

Historic Preservation Grant Program

2022

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



Barre, Old Labor Hall, \$12,300

This National Historic Landmark building was constructed in 1900 by Italian-born granite workers as a local union hall and headquarters of the Granite Workers Union. Today it is operated by the Barre Historical Society and is still in active use as a public meeting and event space. The Society will use the awarded matching grant to complete interior repairs in two upstairs rooms. The renovated spaces will provide a home for a public Labor Studies Center and a rental office space.



Bellows Falls, Adams Grist Mill \$20,000

Adams Grist Mill was constructed in 1831. It functioned as a water-powered grist mill until 1930 when it was adapted to electric power. In 1964 the family of the last mill operator helped to form the Bellows Falls Historical Society to preserve the mill as a museum. A state grant will assist in work to install a replacement slate roof on the main building.



Brownington, Athenian Hall at the Old Stone House Museum \$1,438

Athenian Hall was built between 1833 and 1836 to serve as a dormitory for the Orleans County Grammar School. In 1918 the building was put up for auction and threatened with demolition. The Orleans County Historical Society saved the building by acquiring it in 1925; it is now one of several historic buildings operated by the Orleans County Historical Society as the Old Stone House Museum. The museum was awarded a modest matching grant to complete interior plaster repairs and painting in underutilized rooms. This work will enable the expansion of new and rotating exhibits.



Burlington, Champlain Club, \$20,000

A local chapter of a national German American cultural organization constructed this building to host social events and community gatherings in 1905. Following World War II, the club adjusted to the evolving cultural landscape to be more inclusive and changed its name to the Champlain Club. Today the building is used as a community center and performing arts and dance space. A Historic Preservation grant will support substantial repairs to the front and west elevations of the building, including reconstruction of the roof over the front entry.



Chelsea, Hale-Brodne House, \$9,238

Originally a single-family house, this building was converted into Wellspring Waldorf School in the early 1990s. After the school moved, the house remained empty for eight years. By 2018, it was threatened with demolition until Orange County worked with the Orange County Restorative Justice Center to repurpose the building to provide office and meeting space for a variety of social services in partnership with DCF, Capstone and the Clara Martin Center. Matching grant funds will support rehabilitation of the building's exterior features and structural components.



Danville, Congregational Church, \$20,000

The Danville Congregational Church has been located on its current site since 1792. The existing church building was constructed in 1897 after a major fire and was designed by Marshall Morrill with a Greek Revival form embellished Queen Anne-inspired details. It continues to serve as a house of worship while also being actively used by the wider community. A matching grant will allow the church to replace the asphalt shingle roof of the church tower.

For more information, please contact:

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Danville, Train Depot, \$20,000

The Danville Train Station was originally constructed in 1871 and served as a passenger and freight depot for more than a century by the Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad and the Saint Johnsbury & Lamoille County Railroad. Grant funding will support a major rehabilitation effort to rehabilitate the Depot as a transportation hub for users of the adjacent Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, including essential amenities like water, public restrooms, secure bicycle parking, and a repair station. The Danville Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce will have a presence with kiosks that promote local businesses and events as well as rotating educational displays.



Lincoln, Burnham Hall, \$3,000

Constructed with funds from a bequest in the 1920s, Burnham Hall is owned by the Town of Lincoln and managed by the Walter S. Burnham Committee. It is abundantly used for a variety of community activities including fundraisers, weddings, rummage sales, classes, workshops, seminars, and concerts. It is also used for Town Meeting, local elections, and public hearings and meetings. This modest grant will support work to repair failing seams on a copper section of the building's roof.



Middlebury, Ilsley Public Library, \$9,687

Purpose built as a library through the generous donations of benefactors Colonel Silas and Mary Ilsley, this active public library is open six days a week, attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually. The original 1923 portion of the library is in good condition, excepting the building's historic windows. Matching grant funds will support work to repair and restore these windows and make them operable, including woodwork repairs, weather stripping, and painting.



Northfield, United Church of Northfield, \$11,500

Paine Meeting House was built by Charles Paine in 1835-1836 for meetings and faith assemblies. Following his death in 1855, the building was purchased by the Congregational Society. The lower level of the church, called Howe Hall, has been in use since 1858 when Northfield resident Isaac Howe obtained a deed for the land under the church to build a hall for public and church use, jacking the church up three feet to insert the hall below. The congregation was awarded grant funding to restore significant historic windows on the front façade of the church and three monumental windows lighting Howe Hall.



