



## Preservation League Announces Recipients of Northeast Heritage Economy Program Grants, Supported by the Northern Border Regional Commission

*Part of a Four-State Economic Development Investment Meant to Help to Address Job Losses in New York Communities*

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**Albany, NY, 04/07/2020** — The Preservation League of New York State, as part of a four-state coalition, has announced targeted grants to projects in the communities of Whallonsburg, Saranac Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Oneida New York. The grants will assist in the restoration and reuse of historic buildings in areas that have lost jobs and investment due to the downturn in the forest products industry.

These funds are made possible by an award to the Preservation League of New York State along with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, Maine Preservation, and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). The four states have evenly split the award of \$1 million. In total, fifteen projects have been funded by this innovative collaboration called the Northeast Heritage Economy Program. The organizations looked for projects that strengthen the communities they serve as well as their economies in areas that are suffering from the decline of the forest products industry. These grants support workforce development, cultural centers, community-supported enterprise, and visitor destinations in historic locations including museums, theaters, a historic garage building, a barn and a utopian industrial community.

Studies show that historic preservation investment supports small business and good-paying labor jobs, improves property values, keeps money circulating in local economies, catalyzes additional investment and increases community pride. The funds for this program, and all NBRC programs, are available thanks to the support of the congressional delegations of all four NBRC states: Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

- The Whallonsburg Grange Hall will receive \$35,000 to renovate and repurpose the large, vacant building and riverfront greenspace across the road from the Whallonsburg Grange



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Hall, a performing arts and community center in Essex. The restored Whitcomb's Garage will house two small businesses, a pottery and ceramics studio, space for classes, a retail store and café. The project builds on the successful volunteer-led renovation and rebirth of the Grange and is a step forward in the economic revival of this rural hamlet.

- Historic Saranac Lake will receive \$75,000 to rehabilitate the former Trudeau home and medical office at 118 Main Street in Saranac Lake. This project will lead to an expanded museum campus that will help drive heritage tourism in the North Country. The space will host exhibits, collections storage, a resource room, public space for arts and cultural events, and rented office space. The over 5,000 square foot building was built in 1894 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Adirondack Experience (ADKX) in Blue Mountain Lake will receive \$68,000 to restore the Log Hotel, an 1876 structure, along with two adjoining cottages. The work will address deterioration of the historic structures, which are the centerpiece of this thriving museum in the Adirondacks which welcomed over 54,000 visitors in 2019, including many regional school children.
- The Oneida Community Mansion House in Oneida will receive \$52,000 to repair and rehabilitate a roof, masonry facade and associated internal framework of this National Historic Landmark building. Upon completion this will pave the way for expanded commercial space, allowing wellness and food service businesses to grow, as well as allowing the Mansion House to host public performances.

"With the support of the Northern Border Regional Commission and our state congressional delegation, these grants give us the ability to fund building restorations that will create local jobs, increase heritage tourism, and leverage other sources of funding," said **Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State**. "This program is about getting resources to areas hit hardest by the loss of the forest products industry and helping them to complete locally-driven projects that capitalize on their historic resources. We are indebted to the Commission and our congressional delegation for their support."

"Rural communities are the backbone of our state," said **Senator Gillibrand**. "This funding will help revitalize communities that have been suffering from the decline of the forest industry. I will always support and fight for projects that help our rural communities."

"At the Department of State, we were pleased to help with the establishment of the four-state Regional Forest Economy Partnership Program to direct federal funding to communities working to transition away from traditional forest-based economic development activities," said **New York Secretary of State Rossana Rosado**. "These Northeast Heritage Economy Program investments will enable four New York communities to revitalize locally-identified 'places' critical to support new economic opportunities."



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Projects in the other three states are:

- Maine: Timelines Community, Inc. (Thorndike, ME); Maine Highlands Senior Center (Dover-Foxcroft, ME); Centre Theatre, Inc. (Dover-Foxcroft, ME); Association Culturelle Et Historique Du Mont Carmel (Lille, ME); Belfast Maskers (Belfast, ME).
- New Hampshire: Canaan, Vermont School District (Canaan, VT) [grant co- supported by VT]; Mill Hollow Heritage Association (Alstead, NH); Sustainable Forest Futures Inc. in conjunction with Northern Forest Center (Lancaster, NH).
- Vermont: Canaan, Vermont School District (Canaan, VT) [grant co- supported by NH]; Town of Hardwick; Vermont Bridgewater Area Community Foundation, Inc. (Bridgewater Corners, VT); The Space on Main, Inc. (Bradford, VT).

More information about these sites and the Northeast Heritage Economy Program can be found on our website: <https://www.preservenys.org/nhep>.

### **About the Preservation League of New York State**

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Our goal has been to preserve our historic buildings, districts and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs across the state.

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