

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.

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

Awarded Project Summaries



Bradford, Old Church Theater - \$12,064

Constructed in 1793 as a community church, this building also served as an Odd Fellows Hall before becoming the home of the Old Church Theater in 1984. This community theater group puts on five productions annually. A matching grant will support work to address serious structural framing concerns to ensure the theater group can continue to use the building safely.



Burlington, Ahavath Gerim Synagogue - \$7,429

The oldest continually operated synagogue in Vermont, the Ahavath Gerim Synagogue was constructed in 1885. The building is currently home to two Jewish congregations and is open to the public for community, music and dance events. Grant funds will support work to repair the building's slate roof, including installation of a new copper ridge cap, replacement of missing/broken slates, installation of a cricket, and flashing repairs around the chimney.



Burlington, First Unitarian Universalist Society - \$18,850

The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House was built in 1816, standing as a landmark at the head of Burlington's Church Street. It is used as a gathering place for social organizations and as a venue for meetings, concerts, and events. Preservation funds will partially fund work to consolidate and repair the window frames and sills of the main sanctuary and lower level. Work will also include the complete restoration of the monumental arched window at the front of the church's tower.



Calais, Memorial Hall - \$20,000

Memorial Hall is one of a handful of Grand Army of the Republic memorial halls dedicated to the memory of the Union veterans of the Civil War. Built in 1885, the building has long served as a community gathering place, hosting a wide range of civic events. The North Calais Memorial Hall Association was recently formed to ensure the continued use of the building. This matching grant will help address structural deficiencies that forced its recent closure.



Enosburg, Masonic Hall – Lincoln Lodge #78 F&AM - \$7,325

Originally a Baptist Church (1853), this building underwent significant renovations and was moved to its current location in 1896 and was purchased by the Masons in 1962. The building is currently used by the local food shelf and the local masonic lodge. The property's prominent side lawn is used for local public events and festivals. Grant funds will support restoration of windows on the southern elevation; this is a phased restoration approach that will tackle additional windows in the future.



Grand Isle, Grand Isle Lake House - \$20,000

Constructed as a hotel called Island Villa in 1901 and then used as a Catholic girl's summer camp known as Camp Marycrest between 1956 and 1993, the Grand Isle Lake house is now owned by the Preservation Trust of Vermont. It is used as a seasonal venue for both private events and by a variety of non-profit organizations as a retreat center. Matching grant funds will support a multiyear project to repair the building's distinctive mansard roof, including in kind replacement of its cedar shingles.



Isle la Motte, Duba Blacksmith Shop - \$12,064

The Duba Blacksmith Shop was constructed in 1830 and used as a blacksmith shop and forge by three generations of the Duba family for over 130 years. In 1960, the building and its contents were donated to the Isle La Motte Historical Society, which now uses the building to exhibit and interpret Isle la Motte's industrial past. Matching grant funds will support a comprehensive scope of rehabilitation work from foundation to roof.

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Johnson, Chesamore Hall (Barbara White Studios, Vermont Studio Center) - \$20,000

Originally part of Johnson Academy and named after the school's founder, Chesamore Hall was constructed in 1866. It was owned by Johnson State College between 1957 and 1981 and purchased by Vermont Studio Center in 1984. The building currently houses 16 artist studios, two print shops, and a photography darkroom. It is open to the public twice monthly for Open Studio evenings. A Division for Historic Preservation grant will allow the Studio Center to replace the building's standing seam metal roof.



Newbury, Tenney Memorial Library - \$3,750

Tenney Memorial Library was constructed in 1897 and continues to serve as a community library and gathering place. The library completed repairs to the slate roof with the help of a 2015 Historic Preservation Grant and will use this grant to fund repairs the entry doors, historic windows, and original plaster in the children's room.



Poultney, United Baptist Church - \$20,000

The United Baptist Church was built in 1805 and is one of the most outstanding Federal-style churches in Vermont. Set on the green in East Poultney, it has undergone two major renovations in its history, with the insertion of a second level in 1840 and a basement in 1983. A matching grant from the Division for Historic Preservation will allow the church to address major repairs needed to restore the building's iconic steeple.



Proctor, Town Hall - \$20,000

Originally constructed as a schoolhouse by William Humphrey, the building was converted into a public library in the 1890s, and following World War I, it became Proctor's Town Hall. Grant funds will help the town will address the failing entry steps and retaining wall at the front of the building that have become a safety concern; the project includes drainage work to prevent future damage.



St. Albans, St. Albans Bay Park Stone House - \$20,000

The Bay Park Stone House was built in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Initially, it was named Stone Bath House and served swimmers at the Bay. The building hosts school groups, social functions, and concerts in the central auditorium, with a public restroom and changing room in the wings. The Town of St. Albans is embarking on a major rehabilitation campaign and matching funds from the Division for Historic Preservation will support repair of the building's doors and windows.



St. Johnsbury, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - \$11,500

St. Andrew's Church (1877) continues to be used for religious services and is also used by a wide variety of community groups. Since 2011, it has hosted a summer/fall series of concerts and provided local meals and meeting space. The church received a Historic Preservation Grant in 2014 to undertake several important repairs, including installation of a new roof. This 2019 matching grant will support restoration of the stained-glass windows on the building's south elevation.



Vergennes, St. Paul's Episcopal Church - \$20,000

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located next to the city green in Vergennes. Constructed in 1834, the Gothic Revival design was drawn by John Henry Hopkins, Vermont's first Episcopal Bishop. An important community gathering place, Historic Preservation Grant funds will help the church restore three large stained-glass windows facing the green of the 1834 Gothic Revival-style church.

For more information, please contact:

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