

Vermont Historical Society

FY25 Budget Testimony
House Committee on Appropriations

February 5, 2024

Steve Perkins
Executive Director



Presentation Agenda

- **VHS Statutory Overview**
- **VHS Location History**
- **Budget Request**
- **Budget Detail**
- **New Strategic Plan (if time allows)**



VHS Statutory Overview

- Chartered by the legislature in 1838, and thus the oldest cultural heritage organization in the state, VHS collects, preserves, and exhibits objects and documents related to Vermont's past (22 V.S.A., sections 281-285). The Vermont Historical Society is the only institution in Vermont that collects artifacts and documents that reflect the entire history of the state, every geographical area, and every chronological period, including the present.



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- Employees of VHS are classified by the state classification system as if they were state employees and receive all general pay increases granted state employees (22 V.S.A., section 285).
- The State of Vermont requires participation in the Vermont State Employee Retirement System by qualified employees of VHS, as well as access to group coverage for health, dental, and life insurance. The premium for this coverage is paid entirely by VHS and its employees.



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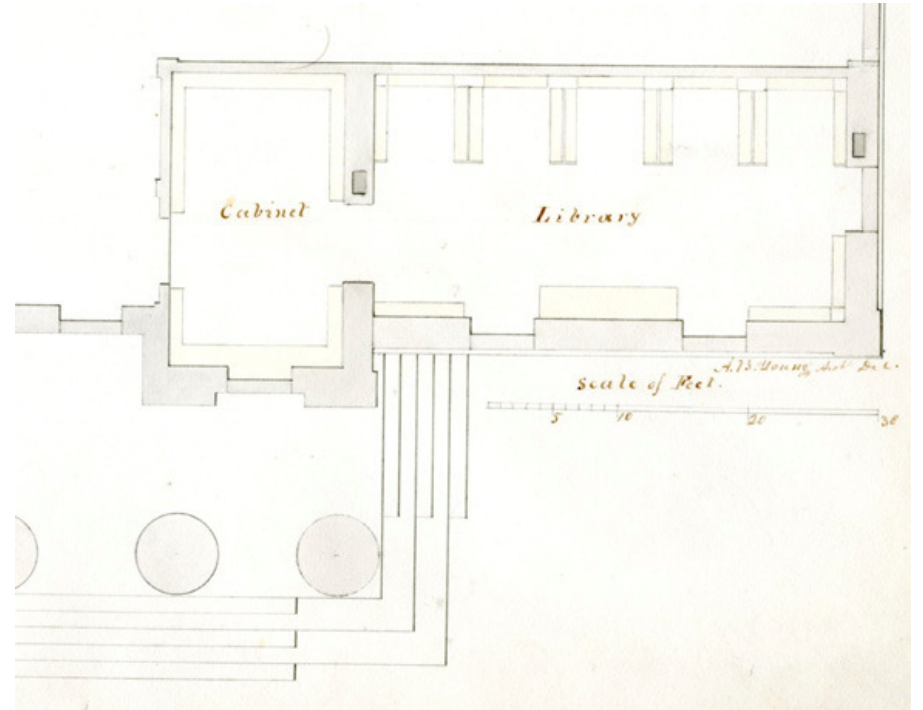


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- VHS supports approximately 200 local historical societies and museums throughout Vermont and advances their vitality in the communities they serve.

