, assessment and work: \$13,000
 - ❑ Stair and Plaster Repair: \$8,000

Website: <http://historicsites.vermont.gov/directory/morrill>

FY2015 Capital Budget	
Budget Amount	\$27,909
Expenditures to Date	\$13,640
Encumbrances Remaining	\$4,064
Remaining Balance	\$10,205



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Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Roadside Historic Marker program promotes the creation of roadside markers commemorating individuals, events, and sites that have played a significant role in the prehistory and history of Vermont or the nation. It is a state-funded program, managed by the Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP). Since the creation of the program in 1947, 229 roadside markers have been placed throughout the state to draw the attention of the traveling public to our significant historic sites, downtowns, and villages; one historic marker was located in the Commonwealth of Virginia to commemorate Vermonters' sacrifice during the Civil War.

Private citizens, legislators, communities, and state agencies prepare the application forms, provide suggested wording with supporting history and propose locations for marker placements. The final text is reviewed by a team of interested individuals, staffs of the state and local historical societies, noted historians, as well as the professional staff of VDHP. Placement of the markers is done in collaboration with VTrans and Town garages. An interactive map has been created pinpointing the locations of each marker along with a recent photograph and related research. In 2015, four missing markers were found – one in New Jersey – and reinstalled after repairs were made.

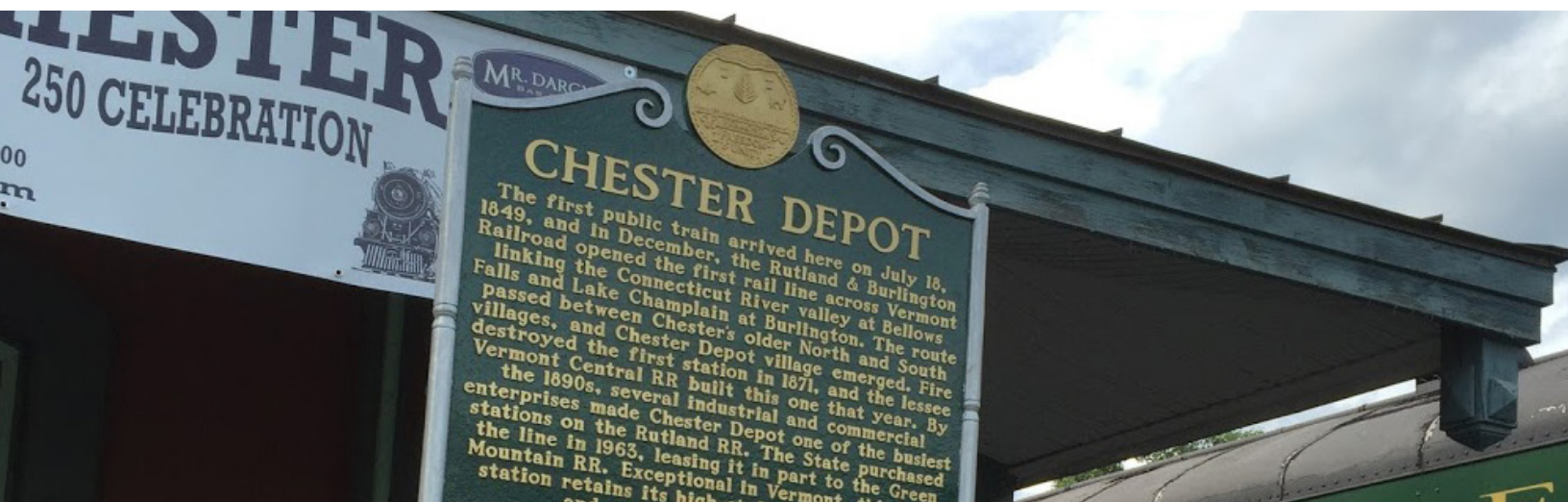
Initial funding for this program was intended to cover the cost of creating and installing the markers. With 45% of the markers from 20 to nearly 70 years of age, rehabilitation of the markers and poles has become a primary task of the program and a challenge for funding.

Website: http://historicsites.vermont.gov/roadside_markers

Roadside Historic Marker Program Award and Investments

	2015	2016	Pending for 2017
New Applications	8	13	10
Rehabilitations	1	5	13

	FY2014 Capital Budget	FY2015 Capital Budget	FY2016 Capital Budget	FY2017 Capital Budget
Appropriation Amount	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Bond Amount	(\$89)	(\$49)	(\$76)	(\$137)
Amount Available for Program Funding	\$14,911	\$14,951	\$14,924	\$14,863
Expenditures to Date	\$14,911	\$14,951	\$14,924	\$12,923
Encumbrances Remaining	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,940
Remaining Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



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Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) administers the Lake Champlain Underwater Historic Preserves, founded in 1982. The mission of the program is to protect irreplaceable historic shipwrecks from anchor damage and artifact collecting by fostering awareness and public education. VDHP's Survey Archaeologist supervises the program with the aid of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, U.S. Coast Guard, Vermont State Archaeologist, State of New York officials, and a team of dedicated professionals who volunteer their expertise and time. Essential to the success of the program is the public partnership, with registered divers identifying and monitoring these preserves. Ten sites are currently open for the diving public to visit. In more recent years, underwater studies have located and identified the steamboat Phoenix II that perished from fire and the USS Spitfire, which was part of Benedict Arnold's fleet lost in the aftermath of the Battle of Valcour Island during the Revolutionary War. Unmarked sites like these are commonly visited by divers, who unfortunately take and damage artifacts.

The significance of this program is growing rapidly as social media educates and attracts the diving public about our Underwater Historic Preserves, which include the late 19th- and early-20th-century wreckage of canal boats, steamboats, sailing vessels, a schooner, and a horse ferry. Each year, the Capital appropriation funds cover the cost of locations moorings and identification buoys, underwater signs, and emergency equipment for the response boat provided by the Vermont State Police for Underwater Preserve monitoring. The funding also provides for the identification of additional sites that could be opened to the public as preserves, conservation of recovered artifacts, and above-water interpretive displays. Experienced certified divers who travel by boat to the sites perform much of the work, funded by a grant to the Maritime Museum.

Website: http://historicsites.vermont.gov/directory/underwater_preserve

Program Financial Status

	FY2014 Capital Budget	FY2015 Capital Budget	FY2016 Capital Budget	FY2017 Capital Budget
Grant Amount	\$24,851	\$34,886	\$29,849	\$29,727
Expenditures to Date	\$24,851	\$34,886	\$0	\$9,919
Encumbrances Remaining	\$0	\$0	\$29,849	\$19,808
Remaining Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



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