

1856 Monmouth Academy Restoration Project

430 Communities in Maine

30 Maine Communities have Historic Preservation Ordinances 7%

I have worked as a Town Manager for 25 years in 7 different Maine communities and have been able to see how local Historical Societies are passionate about their history. Not all Maine communities and their historical societies are able to maintain and restore the important buildings and places that define who they were and are today.

Maine has 430 +- communities that take great pride in their history. Of those 430, only 30 have Historical Preservation Ordinances which is just 7%. Some may have buildings and places that are already part of the National Historic Preservation. Monmouth, where I live has the Theatre at Monmouth, Cumston Hall. This beautiful building would not have been restored if not for CDBG Funding and community tax dollars.

I am asking that you include in this bill language that will provide all Maine communities the opportunity to qualify for this funding to include Towns that have Historic Preservation Ordinances as well as those that recognize their historic buildings in their Comprehensive Plan. As you know Comprehensive Plans are updated every 10 years and lays out the areas of importance as they grow their communities These Comprehensive Plans are reviewed and vetted by the citizens and then adopted through their Annual Town Meetings. This Historic Preservation funding should be available to all communities so they have the opportunity to restore their history.

I will speak of one community; my hometown Monmouth and the importance the citizens and (Historical Museum Society) place in their history; Monmouth Academy was built in 1856 after their wooden building burned to the ground. It has always provided high quality education to students that went on to Bowdoin College and became people that served the Great State of Maine but also the country.

Brief History

1856 MA Historic Graduates came from the surrounding communities Wales, Litchfield, Sabattus, Gardiner

It was considered a feeder for Bowdoin College and known for the High Quality of Education, Restoring to its original external and interior grandeur a one room school on the bottom floor with a second room upstairs area. The building has very few changes since 1947.

Monmouth Schools stills maintains that quality of education which the 1856 MA was the starting place and has been held in great esteem and history. Inspired by many graduates that have contributed to the history of Maine and the US.

Oliver Otis Howard

Career USA Veteran and Union General
Founder of Howard University

Harry Cochrane

Famous Maine Artist, Photographer, Architect lived in Monmouth
Cumston Hall

Samuel Benson

Lawyer,
Served in both houses of Congress and Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives
Overseer of Bowdoin College

Sheldon Connor

Banker, Soldier, and politician.
Served in the Civil War and fought the Battle of the Wilderness

Dr. Alonzo Garcelon

36th Governor of Maine
Surgeon General of Maine (Civil War)
Co-founder of the Lewiston Journal
Trustee of Bates College

Aaron Simon Daggett

General Union Army, Civil War(Wilderness and Gettysburg)

John Frank Stevens

Engineer of the Great Northern Railroad
Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal appointed by Teddy Roosevelt.