



Town of Orleans

19 School Road Orleans Massachusetts 02653-3699

Telephone (508) 240-3700 – Fax (508) 240-3388

FY24 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT APPLICATION

Project Title: French Cable Station Museum

Submission Date: 11/21/2022

Applicant (note if Town, individual or non-profit): French Cable Station Museum, Inc.

Address: 41 South Orleans Road, Orleans, MA 02653

Co-Applicant, if any (note if Town, individual or non-profit):

Address:

Project Contact Person: Duane Chase

Telephone: (860) 388-7378

E-mail: duanechase42@gmail.com

Federal Tax Identification Number (if non-profit): 237-133-747

Project purpose (Check all that apply):

Open Space Historic Preservation Community Housing Recreation

Project Location/Address: 41 South Orleans Road, Orleans, MA 02653

Community Preservation Funding Request: \$40,750.00

Brief Project Summary, Including Justification of Project Category Checked Above:

The French Cable Station Museum was recognized and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and in 2018 it was the recipient of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Milestone Award. The original Station building houses what is likely the most comprehensive collection of undersea telegraphic equipment and documents to be found anywhere in the world.

This proposal seeks to continue the work of preservation of the historic building by restoring the exterior damaged trim and siding where needed and painting the exterior. This request also includes continuing work on the archive of specialized antique instruments.

Please attach the following information with all applications:

- **Detailed Narrative:** A complete and detailed description of the project including goals and objectives, consistency with Community Preservation Act goals, compatibility with the Orleans Community Preservation Plan and the Orleans Comprehensive Long Range Plan, and relevance to the community and its needs.
- **Action Plan and Timeline:** Note the estimated dates for project commencement and completion and list (with an explanation) all action and steps that will be required for project completion, including any legal requirements or any impediments to implementation.
- **Financial Data:** Provide financial information for the project including total cost, additional revenue sources (public, private, in-kind, volunteer time and services), basis for the fiscal estimates and any other fiscal details currently available. Applicants are encouraged to submit more than one quotation from potential contractors.

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT SUBMISSION

Please submit **two (2) complete paper copies** of the application and other materials to the Community Preservation Committee, c/o Town Administrator, Town of Orleans, 19 School Road, Orleans, MA 02653 by Nov. 21, 2022.

Applicants must also email complete applications in PDF to Jennifer Fountain, Administrative Assistant, at genuinejenfountain@gmail.com. A single PDF file which appends materials described in item 3 to the application form is preferred.

1. Applications must be received by Monday, November 21 to be considered for recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting.
2. Funds for approved projects will be available on July 1st following the Annual Town Meeting upon submission of appropriate invoices and accounting.
3. Applicants may include any maps, diagrams, and/or photographs pertaining to the project. Letters of Support for the project from community organizations or other sources may also be submitted. Clear, concise presentation of materials is appreciated by the Committee.
4. The Community Preservation Committee may require additional (or more detailed) information or further clarification to a submitted application.
5. Prior to submission of funding applications, applicants should review the Community Preservation Act (MGL, Chapter 44B, through the Community Preservation Coalition Web site), the Orleans Community Preservation Plan and the Orleans Community Preservation Bylaw, copies of which are available on the Town Web site at <https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/community-preservation-committee>. Nonprofit organizations applying for historic preservation funds for historic structures should obtain a sample copy of an acceptable historic preservation deed restriction (available from the Town Administrator's office) since this type of document will be required. Applicants other than the Town of Orleans should also obtain a sample copy of the Agreement with the Town of Orleans that all successful nonprofit applicants will be required to sign. Please contact the Administrative Assistant by email with any questions.
6. Eligible projects must address one or more of the uses outlined in the Community Preservation Act, Sections 2 and 5 (2), as follows:

Open Space: Acquisition, creation, and preservation of land to protect existing water supply/aquifer areas, agricultural and forest land, coastal lands, frontage to inland water bodies, wildlife habitat, nature preserves and scenic vistas.

Community Housing: Acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing defined as housing for low and moderate income individuals and families, including low and moderate income senior housing. The Community Preservation Committee is required to recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites.

Historic Preservation: Acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic structures and landscapes that have been determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the Town or that are listed on the State Register of Historic Places. Plans for restoration and rehabilitation must comply with Secretary of the Interiors' standards.

Recreation: Acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for active and passive recreational uses, including land for community gardens, trails and noncommercial youth and adult sports and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field and for preservation and restoration of recreational facilities. (Community Preservation funds cannot be used for a stadium, gymnasium, or similar structures or for the acquisition of artificial turf for athletic fields.)

