

SUCCESS STORIES

HISTORIC RESTORATION FUND

Florence Griswold Museum Barn Old Lyme

The Florence Griswold Museum Barn is the only remaining outbuilding from the Lyme Art Colony Period. This structure, built circa 1850, is an excellent example of a Connecticut River Valley barn. A new concrete floor was poured, the existing roof and siding were replaced, and new barn doors added as part of the exterior restoration. The barn was also re-wired, new plumbing was installed, and fire and security systems were added. The Historic Restoration Fund was used to restore the barn, allowing the barn to showcase the agrarian tradition of southern Connecticut.



Cheney Brothers Machine Shop Manchester



The Cheney Brothers Machine Shop, owned by the Manchester Historical Society, is located within the Cheney Brothers Historic District, a National Historic Landmark District. The Historical Society restored the existing windows rather than install new replacement windows. The project resulted in improved working comfort as well as energy and dollar savings, all while adhering to appropriate restoration practices rather than wholesale window replacement. The improved physical appearance has resulted in less window damage from vandals who before assumed the building was vacant because of the outward appearance. This restoration project sets an example for other industrial building owners as well as the individual homeowner who feel the only way to achieve energy efficiency in an old building is to replace the very materials that give the buildings its integrity and character.

*Butler McCook House
Hartford*

The Butler McCook Homestead (1782) and the Victorian gardens were designed by Jacob Widenman in 1865. This National Register of Historic Places listed property is owned by Connecticut Landmarks. In 2010 Connecticut Landmarks completed a closed loop geothermal HVAC system which replaced the existing inefficient systems. With a grant from the Historic Restoration Fund, the new geothermal system will be able to not only save Connecticut Landmarks on their energy bills, but the Butler McCook House serves as a model for preservation and sustainability.



*Gores Pavilion
New Canaan*

The Gores Pavilion (1959-60) was designed as a pool house for John Irwin by Landis Gores, one of the “Harvard Five” architects. The Irwin Estate was sold to the Town of New Canaan to be used as a park in 2005. Instead of demolishing the building, the Town and the New Canaan Historical Society joined together to adaptively reuse the building as meeting and gallery spaces. The exterior of the building was restored to its original appearance and the interior adapted for use as an exhibition space. The building will be open to the public for tours. The project is a stellar example of a public/private partnership utilizing the Historic Restoration Fund to not only to restore a historic building, but to repurpose a building for public enjoyment.



*Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum
Ridgefield*

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (circa 1783) is a contributing resource to the Ridgefield Center Historic District. The Museum utilized the Historic Restoration Fund twice to restore both the interior and exterior of the building. The exterior work included repointing the stone foundation and chimney; repairing, stripping and painting the exterior cedar clapboard siding and replacing the shake-shingled roof. New insulation was added to the attic floor to improve the energy efficiency of the building and a meeting/conference room was restored. Historic Preservation, art and tourism come together in this outstanding project.



*The Joseph Webb House
Wethersfield*



The Joseph Webb House is one of three houses operated by the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum and is a National Historic Landmark. The Webb House was constructed in 1752 for Joseph Webb, a wealthy merchant. In 1919 the building was purchased by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and opened as a museum. The Colonial Dames used the Historic Restoration Fund to repair and paint the existing clapboard, to restore a rear porch, and to repair and reinstall late nineteenth century shutters. The Webb House restoration is an excellent example of how a nonprofit can utilize this grant to restore a house museum and promote not only Connecticut history but to boost local tourism.

ENDANGERED PROPERTIES FUND



*Connecticut River Museum
Essex*

After a fire destroyed the dock at the Connecticut River Museum, the Museum applied for and received an Endangered Properties Fund grant. Not only was the grant used to rebuild the dock, but because the dock had to be removed, the Museum was able to have an archaeological survey performed at the site. By utilizing the Endangered Properties Fund, the Museum was able to reopen their dock in time for the boating season with no disruption to their public education programs.