Randolph, Kimball Public Library, \$20,000

Completed in 1903, the Kimball Library was designed by architect H.M. Francis & Sons and funded by local benefactor Robert J. Kimball. It is still used as a community library, meeting place, and center for information. The three-story red brick and brownstone Renaissance Revival-style building is surmounted by a slate roof and copper-clad cupola over a stunning stained-glass skylight. Matching grant funds will assist in a major restoration project to replace copper cladding, restore the skylight, and make structural repairs to the cupola framing.



Richmond, Richmond Free Library, \$14,801

This Gothic Revival-style building was originally built as a church and now houses the Richmond Free Library. It was designed by noted Vermont builder George H. Guernsey and built in 1879 for the Universalist Society. It was previously adapted for use as a school cafeteria and gymnasium, before becoming the library in 1989. Today, the library serves roughly 3,000 visitors monthly and provides meeting rooms and community space for other municipal and non-profit groups. A matching grant will allow the Town to address much-needed deferred maintenance on the building's two towers.



Rutland, White's Marble Works, \$20,000

This 1865 heavy-timber building was originally built for White's Marble Works. Later known as the "Kinsman Building," it was a part of the Kinsman & Mills Marble & Granite Works. The building was sold in 1956 to the Lincoln Iron Works and used by a wholesale plumbing and heating supply company. In 2012 the property was acquired by the Vermont Farmers Market Education Center, which was just awarded a matching grant to make critical repairs to sheathing and failed truss of the roof and replacement of rotted sills. The blue building will provide space for a teaching kitchen, licensed production kitchen for value added production, and meeting space for educational activities.

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St. Albans, St. Albans Academy, \$20,000

Located just west of Taylor Park on Church Street, the former St. Albans Academy was designed in the Renaissance Revival style. It served as the local high school from 1861 until 1929 and was then utilized as an elementary school until 1970. In the mid-1970s the building became the home of the Saint Albans Museum. The first two floors of the building are dedicated to artifact exhibits, while the third floor houses the Bliss Room, an auditorium, which is an important and active event space for both the museum and the larger St. Albans community. A grant was awarded to the museum for repairs to the building's slate roof and cupola.



St. Albans, Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, \$20,000

St. Paul's was built between 1875 and 1889 as a house of worship and continues to function as an active church and community facility. Funding through this state grant will aid in the restoration of multiple historic stained-glass windows.



St. Albans, First Congregational Church, \$17,363

This is the third building on this site built for the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, which was formed in 1803. Located east of Taylor Park, it is still used as an active house of worship, for music events/concerts, and as a rain site for events in the park. The church was awarded a matching grant to complete the next phase of an extensive and ongoing program of exterior masonry repairs.



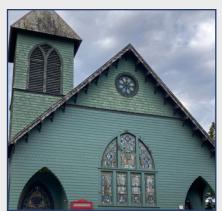
Warren, Warren Covered Bridge, \$20,000

Warren's covered bridge was built in 1879 by Walter Bagley and was an integral part of the Lincoln Gap Toll Road when the Town was initially settled. It is still used for traffic and is a landmark at the village's southern gateway, having survived both the 1927 flood and Tropical Storm Irene. Funding from a VTRANS Transportation Enhancement grant was awarded to the Town support work to repair the southwest bridge abutment. However, the original project, bid in May 2021, exceeded funding available and was further delayed by the pandemic. This award of \$20,000 from VDHP will allow the project to finally move forward this spring.



Weathersfield, Reverend Dan Foster House, \$20,000

The original dwelling on this property was constructed in 1785 by Reverend Dan Foster, the first minister of Weathersfield. It was enlarged in 1825 by Horace Cook. After being abandoned, the house was restored in the 1940s by Raymond Beardsley and following his death, the Weathersfield Historical Society was formed and took ownership of the property, opening it as a museum. This grant will facilitate framing repairs and installation of a new drainage system to address ongoing moisture issues.



Winooski, Methodist Episcopal Church, \$20,000

Constructed following a fire that destroyed the original church on this site, the Methodist Episcopal Church is an important landmark in Winooski with a history of inclusion. The church was attended by Buffalo Soldiers station at nearby Fort Ethan Allen between 1909 and 1913 and is a highlight in the Vermont African American Heritage Trail. Today, continuing that message of inclusion, the church shares its space with four Winooski refugee groups, Congo congregation, Nepalese congregation, A2VT refugee band, and a refugee support group. This grant funding will support important structural repairs to the historic church.

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