Sept, 2022

**The French Cable Station Museum in Orleans, Inc.
Application to the Orleans Community Preservation Committee
Preservation of French Cable Station and the Museum Collection**

Project Description:

This is a request for \$ 40,750.00 in funding to:

- 1. Preservation of the exterior of the original French Cable Station building including painting, and exterior repairs to trim and siding.**
- 2. Continuation of archiving project**

In 1971, a courageous group of Orleans citizens pooled their resources to purchase the French Cable Station. Thanks to their insight, an incredible collection of late 19th and early 20th century undersea telegraph cable communication equipment was preserved as well as the historic 1891 Station building.

Generous funding from the Orleans Community Preservation Fund recently allowed the museum to leverage its solid volunteer base by creating a clean, functional workspace to restore instruments and delve into the historical records. Now it is time to continue the preservation of the historic building itself.

1) Preservation of the exterior of the original French Cable Station building including painting, and exterior repairs to trim and siding.

Over the past fifty years, museum directors have made it a priority to maintain the exterior of the building true to its original design. They maintain the grounds with the help of volunteers and hire professionals when necessary.

In keeping with their commitment to authenticity of the historic building, a price was negotiated for replacement of the wood shingled roof. That work was completed in 2021 and was entirely funded from museum donations.

The building is now in need of exterior wood repairs and painting. This essential work, when complete, will keep this local landmark in good repair.

2) Continuation of archiving project

When the Community Preservation Committee initially funded the creation of a digital database, there were **1100** objects in the hand typed inventory. To date there are **2534** objects in the database with photographs and basic descriptions.

A simplified version of the database (with photos) is accessible on the French Cable Station Museum's website via a link ("Artifact Archive".) There are currently about 50 items named "need identification" in the online database. Visitors to the online archive are invited to submit supporting information or corrections if they see discrepancies.

The complete version of the software is installed in a computer in the new library in the museum basements, with hard drive backups off-site. Suggestions and requests for more detailed information are monitored by museum volunteers who have access to the original items as well as the database.

The software has the ability to add great depth to the information associated with an object – including name, size, color, manufacturer, condition, provenance, location, photos, etc. It can also store anecdotes in the form of voice recordings, videos, and written documents.

As time goes on, more information will be added to the database, building a valuable resource for researchers, teachers, students, and other interested people. Thanks to Orleans Community Preservation funds, the framework for enhancing the digital database is complete.

These kinds of details are the things that make objects come alive. For example, there is a smoker's pipe on a desk. It isn't just any pipe...it is Orlando Snow's pipe. Orlando was an electrician at the Station who single handedly began to reassemble the Station in the late 1940's. The Army Signal Corps removed all the station equipment during World War II. (When Germany invaded France, the US government considered the station a security threat.)

Decades later, Orlando's widow, Alice, worked tirelessly to preserve many of the stories and memories that enhance the museum today. These stories, context, and connections to historic events give this museum a dimension that is extraordinary.

The key to the effectiveness of the database is the object ID number – the simplest link from an object to the data. In the process of inventorying the artifacts many ID numbers were often difficult to decipher or missing entirely. Once positively identified, they were labelled with temporary paper tags. Those tags need to be replaced with proper archival labels on the objects themselves to ensure the data stays connected with the object. This will be a tedious, time-consuming project, but once complete will not need to be done again!

CPC Criteria

The French Cable Station Museum in Orleans, Inc. is a 501(c)3. The organization acquired the title to the French Telegraph Station property in Orleans on December 31, 1971. In April of 1972, the Museum was accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

This project application is for the eligible funding category of historic preservation. The Station has met the criteria for historic significance through its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with Chapter 12 of the Orleans Comprehensive Plan (2006), this project is consistent with goals to preserve historic and cultural features in Orleans.

Goals

The primary goal of this proposal is the continued preservation of the internationally recognized historic French Cable Station Museum. Preserving the structural integrity of the building while keeping the ambiance authentic to when the station was in operation is important. This work will continue our efforts to keep the building, its artifacts, and its rich history accessible to the public well into the future.

Community Benefit

Located in the Orleans Cultural District, The French Cable Station Museum is an integral part of Orleans history. Normally open from June through September, volunteers put out the French and American flags to let passerby know they are open for tours. Staffed with two or three volunteers per shift depending on weather and events in town, one person is a receptionist greeting visitors, while the others are trained docents who guide visitors from room to room explaining the operation of the equipment and the history of the Station. The addition of a new HVAC system via Orleans Community Preservation funds makes tours outside of the summer season possible.

Many families in our community today have roots in the French Cable Station, and as such, Orleans' culture and community are indelibly tied to the Station. Today's emphasis on science and technology in education makes the Museum more relevant than ever. Orleans' history and families who are tied to the Station and their stories complete the visitor's experience.

