



## Historic New England Receives \$300K NEH CARES Act Grant

BOSTON — Historic New England (HNE) received a \$300,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES Act grant. The funds will be used to create virtual visitor experiences for six sites.

"This project will significantly advance our commitment to sharing our historic sites and resources," said Historic New England president and chief executive officer Vin Cipolla. "This is one way we can use digital technology to be there for our communities."

Thanks to the NEH CARES Act grant, Historic New England will expand both the scale and scope of our visitor outreach. Historic New England will use this grant to create virtual tours and enhanced websites for six historic places, one in each New England state. We will focus on New England stories and add new 360-degree interior photography to provide access to spaces not on public view such as attics, outbuildings and other rooms. The project will focus on five historic properties and one stand-alone program.

### Casey Farm, Saunderstown, R.I.



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Casey Farm is a working organic farm with a circa 1750 farmhouse at its core. The roof design, an expensive and showy style favored by traders in Newport and in the Bahamas, is still impressive. The house was a prominent landmark for sailors along the western passage of Narragansett Bay.

Although careers outside the area took many Casey family members away from the farm, it remained a cherished piece of family history and was used as a summer retreat. Thomas Lincoln Casey, the architect who completed the construction of the Washington Monument, made many changes to the property that are still visible today. He spent his vacations improving the farm while instructing the tenant family, the Goulds, on how the farm should be managed, such as rotating fields, planting crops, maintaining orchards and fertilizing with seaweed. Casey completed the barn and rebuilt the sheep sheds, built a carriage house and woodshed, a new corn-crib, pig house and other outbuildings, and generally repaired all the buildings. He rebuilt many of the principal walls on the farm and including the walls bordering the main road crossing the property.

Casey Farm came to Historic New England in 1955. Since that time, it has been operated as a working farm, preserving the land along the Narragansett Bay and teaching visitors about agriculture and preservation in Rhode Island. Today, farm managers raise organically grown produce for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. A weekly seasonal farmers' market offers products from other local farms. Visitors may tour the farmyard and cemetery, where six generations of Caseys are buried.

### Sarah Orne Jewett House, South Berwick, Maine

The Sarah Orne Jewett House was built in 1774. Writer Sarah Orne Jewett and her family lived in her grandparents' Eighteenth Century house until 1854, when they built a Greek Revival house next door.

In 1887, Sarah and her older sister Mary inherited the house. The changes



Sarah Orne Jewett House, South Berwick, Maine

they made to the décor reflect both their eclectic tastes and their pride in their family's past. While the sisters retained earlier wallpapers in some rooms, they made a dramatic statement in the front hall, choosing a bold Arts and Crafts pattern of tulips on a reflective ground to complement a William Morris carpet.

The house also highlights the life, work, and passion of Sarah who created a life of artistic and literal freedom for herself in Victorian America. She spent the summer months at the house and devoted much of that time to her writing. She chose her grandfather's writing desk by the second floor hall window at which to work; from here, she could look out on the center of town, finding inspiration in its people for her characters and stories.

Sarah passed away at home in 1909. Since that time, her bedroom has remained essentially unchanged. Her sister Mary died in 1930, leaving the family home to nephew Dr Theodore Eastman. Eastman bequeathed the Jewett House and the house next door to Historic New England, upon his own death just a year later in 1931.

### Otis House, Boston



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The house was built in 1796 for Harrison Gray Otis and Sally Foster Otis. It is the first of three houses designed by prominent architect Charles Bulfinch for the Otis family and reflects the classical proportions and details of the Federal style.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, pioneering paint analysis was done at Otis House that led to some surprising discoveries about Federal-era tastes. Using the results of this analysis and other research, Otis House was restored with brilliantly colored wallpapers, carpeting and high-style furnishings. Most of the house now appears as it might have looked when the Otises lived here, but there are also room displays that reflect its later use as a medical clinic and a boarding house.

