

**SECTION 5**

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANTS**

**SEC. 5 APPROPRIATIONS: BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANTS**

1. The sum of \$1,200,000 is requested to be appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for:

A. Historic Preservation Grants..... \$400,000

This program provides 50/50 matching grants to non-profit organizations and municipalities for the restoration of historic structures. Historic community buildings such as town halls, libraries, churches, museums and other structures like covered bridges are assisted with foundation, roofing, structural, steeple and other exterior work. Many projects provide new uses for underutilized or vacant buildings. This program continues to be of great interest to the public with 3-4 times as many applications received as can be funded, with an average grant amount of \$10,000. This program is a linchpin of the State's continuing partnership with the Preservation Trust of Vermont and is able to leverage substantial non-state funds. Overall, the matching share exceeds the amount awarded. Since FY 1986 the historic preservation grants have transformed community buildings all over the State and restored community use through this program.