Historical Significance of the French Cable Station

The French Cable Station Museum houses the world's largest intact 19th and early 20th century collection of telegraphic equipment in an actual telegraph station. The Museum has a substantial collection of documents, ledgers, and papers that have survived for well over a century. The Station was in operation from 1889 until 1940 when Germany invaded France. It re-opened after the war and was used from 1952 – 1959.

“Le Direct”, the 1898 cable that ran from Brest, France to Orleans, was the largest and longest cable produced at that time. The 3,174 nautical mile cable was called the “feat of the century”. “Le Direct” was part of the communication revolution that truly united the world for the first time. Nineteenth century telegraphy has been called the Victorian internet. Much of the Electricity and Magnetism theory we use today was derived from transatlantic cable knowledge. The role that Orleans’ French Cable Station played in this revolution cannot be overstated.

The history of the French Cable and early United States 20th century history are woven together. Messages regarding Lindbergh’s historic transatlantic flight, and the sinking of the steamer “Portland” came through the Station in our small town first.

In World War I, General Pershing used the cable as his main communication between the Western Front and the US government. Later in the war, a German submarine is believed to have been attempting to cut the cable, illustrating the importance of the Orleans transatlantic cable. The WWI Marines that guarded the museum slept in the station’s attic in winter. Some left their initials carved into the woodwork of a closet, still visible today. Some of those men stayed and became part of the Orleans community.

The French Cable Company had a large financial impact on the local economy in the first part of the 20th century. The early cable operators were from St Pierre, a French island off Newfoundland. They became citizens of Orleans, and many of the families are still here today. Later, local men had the opportunity to be hired into the highest paying jobs in town. Several of the current guides at the museum are children/grandchildren of the operators.

International Significance of the French Cable Station Museum in Orleans

There are just three museums in the world specifically related to undersea (submarine) telegraphy. Heart’s Content in Newfoundland, Canada and Porthcurno in England are comprised of extensively renovated, somewhat repurposed buildings, housing *what remains* from the time when they were in operation. Much of what is on display is equipment from the 1960s, both stations handled much heavier traffic than the French Cable Station. Porthcurno opened as a museum in 1998.

Both obviously have received huge amounts of funding in comparison to the shoestring budget the *all volunteer* French Cable Station Museum has subsisted on over the last 50 years. Heart’s Content is

operated by the Provincial Government of Canada and is slated to become a UNESCO site. PK Porthcurno has extensive funding from some twenty foundations and businesses. Both facilities are pristine, inside and out, and have contemporary museum type interpretive displays supplementing the original equipment and work spaces.

By contrast, the French Cable Station Museum is an original, complete, submarine telegraph station. The building was intentionally designed to blend in with the other commercial businesses in town. Recently, architectural plans and a proposal for building a house addressed to Superintendent Upham were found in the attic. He was the first Superintendent of the Orleans station. This discovery confirmed that the yellow house directly across from the station on the corner of Cove Rd. and Route 28 was built by Mr. Upham. He could just stroll across the road to keep an eye on things.

The impression one gets when entering the museum in Orleans is that it is a workplace from days gone by, not what most people think of as a museum. Most of the equipment is from the late 19th to early 20th centuries, most which was powered by direct current even in the 1950s. A visit to the museum is an intimate, immersive experience, it is much smaller than the other two, without a lot of modern interpretive displays. Instead, a knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guide (who might very well be related to someone who worked in the station) explains how things worked and reveals some of the station's remarkable history. Everything is pretty much as it would have been while in operation. There are several simple "hands-on" displays mostly targeting children.

The French Cable Station Museum is truly unique, complete with its squeaky floors, worn stairs and other signs of almost continuous use over 124 years. (61 years as a working Station 1898 to 1959 and 50 years as a museum.) The building sat unoccupied for 13 years until the establishment of the museum in 1972.

The basement, first floor and attic are chock full of over 2500 artifacts including instruments, parts, and other objects dating back over 120 years. There are textbooks, photographs, letters and records in French and English that will be archived and added to the museum database, then stored in the "new" library in the basement. Unlike most museums the French Cable Station Museum exhibits consist of the actual workspaces and closets full of equipment. All these artifacts, photos of station staff, and stories relating to some of the important news of the day (sent or received by the station) combine to give the museum its unique character.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

1. Project Budget
2. Estimate
3. Project Timeline
4. French Cable Museum Board Members 2022
5. French Cable Station Museum 2022 YTD P&L
6. National Register of Historic Places Documentation

BUDGET

Exterior Painting

- Prep by cleaning and sanding- bare wood primed
- Two coats of quality finish paint
- Window sashes re glazed where needed
- see attached estimate for detail

\$32,750.00

Replacement of damaged, rotten trim

\$ 4,000.00

Archiving

- 1500 items to label – 125 hours

\$ 5,000.00

Coordinator for contractors - 25 hours @ \$40/hour

\$ 1,000.00

- Provide access to Museum
- Cleanup

 Project Total

\$41,750.00

In-Kind Donation

(\$ 1,000.00)

 Total Funds Requested from Orleans Community Preservation Fund

 \$40,750.00

CapeCare
Construction & Maintenance
P.O. Box 1487
Orleans, Ma. 02653
(508) 255-1668

Estimate

8/31/22

To: French Cable Museum (Orleans)

Description- All painted trim, siding, windows, doors, and foundation, washed to clean any mildew, scraped, sanded, any bare wood primed and 2 coats finish paint (Ben Moore self-priming finish paint recommend). Windows sashes reglazed where needed. Any minor repairs are included. Any wood replacement is extra.