It was acquired by Historic New England in 1916. In 1925, the City of Boston planned to widen Cambridge Street with the new lanes to go directly through the

front of Otis House. Four circa 1840 row houses directly behind the house were purchased and two were demolished to make room to relocate the house. The Otis House was separated from its foundation, supported by steel beams, and rolled back 42 feet on large wooden rolling pins.

Various restorations, repairs and remodeling projects took place as the needs of the office, archive and storage spaces changed throughout the Twentieth Century. Otis House again escaped demolition in the late 1950s and early 1960s when the West End neighborhood bordering the property was razed as part of an urban renewal project. Today it stands as a memorial to the Bowdoin Square and West End neighborhoods and the early history of Beacon Hill.

### Rundlet-May House, Portsmouth, N.H.



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The Rundlet-May House was built by James and Jane Rundlet in 1807. It sits on a terraced rise and was filled with the finest furnishings available at the time. The house was both an urban showplace and home for the Rundlets' large family.

It is also the home where technology drives the story. The kitchen features some of the era's most innovative tools for heating and cooking, including a Rumford roaster and a Rumford range, as well as an elaborate venting system that services a smoke room on the third floor, and an early coal-fired central heating system. To ensure access to fresh water, Rundlet also had an attached well-house and a large cistern that collected rain water in the basement. The outbuildings housed farm animals, possibly workers' quarters, and potting sheds. The house and grounds were self-sufficient and able to support the family and their staff with little help from the outside.

Later generations changed little about the house. When the house was occupied by James Rundlet May and his wife Mary Ann Morrison, they updated some carpets and upholstery and made changes to the garden. James created a graveyard for the family's many pets. Mary Ann, while maintaining James Rundlet's original pathways and flower beds, updated some of the flower varieties.

The property was deeded to Historic New England in 1971. Today it represents four generations of one family, the Rundlets and Mays, who continuously occupied the space.

### Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, Conn.

Roseland Cottage is an example of the Gothic Revival style. It was built in 1846 as the summer home for Henry and Lucy Bowen and their young family.

Architect Joseph C. Wells' design is full of Gothic motifs — pinnacled gables, chimney pots, the trellis and fence — that reflect this fashionable and forward-looking style. While the house is recognizable for its pink exterior, Roseland Cottage has an equally colorful interior, featuring Gothic Revival furniture, elaborate wall coverings, heavily patterned carpets and stained glass, much of which survives today.



Roseland Cottage, Woodstock, Conn.

The picturesque landscape reflects the principles of tastemaker Andrew Jackson Downing, who believed that house and landscape were of equal importance. The original boxwood-edged parterre gardens were planted in the 1850s. They border 21 flower beds that are filled with colorful annuals. The grounds also include an icehouse, aviary, carriage barn and the nation's oldest surviving indoor bowling alley.

Bowen's children and their families continued to summer at Roseland Cottage and the house continued to be a location for family gatherings. In 1940, two of Henry and Lucy's grandchildren, Constance and Sylvia Holt, became the family hostesses. They lived there year-round and carefully preserved the house and its contents.

After the death of Constance Holt in 1968, the family decided to sell the estate. Historic New England recognized the property's significance and set out to preserve the house and the Bowen family story. In 1970, the property was purchased by Historic New England with the help of local and state agencies and has been open as a museum since.

### More than a Market: Finding Community



Vermont market owner

The Vermont project will use material from More than a Market: Finding Community in Burlington. This project, part of Historic New England's Everyone's History series, explores the role of food markets for immigrants in Burlington neighborhoods and will include contemporary and archival photographs, a tour of a present-day market and oral histories.

The Greater Burlington area has a legacy of immigration that continues today. Neighborhoods once alive with the voices of Germans, Jews, Irish, Italians and French Canadians today are home to Bhutanese-Nepali, Somali and Congolese people, among others. Historically, neighborhood stores served as informal, local "parlors" — places to socialize, conduct business and purchase familiar food, clothing and household goods. Today, these neighborhood markets serve as social anchors in much the same way.

The grant is part of the NEH CARES Act economic stabilization program. These grants support essential operations at more than 300 cultural institutions across the country. The NEH was created in 1965 as an independent federal agency. It supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. For information, [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).