

Thomaston Historical Society Receives Grant to Help Preserve the Knox Farmhouse

The Thomaston Historical Society has received a \$15,000 grant from the Belvedere Historic Preservation Fund of the Maine Community Foundation to help address serious moisture problems that threaten the integrity of its museum building and the historic collections it contains. The 1795 Knox Farmhouse Museum is on the National Historic Registry as the only remaining original building from the General Henry Knox estate and one of the oldest buildings in the United States to have been used as a train station.

“With this grant we now have enough money to start the construction needed to move moisture away from the foundation of the building”, said Susan Devlin, president of the historical society. “This is the first and most significant step in the much needed structural restoration that this historic building needs. As the building sits in the middle of Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) property, we also need to thank the MDOT for allowing us to place a solid pipeline across their property (underground) to meet the Thomaston storm ditch to remove the water collected.”

The major function of the Thomaston Historical Society is to discover, collect, and preserve any material to help establish or illustrate the history of the Thomaston area and communicate and promote this history in diverse ways. It is also committed to maintaining the integrity of the Society's museum building, with over 80% of the annual operating budget of this entirely volunteer organization going to routine maintenance and utilities for the building.

With offices in Ellsworth and Portland, the Maine Community Foundation, through the Belvedere Historic Preservation Fund, offers grants to support the preservation or restoration of historic buildings statewide

Photo Captions: Knox Farmhouse Museum exterior and basement