Labor and materials- \$32,750

CapeCare is a full licensed and construction painting and maintenance company with over 40 years serving Cape Cod.

Visit our website capecarepainting&maintenance.com for more information.

Past projects include exterior of The Orleans Historical Society, Orleans Medical Center, Snows Home & Garden. References on request.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Summer/Fall 2023

Archiving work continues outside of regular operating hours when necessary.

Fall 2023

Exterior work to begin after Museum's regular hours stop for the season.

MUSEUM ORGANIZATION

2022-23 Board of Directors

Joe Manas, President
Donald McShane, Vice President
Barbara Crosson, Secretary
Betsy Dow, Treasurer

Duane Chase
Phillip Cousins
Diane Downs
Jeanne Dunning
David Hartford
Ron Peterson
Lisa Simundson
Stanley Snow

1:01 PM

09/12/22

Accrual Basis

French Cable Station Museum, Inc.
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through August 2022

	Jan - Aug 22	Jan - Aug 21	\$ Change
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Donations Anniversary Mugs	60.00	0.00	60.00
Ordinary Income			
Donations			
Donations-Clothing	180.00	170.00	10.00
Donation-DVD income	89.00	25.00	64.00
Donation-Tour Books	30.00	60.00	-30.00
Donations - Other	4,086.50	3,001.50	1,085.00
Total Donations	4,385.50	3,256.50	1,129.00
Grants	0.00	198.04	-198.04
Interest-Checking	0.34	1.22	-0.88
Investment Inc. Morgan Stanley	5,149.02	6,406.31	-1,257.29
Membership	2,435.00	1,930.00	505.00
Total Ordinary Income	11,969.86	11,792.07	177.79
Total Income	12,029.86	11,792.07	237.79
Expense			
SEWER Installation plans	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
Advertising	233.33	477.33	-244.00
Maintenance			
Building Maintenance	195.00	3,237.00	-3,042.00
Lawn Care	405.00	250.00	155.00
Security Alarm	150.00	150.00	0.00
Maintenance - Other	59.94	0.00	59.94
Total Maintenance	809.94	3,637.00	-2,827.06
Office Expenses			
Clothing expense/Advertz	300.00	530.00	-230.00
Accounting Expense	400.00	400.00	0.00
Copying expense	44.88	0.00	44.88
Filing Fees	35.00	35.00	0.00
Insurance	3,076.00	2,873.00	203.00
Membership	244.00	0.00	244.00
Miscellaneous Expense	36.15	145.17	-109.02
Office supplies	254.26	39.74	214.52
Postage	57.71	43.90	13.81
Printing	39.30	0.00	39.30
Rental PO Box	84.00	76.00	8.00
Web site	0.00	360.00	-360.00
Office Expenses - Other	73.15	52.87	20.28
Total Office Expenses	4,644.45	4,555.68	88.77
Utilities			
Electric	2,103.67	1,430.63	673.04
Telephone	459.59	455.75	3.84
Water	163.28	156.52	6.76
Total Utilities	2,726.54	2,042.90	683.64
Total Expense	9,714.26	10,712.91	-998.65
Net Ordinary Income	2,315.60	1,079.16	1,236.44
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations-anniversary mugs	30.00	0.00	30.00
Total Other Income	30.00	0.00	30.00
Net Other Income	30.00	0.00	30.00
Net Income	2,345.60	1,079.16	1,266.44

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

April 26, 1972

Chairman, Board of Selectman
c/o Town Clerk Jean B. Deschamps
Town Hall
Orleans, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Board:

It is a pleasure for me to be able to inform you that the United States Department of the Interior through the Director of the National Park Service, George B. Hartung Jr., has placed on its National Register of Historic Places the French Cable Station in Orleans.

This site was nominated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission of which I have the honor to serve as Chairman.

I am enclosing herewith an informal pamphlet prepared by the Federal agency which will explain in detail the significance of this designation.

Please accept my congratulations and those of my associates on the Historical Commission.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN F. X. DAVOREN
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

JFMD:ead

TOWN OF
ORLEANS,
RECEIVED
MAY 08 1972