



Town of Orleans

Community Preservation Committee
9 School Road Orleans MA 02653-3699
Telephone (508) 240-3700 – Fax (508) 240-3388

FY25 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT APPLICATION

SECTION A

Project Title: Early Nauset Historical Preservation Continuation **Submission Date:** 11/4/2023

Applicant (note if Town, individual or non-profit): **Orleans Historical Preservation Committee**
Mailing Address:

Co-Applicant, if any (note if Town, individual or non-profit): None
Mailing Address:

Project Contact Person: Ed Marcarelli

Telephone: 617-794-5891 **E-mail:** ea.marcarelli@gmail.com

Federal Tax Identification Number (if non-profit):

Project purpose (Check all that apply):

Open Space Historic Preservation Community Housing Recreation

Project Location/Address: 19 School Road, Orleans, MA 02653

Community Preservation Funding Request: \$25,000

Brief Project Summary, including justification of project category checked above:

This project seeks to continue and expand on the archaeological survey funded by CPC in FY24. Our purpose is to develop a more complete and inclusive history of not only the Town of Orleans, but the land that became Orleans.

Our overall goal is to better understand the indigenous civilization that existed long before the arrival of European explorers (known as the Pre-Contact Period) and to better understand the impact and consequences of exploration and colonization as the two civilizations coexisted on the land (known as the Contact Period, 1500-1620 CE).

The project will have two main objectives: 1) to follow up on a survey conducted under a previous CPC grant of the Peck Property Conservation Area in South Orleans and 2) seek to identify additional specific areas of interest and assess their significance by conducting a Phase 1A archaeological reconnaissance and sensitivity assessment which is the most basic level of archaeological survey. This will be an assessment of the potential for intact archaeological resources to be present in a project area. This process involves historical research, environmental context review, and field inspection. The Orleans Historical Commission will seek input from local Native American organizations in the execution of this project.

Based on the findings of the reconnaissance survey(s), the project will produce a report with recommendations for further action regarding one or both target sites. The previous Peck Property project has garnered significant interest in the community and has provided the opportunity to engage Orleans residents in conversations about the legacy of the Indigenous people who lived in the area for millennia before Europeans arrived. It has also provided the Town with recommendations for managing known and potential archaeological resources related to the Contact Period occupation of Orleans.

The Orleans CPC approved a proposal last year (after the Orleans Historical Commission agreed to cut the request by 50%). The grant was uncontroversial as the use of Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose has long been established. For example, the [Community Preservation Coalition Website says](#): “Although it is sometimes overlooked, the ability to fund archaeology projects is a unique and valuable aspect of the Community Preservation Act.”

SECTION B

Detailed Narrative

The history of the land that became Orleans did not begin with the incorporation of the town in 1797. As described in an article on the Orleans Historical Commission website:

Nor did it begin in 1644, when the first English colonists arrived from Plymouth Colony to settle here. Archaeologists have estimated that Native American peoples inhabited the land for a period of 10,000-12,000 years before a sail from a European ship was ever spotted off these shores, beginning in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The land that became Orleans was a part of the larger area at the elbow of Cape Cod that was known as Nauset. The towns of Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, and parts of others now stand here. Upon the arrival of European explorers, this area was inhabited primarily by the Nauset tribe, a part of the Wampanoag Confederation that flourished in what is now southeastern Massachusetts and parts of Rhode Island. The Nausets, like other native tribes, did not have a written language and thus did not leave a written record of their lives, history, and experiences. However, through the passing of oral histories, discoveries of archaeologists, and contemporary observations of explorers, visitors, and colonists, we can appreciate the vibrancy and complexity of the Nauset civilization as well as the impact of colonization as they saw it.

This proposal seeks to build on previous work that has helped preserve the history of the people who inhabited this area for millennia. It has been long known that at least two sites, the Nauset Estuary and one in South Orleans in the general area of Pleasant Bay which have not been developed or substantially disturbed have the potential to provide an opportunity for the discovery of historical evidence of Indigenous people. Work on the previous grant highlighted some new areas of potential interest including parts of the Pleasant Bay shoreline which are eroding and present a perhaps limited opportunity to find evidence and provide new insights related to the Native American settlements in these areas.

The use of Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose has long been established. For example, the [Community Preservation Coalition Website says](#): “Although it is sometimes overlooked, the ability to fund archaeology projects is a unique and valuable aspect of the Community Preservation Act.”

The opportunity to preserve the history of the Native Americans who inhabited these sites will not always exist. Development, climate change and other factors will eventually alter the character and physical nature of the grounds that contain the artifacts and other evidence. The Orleans Historical Commission will seek input from local Native American organizations in the execution of this project.

Previous archaeological surveys in Orleans and Eastham have been very successful at finding important information and artifacts documenting the history of the area before the arrival of Europeans. This is true of the survey funded last year by the CPC the report produced from this project can be found [here](#). Other examples include the Coburn Burial Complex documented [here](#) and the Transitional Archaic Land Use at Namskaket Marsh documented in an article published [here \(page 19\)](#).

Given the importance of understanding the full history of our town and the proven value of this type of effort, there is a strong case for investing in a project that assesses the significance of these sites and makes recommendations for further action for historical preservation.

Action Plan and Timeline

Milestone	Completion
Prepare Request for Proposal	July 1, 2024
Archaeologist engaged	August 1, 2024
Additional sites identified (Nauset Heights)	September 15, 2024
Background research / Obtain MHC permit	October 1, 2024
Survey conducted in Nauset Heights	November 30, 2024
Work on additional sites around Pleasant Bay	December 15, 2024
Draft report presented to Orleans Historical Commission	January 31, 2025
Address OHC comments and submit draft report to MHC	March 31, 2025
Final Report issued to OHC and MHC	April 30, 2025

The timeline is approximate and may be adjusted slightly in either direction.

Financial Data

The following table displays the costs associated with this proposal: 2 categories consultant and public education

Task	Cost
Background research / Obtain MHC permit	\$4,500
Reconnaissance Surveys field work	8,000
Analysis and Reporting	10,000
Results Dissemination (public education) _	2,500
Total	\$25,000

The sum of \$25,000 is requested to engage an archaeological consultant to perform the above tasks.

Respectfully submitted by the Orleans Historical Commission

SECTION B

Please attach the following information with all applications:

- **Detailed Narrative:** A detailed but succinct 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 detailed and 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. Costs relating to historical rehabilitation/renovation should be clearly identified (if possible) compared to other costs, such as code compliance or accessibility improvements. Applicants are encouraged to submit more than one quotation from potential contractors.

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT SUBMISSION

- A) Complete Section A, and submit to the CPC via email, between July 1 and Oct. 31
 - You will be contacted by the CPC regarding detailed information to complete the application
 - B) Fully completed applications need to be submitted by Nov. 20. Late applications may be accepted at the discretion of the CPC.
 - 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. Applications can be dropped off at the front desk.
 - **Applicants must also email complete applications in PDF** to Jennifer Fountain, Administrative Assistant, at jfountain@town.orleans.ma.us. A **single PDF file** which appends materials described in item 3 to the application form is preferred.
1. **Complete Applications must be received by Monday, November 20 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 be asked to 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 website), 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.)

Dec. 1, 2022