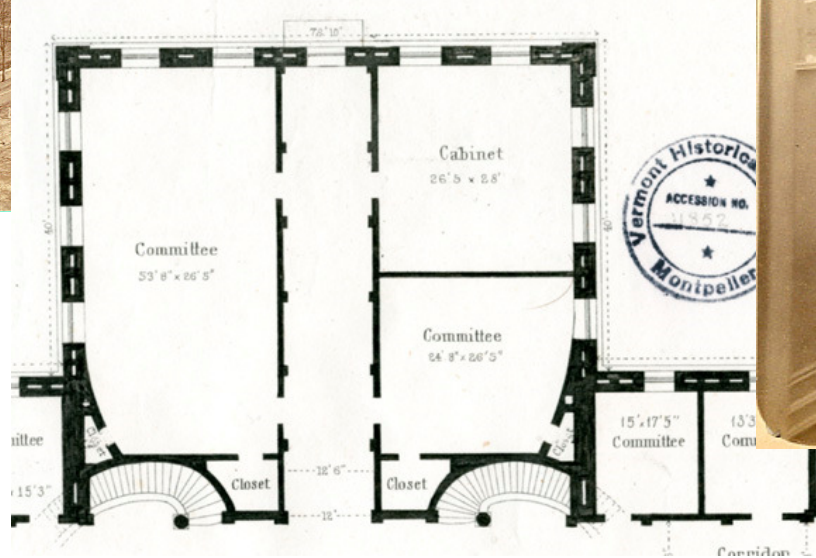
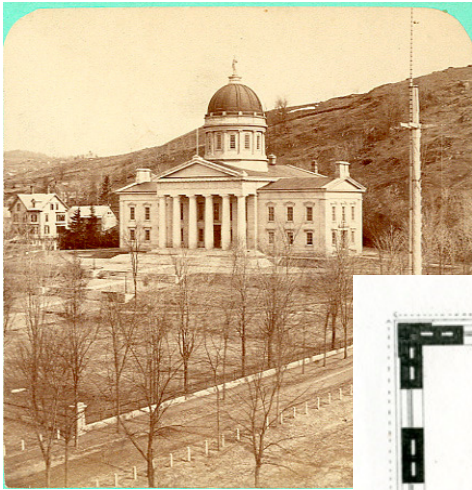


VHS Location History



2nd State House – Approximately 1842 to 1857

VHS Location History



Current State House – 1859 to 1886

VHS Location History



Current State House Annex – 1886 to 1917

VHS Location History



Supreme Court/State Library/VHS – 1918 to 1960

VHS Location History



Pavilion – 1971 to Present

Budget Request

Vermont Historical Society Requests \$1,135,717 from the General Fund.

	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 SUBMITTED	FY25 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET	FY25 REQUESTED
OPERATING GRANT	\$762,659	\$796,792	\$820,696	\$777,499	\$820,696
GRANT TO COVER FEE FOR SPACE	\$252,811	\$263,987	\$271,824	\$315,021	\$315,021
TOTAL (AS SEEN IN BUDGET)	\$1,015,470	\$1,060,779	\$1,092,520	\$1,092,520	1,135,717

Vermont Historical Society

FY25 Operating Budget - Proposed

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Monday, February 5, 2024

	FY2023	FY24	FY25	\$ change	% change	FY25 Budget Notes
Revenue	Actual	Projection	Budget			
Annual Fund / Membership Contributions	\$ 299,057	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000	\$0	0%	
Restricted Contributions/Sponsorships	\$ 122,311	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$0	0%	
Fees for Service / Admissions	\$ 76,682	\$ 60,950	\$ 96,200	\$35,250	58%	increased admission fees FY24, \$35k flood loss
Fundraising Events	\$ 3,245	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$0	0%	
Grant Income	\$ 32,955	\$ 75,000	\$ 76,000	\$1,000	1%	\$5k VCF
Investment Interest & Income	\$ 10,380	\$ 1,000	\$ 12,000	\$11,000	1100%	increased interest rates
Museum Store	\$ 23,773	\$ 22,500	\$ 23,175	\$675	3%	
Rental Income - VHC	\$ 190,205	\$ 191,134	\$ 191,134	\$0	0%	lease income
State Appropriation	\$ 762,659	\$ 796,792	\$ 820,696	\$23,904	3%	
Internal Service Fee Appropriation	\$ 252,811	\$ 263,907	\$ 315,021	\$51,114	19%	Pavillion 515010 Fee for Space Charge BGS
State Pay Act Supplement	\$ 69,562	\$ 45,000	\$ 51,583	\$6,583	15%	average of prior years
Transfers Endowment and Restricted Funds	\$ 158,807	\$ 162,807	\$ 166,063	\$3,256	2%	endowment +
Total Revenue	\$ 2,002,447	\$ 2,099,090	\$ 2,231,872	\$132,782	6%	
Expense						
Personnel - Salaries	\$ 866,783	\$ 862,825	\$ 860,573	(\$2,252)	0%	projected 2% COLI and 2% step increase
Personnel - FICA	\$ 66,286	\$ 66,006	\$ 65,834	(\$172)	0%	
Personnel - LT Disability			\$ 1,463	\$1,463	100%	LTD @ state rate
Personnel - Childcare Tax		\$ -	\$ 2,840	\$2,840	100%	new tax in FY25
Personnel - Retirement	\$ 221,762	\$ 231,033	\$ 208,626	(\$22,408)	-10%	assumes 26.7%
Personnel - Health & Dental & Life	\$ 78,192	\$ 93,717	\$ 157,108	\$63,392	68%	increased premium and enrollments
Personnel - Worker's Compensation	\$ 6,053	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$120	2%	
Administration & Finance	\$ 118,265	\$ 98,500	\$ 106,470	\$7,970	8%	added \$6k for accountant review contract
Internal Service Fee, Pavilion Building	\$ 252,811	\$ 263,907	\$ 315,021	\$51,114	19%	Pavillion 515010 Fee for Space Charge BGS
Loan Interest	\$ 40,544	\$ 38,755	\$ 36,477	(\$2,278)	-6%	from amortization schedule
Community Relations (LLHSM)	\$ 4,062	\$ 8,900	\$ 9,123	\$223	3%	
Development	\$ 19,128	\$ 33,000	\$ 36,145	\$3,145	10%	software cost increases
Membership	\$ 30,289	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,875	\$875	3%	
Education, Public Programming & Outreach	\$ 41,082	\$ 50,300	\$ 51,558	\$1,258	3%	
Library Programs	\$ 7,051	\$ 12,750	\$ 13,069	\$319	3%	
Museum Programs	\$ 15,328	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,888	\$388	3%	
Museum Store Supplies & COGS	\$ 14,398	\$ 11,250	\$ 11,531	\$281	3%	
Publications	\$ 10,463	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,375	\$375	3%	
VHC Operating Expenses	\$ 226,642	\$ 226,000	\$ 232,780	\$6,780	3%	
Transfer to Building Reserve Fund						
Total Expense	\$ 2,019,139	\$ 2,068,443	\$ 2,181,873	\$113,430	5%	
Revenue less Expense	(\$16,692)	\$ 30,647	\$ 49,999	\$19,352	63%	

