

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



Barnet, McIndoes Falls Academy, \$20,000

McIndoe Falls Academy was one of the earliest institutions to offer secondary education in this region and served as a school until 1969. The Board of Trustees is working to redevelop the building as a vibrant, self-sustaining community center providing cultural, social, and educational activities for local residents. Grant funds will support structural repairs to the building's roof trusses and the east elevation sill.



Brookfield, Marvin Newton House, \$11,035

The Newton House was built c. 1835 by Marvin Newton, a blacksmith, and remained in the family until 1937 when it was conveyed to the Brookfield Historical Society. The house is remarkably intact as it was never updated with central heating or indoor plumbing, and today constitutes a remarkable example of early 19th-century regional building technology and architectural fashions. The Historical Society will receive a matching grant to complete a plaster restoration project.



Burlington, First Unitarian Universalist Church, \$20,000

Located at the head of Church Street in Burlington, the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is a highly visible landmark of both the city and state. Constructed as a church, the meetinghouse continues to serve as a house of worship as well as a gathering place for social organizations and as a venue for a mix of concerts, presentations and for Burlington's First Night. Grant funds will support work to re-point deteriorated brick walls and repair the double-leaf door on the south elevation.



Calais, East Calais General Store, \$20,000

The East Calais general store was built around 1850. In December 2019, when the store closed, the East Calais Community Trust (ECT) was formed and acquired the building with plans to restore its historic exterior, renovate its interior, and lease the store to an operator. ECT will receive historic preservation grant support to repair the building's distinctive two-story front porch, its historic storefront windows, siding and trim, and chimneys.



Chester, Chester Academy, \$20,000

Constructed for the Chester Village School District, this building also served as the Town's first public high school between 1885 and 1912. Today it is used by the Chester Historical Society and the Chester Art Guild for museum and exhibit purposes and a variety of public events. The Town is also considering future expanded use of the building as a welcome center. Matching grant funds will allow the Town to complete in-kind replacement of the building's slate roof.



Enosburg Falls, Lincoln Lodge #78, \$9,950

Built in 1853 as the Free Will Baptist Church and originally located on Lincoln Park, this building was struck by lightning in 1896 and shortly afterwards moved to its current location. The Masons purchased the building in 1962 and continue to utilize it for meetings, community meals and functions, while the Enosburg Food Shelf operates out of the lower level. A matching grant will be used to restore colored glass windows on the building's west elevation.

For more information, please contact:

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Awarded Project Summaries



Granville, Town Hall, \$20,000

Originally constructed as a church, the Granville Town Hall functions as the Town's municipal center. This required the insertion of a second floor below the original sanctuary in 1871, providing space for municipal functions. The Town will use grant funds to complete restoration of the building's steeple.



Hyde Park, Opera House, \$5,049

The Hyde Park Opera House was built in 1912 as the town hall. In 1952, a young minister named John Knight proposed using the building as a theater to support a community fundraiser and the Lamoille County Players (LCP) were born. Today the building hosts 4-5 theatrical productions a year, a children's theater workshop, and various local artist performances. LCP was awarded a matching grant to address deteriorating siding and framing at the southeast corner of the building caused by water infiltration next to the ADA ramp.



Middlebury, Henry Sheldon Museum, \$20,000

Erected in 1829 by Eben Judd and his son-in-law Lebbeus Harris, the Judd-Harris House was purchased in 1875 by Henry Sheldon, who gradually converted the building into a repository for his collection of objects related to the area's history. In 1882 the Vermont Legislature issued the charter for the Sheldon Art Museum, Archaeological & Historical Society, Inc., enabling Henry Sheldon to open the building to the public – a use that continues to this day. The Museum will use grant funds to restore 27 windows on the main Judd-Harris House.



Middlebury, Town Hall Theater, \$20,000

Middlebury's first town hall opened in 1884 and is the work of local architect Clinton Smith. Forty years after the Town moved to new offices in 1960, the building was purchased by Town Hall Theater, Inc. (THT). THT is now in its 13th season, hosting over 165 events annually. A matching grant will support masonry re-pointing, repairs to the slate roof and storm windows, and replication of the exterior stage door.



Moretown, Town Hall, \$3,550

The Moretown Town Hall has served as a municipal building since its construction in 1835. It is used for a variety of community uses, including town meeting, school events and theater productions. The Town is also exploring the idea of moving the library and historical society into the building. A matching grant will allow for complete repair and weatherization of the building's wood windows and doors.



Randolph, Chandler Music Hall, \$20,000

The Chandler Center for the Arts was constructed through the local philanthropy of Colonel Albert B. Chandler. In 1947, it was deeded to the Town, which considered demolishing the building before a local group spearheaded an ambitious rehabilitation project beginning in 1972. Today the Chandler attracts about 20,000 visitors annually, with musical events, children and youth programming, art exhibitions etc. The Chandler was awarded grant assistance to complete phase one of a major interior plaster restoration campaign.



Weathersfield, District No. 1 Elementary School, \$15,312

This school was in continuous use until 2008 when Weathersfield's elementary schools were consolidated. Today, the south classroom of the school is used by the Weathersfield Food Shelf. The Town will use a matching grant to restore the building's cupola, including reinforcing the structure; repair of wooden elements in kind; exterior painting; and repair of the bell's cast iron bell ringer.

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