



Town of Orleans

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

FY26 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT APPLICATION

(for consideration at Annual Town Meeting in Spring 2025 or Special Town Meeting in Fall 2025)

SECTION A

Project Title: French Cable Station Museum

Submission Date: 18 Nov 2024

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

Mailing Address: 41 South Orleans Road, Orleans, MA 02653

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

Mailing Address:

Project Contact Person: Duane Chase

Telephone:

(860) 388-7378

E-mail: duanechase 42@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: \$ 1,250.00

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, in Orleans, 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 to protect and preserve that collection through the purchase and installation of simple shades in the windows throughout the building,

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) **For early assistance**, complete Section A, and submit it to the CPC via email, **between July 1 and Oct. 31, 2024**. You will be contacted by the CPC regarding detailed information to fully complete the application by the November 18, 2024 deadline as described in Guideline B below.
 - B) Fully completed applications need to be submitted **by Nov. 18, 2024**. 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 18, 2024 to be considered for recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting** in the Spring of 2025. Complete Applications must be received by July 1 2025 for consideration at the Special Town Meeting in the Fall of 2024.
 2. Funds for approved projects will be available on July 1st following the Annual Town Meeting upon submission of appropriate invoices and accounting and a signed grant agreement from the CPC, if applicable.
 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 for 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.)

May 23, 2024

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

Project Description:

This is a request for \$1250 in funding to continue to protect and preserve the interior of the French Cable Station Museum and its amazing collection. By purchasing and installing window shades we can shield the 100+ year old equipment and the wood finishes inside the building from the damaging effects of the sunlight.

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.

Project Narrative

We are all aware of the harm caused by UV radiation. An article from the National Park Service, *Reducing Visible and Ultraviolet Light Damage to Interior Wood Finishes*, by Ron Sheets and Charles Fisher, explores this issue in depth. The article starts with acknowledging that “one of the major sources of damage to finishes of historic millwork and furniture is light- especially sunlight.” Various methods are discussed in this article including applying window film, adding UV filtering glass panels over existing windows, using exterior shutters, interior draperies, and adding venetian blinds or window shades.

In the case of the French Cable Station Museum, the best option is to simply install window shades. Window shades are one of the most basic and inexpensive ways to block UV rays from damaging the station equipment and the interior of the building. Not only is it historically accurate, but there is also no fear of damaging the original windows or window frames and future replacement will be straightforward. Window shades can be bought locally - from Snow's – likely the descendants of the same local family business where they were originally purchased!

Staying true to the historical accuracy of the Station is essential to the Museum's mission. Seeing details such as original furniture, the original flooring, and even window dressings that were in place are important to retain the sense one has of stepping into the past when they enter the meticulously preserved Station.

When the building was first purchased from the French government in 1971, photographer Bill Quinn documented the interior, as well as the exterior. At that point it had been untouched since 1959 when the Station ceased operation. As you can see from Mr. Quinn's photo, the Station had simple shades in those long windows:



The Museum Today

The French Cable Station Museum is open June through September and gives guided tours by appointment year-round.

To keep the Museum accessible to all, they do not charge admission. The operation of the Museum is funded through membership fees and donations. There is no paid staff, but they have a loyal group of talented volunteers passionate about sharing the story of the French Transatlantic Cable Station in Orleans.

Cultural institutions are struggling regionally and nationally, and this Museum is no different. The added expense this year of the mandatory Town sewer hookup has further strained their budget.

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 three or four 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.

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.

Budget

\$45.00 per shade x 20 shades	\$900.00
\$5.00 cut fee per shade x 20 shades	\$100.00
Installation	\$250.00
<u>Total funds requested</u>	\$1250.00