



Preservation Services Grants in Action 2008

Small matching grants are a critical element of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and National Trust for Historic Preservation's Shared Field Service Program. The grant provide timely expertise for project development and can help leverage on-site coaching, mentoring and workshops offered through the Program, which was launched with a generous investment by Jane's Trust. Grants were used for building assessments, fundraising assistance and re-use planning in the profiles below.

This grant program has been supported by gifts to our Irreplaceable Assets campaign, the Otto Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation, and the NH Division of Historical Resources.



When a historic church was slated for demolition in **Epsom**, a group of townspeople rallied to try to raise funds to move it. A fundraising planning grant and lots of one-on-one coaching from the Alliance helped them develop their case statement, meet their \$80,000 goal, and advocate for town ownership. A special town meeting voted in favor of accepting the church, making it possible to move the building to a nearby municipally-owned lot in early 2007. The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation, thanks to an LCHIP grant. The Preservation Alliance is helping with further preservation planning.

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance
Eagle Square • P.O. Box 268 • Concord, NH 03302-0268
603-224-2281 www.nhpreservation.org



New Ipswich Town Hall is part of a National Register Historic District that also includes the Federal-period Barrett House (owned by Historic New England). It has not been occupied for many years. A grant from the Preservation Alliance helped the town hire a local architect to assess the building's structural integrity and propose possible new uses.



In **Lee**, the Preservation Alliance has provided both field services and a grant to the Lee Heritage Commission and their partners to plan for rehabilitation of the long-empty Burley-Demerrit farmhouse, owned by the University of New Hampshire. The building will be used in conjunction with the country's first organic research dairy farm, which operates on the site.



A spring storm's high winds were blamed for loosening the plaster ceiling of the 152-year old **Orford** Congregational Church. The ceiling collapsed onto the pews in the sanctuary of the building, thankfully when the church was vacant. With help from a Preservation Alliance grant, a church committee received technical assistance to guide the clean-up and repair plan, and additional coaching in fund-raising strategies.



At the Fuller Public Library, housed in the Governor John Butler Smith Mansion in **Hillsborough**, a Preservation Alliance grant helped bring in a decorative arts conservator to examine the building's ornate trompe l'oeil painted ceilings. The conservator assessed their condition and made recommendations for their cleaning, restoration, and on-going maintenance.



In **Franklin**, the historic Boston and Maine Railroad trestle became the focal point of a park at the gateway to downtown Franklin and integral to the city's downtown revitalization efforts. A Preservation Alliance grant funded an engineer to assess the unused trestle's condition, determine its repair and maintenance needs, and review its potential to be included in the recreational Winnepesaukee River Trail.



The **Littleton** Community House provides meeting space for over 80 non-profit and municipal groups. A structural assessment grant from the Preservation Alliance helped jumpstart a new committee charged with long-term preservation planning and fundraising. Within a few months the group had successfully researched and applied for listing to the State Historic Register and applied to other funding institutions.



In **Acworth**, a building assessment and preservation plan, funded in part by a small grant from the Preservation Alliance helped convince the 2005 town meeting to repair and upgrade the 1821 Town Hall (l). The Preservation Alliance also awarded the Acworth Congregational Church (r), a building assessment grant, which helped set the stage for a major restoration project. The buildings are centerpieces of the village common.



The Alliance was one of many partners who helped save the Daniel Webster Farm in **Franklin** by funding a re-use study and mentoring local advocates. Private investment is now bringing new uses to the many historic structures on the site. The Webster-Tay House (pictured), will provide a new home for the Franklin Historical Society.