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VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

Mission

Vermont Historical Society believes understanding the past changes lives and builds better communities. Our purpose is to engage Vermonters and Vermonters-at-Heart with outstanding collections, state-wide outreach, and dynamic programming.

Vision

Every person and every moment create the story of Vermont. Through sharing these collective stories, Vermonters will increase their knowledge of our state's complex past, inform our present, and understand how our unique experiences impact and shape this ongoing narrative.

Goals

PROVIDE Vermonters and Vermonters-at-heart the resources to access Vermont's rich historical collections from anywhere in the world.

RECOGNIZE and support local history efforts; understanding that local societies are an integral part of sharing and preserving Vermont's story.

BUILD resilient and connected communities, so Vermonters will understand Vermont's history and its place in the broader world.

ENRICH guests' experience through deeper understanding of Vermont and its people.

1. PROVIDE Vermonters and Vermonters-at-heart the resources to access Vermont's rich historical collections from anywhere in the world.

- 1.1 Statewide digital platform: bring together Vermont's history from across the entire state.
- 1.2 Research & Exhibition Gallery: engage researchers, educators, and students in pursuit of material culture study.
- 1.3 Collections inventory: complete an inventory of the objects in the museum collections.
- 1.4 Library & archives cataloging: unify cataloguing practices and make digitally accessible.

2. RECOGNIZE and support local history efforts; understanding that local societies are an integral part of sharing and preserving Vermont's story.

- 2.1. Workshops/roundtables: train and support Local Historical Societies and museums.
- 2.2. Grant program: support local history efforts that reflect a broad and inclusive story of Vermont.
- 2.3. Support 250th programming/events: highlight the contributions, struggles, and connections of Vermonters.
- 2.4. Local History Gallery: explore the rich cultural heritage of Vermont through curated exhibits, expanding the focus to support untold and underrepresented narratives.

3. BUILD resilient and connected communities, so Vermonters will understand Vermont's history and its place in the broader world.

- 3.1. History Day: expand access to the contest and identify pathways for all interested students to participate.
- 3.2. Provide VT history content/support to teachers and students: become the premier state history resource.
- 3.3. Digital media: tell nuanced, strategic stories that share a window on the past and how they inform life today.
- 3.4. Future of traditional publications: evaluate new avenues.
- 3.5. Redefine membership for a modern history organization.

4. ENRICH guests' experience through deeper understanding of Vermont and its people.

- 4.1. Update Freedom & Unity Exhibit: enhance the telling of Vermont stories to drive public engagement.
- 4.2. Vermont History Center identity: envision a History Center that facilitates inclusive access, supports the mission, and makes the best use of resources and capacity.

Further Information

Steve Perkins

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or call (802) 479-8515.

