

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



Bethel Town Hall - Bethel, Windsor County - \$9,500

Designed by George H. Guernsey and constructed in 1892, Bethel's Town Hall was used for a variety of functions over the years including as the public library, a roller rink, basketball court, fire station, and masonic lodge. In 2010, the Town began a major restoration effort, returning the building to its original exterior appearance. Today, the building is used as a community, civic, and cultural center. Grant funding will support work to scrape and re-paint the distinctive pressed metal of the building's clock tower.



First Congregational Church (Libanus Lodge # 47 F & AM) - Bristol, Addison County - \$15,284

Originally constructed as a church in 1899, this building was purchased by the Masons in 1948. It continues to be used by an active Order of the Eastern Star, which makes the building available for local private and civic groups including senior lunches, Meals on Wheels, Boy and Girl Scout events, hunter safety programs, Buddhist functions, weddings, Sunday breakfasts, and fundraisers. A matching grant will help the Masons restore the building's original stained glass windows.



Brookline Baptist Church - Brookline, Windham County - \$7,955

Church services at the Brookline Baptist Church (constructed 1836) ceased in 1945 and ownership of the building was recently transferred to the Town, which began a campaign to rehabilitate and re-open the building as the Brookline Community Center. Planned uses include town meetings, lectures, musical performances, movie nights, exhibits, and weddings. Grant funding will support work to replace the failing belfry roof and repair its balustrade and decorative wooden pinnacles.



First Unitarian Universalist Society Meeting House - Burlington, Chittenden County - \$14,471

Located at the head of Church Street in Burlington and a recognizable icon of both the City and State, the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is a gathering place for many social organizations, and as a venue for a mix of concerts, presentations and Burlington's First Night celebration. The Society was awarded a matching grant to support restoration of the eight historic windows at the bell tower.



Robinson Sawmill - Calais, Washington County - \$20,000

One of the oldest historic structures in Calais, the 1803 Robinson Sawmill remained in active operation until 1958. In 1961, the Aldrich Memorial Association (AMA) was created to preserve the mill. The sawmill is open to the public year-round and is a short walk from the Kent Tavern State Historic Site. The AMA was awarded this matching grant to help address the dry-laid foundation and timber framing at the south side of the building, which has been undermined in recent years by drainage issues.



Chelsea Town Hall and Library - Chelsea, Orange County - \$5,388

Constructed in 1894, this building serves as the town offices and public library for Chelsea. It is also the local polling station, gathering place for town meetings, and provides space for a variety of classes, school functions, and events. Grant funding shall allow the Town to undertake the work necessary to repair three structural piers in the basement and to complete flashing repairs around the building's two chimneys and a roof vent.



District #20/Central School - Chester, Windsor County - \$19,175

The District #20/Central School (1881) served as a village school, Chester's first high school, and then the central primary school into the 1950s. It is currently owned by the Town and leased to the Chester Historical Society. The building is open to the public seasonally with exhibits related to the Town's history. This matching grant will support work to restore the building's large historic six-over-six windows, basement and transom windows, as well as two side entry doors.

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Awarded Project Summaries



East Fairfield Union Meeting House - Fairfield, Franklin County - \$11,540

Originally a church, the East Fairfield Union Meeting House was connected for many years with the Bakersfield Congregational Church. It was deeded to the Fairfield Community Center Association in 2012. As the only large space in the village of East Fairfield, the building is an important gathering place for music, lectures, meetings, weddings, theater, summer camps, and senior programs. This matching grant will support the group's effort to repair the building's historic windows.



Root School - Norwich, Windsor County - \$9,300

Built in 1937, the Root School was used as a school until 1945 and, in 1952, was deeded to the Root District Game Club for use as a hunting clubhouse, horse riding clubhouse, and community facility. The matching grant will allow the Club to install a new concrete foundation and correct drainage problems that necessitated closure of the building in 2011. The building will then be available to the community for a wide range of uses.



Poultney Methodist Episcopal Church - Poultney, Rutland County - \$4,650

Originally a Methodist Church dating to 1822, this building was purchased by the Masons in 1869. It also operated the Fox Hill Arts Center for many years before being donated to the Preservation Trust of Vermont in 2015. The building is now leased to Stone Valley Arts, a non-profit arts organization that uses it to host art activities and programs. Matching funds will support repair of masonry and wood elements on the rear elevation and repairs to the distinctive portico columns.



District 5 School - Underhill, Chittenden County - \$17,400

Originally built in 1861, the District 5 School was enlarged in 1915 with the addition of a second story. After a fire in 1951, the building ceased to serve as a school. In 1983, the Underhill Historical Society restored the building. The goals of the current rehabilitation project are to make the building fully operational, with the Historical Society using the second floor and the first floor available for meetings, events, and classes. Grant funding will support sheathing, siding, and trim repairs to secure the exterior.



Bixby Memorial Free Library - Vergennes, Addison County - \$20,000

Bixby Library has served as a free community library since its construction in 1911-1912 and continues to serve the towns of Vergennes, Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, and Waltham. A matching preservation grant will support the library's ongoing work to preserve the building, specifically addressing the deterioration causing leaks in the roof around the chimney, and the brick and limestone parapet.



Perkinsville School - Weathersfield, Windsor County - \$9,665

This school was in continuous use until 2008. With later non-historic additions to the school removed, the original brick portion of the building along with its rear ell are to be rehabilitated. Currently, the south classroom is used by the Weathersfield Food Shelf. The north classroom will be available for public meetings and house a satellite library. The Town was awarded funding to restore the windows of the original 1879 brick portion of the building.



Coping Shop Building - West Rutland, Rutland County - \$11,250

The former Vermont Marble Co. Coping Shop, built in 1892 from blocks of local marble, originally served as an industrial space for the manufacture of architectural stone. In 2009, the building was donated to the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center (CSSC), which provides classroom space for various workshops from stone and wood carving, to welding and copper smithing. CSSC received this grant to replace the building's north gable windows, currently boarded over. The restoration will be based on historic documentation.



Wheelock Town Hall - Wheelock, Caledonia County - \$20,000

Wheelock's Town Hall, constructed in 1871, is still used for town meetings. It anchors the Wheelock Common Historic District and is the last remaining historic public building in the village center. In 1972, the town hall was moved slightly south to its current location and placed on a full basement that houses the town offices. This grant project will address structural deficiencies in the roof structure, which currently limit use of the building's main hall.

For more information, please contact:

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