Welcome!

September is the traditional time for back-to-school, so our newsletter this month focuses on school buildings. The LCHIP Spotlight section below highlights three former school buildings that received grants last year. Note the variety of ways the buildings are reused in their communities. Former school buildings that received earlier LCHIP grants are sprinkled throughout this issue.

As summer ends, the LCHIP staff is looking forward to visiting many of the sites of this year’s applicants. We always feel privileged to see potential projects, and what better time to explore the state than during the fall!

Dijit Taylor
Executive Director

Photo: Ashland School

The Ashland School served as the community's local school from 1878 until 1992. With help from LCHIP, it was renovated in 2007 and now provides offices and classroom space for Tri-County Community Action Program's Head Start program.

LCHIP ROAD TRIP:

IT'S STILL FARM SEASON!

Produce grown at King's Grant Farm on Cornish, a 2014 LCHIP grant award recipient through Upper Valley Land Trust, is available at Edgewater
LCHIP Spotlight: 2014 Award Recipients

Watson Academy

From the start of public schools in Epping in 1721 until 1883, any student wanting more than an elementary education was required to leave town and attend a private academy at their own expense. Acknowledging this flaw and the growing importance of secondary education, Epping merchant and businessman Daniel Watson Ladd bequeathed $3,000 to the town for the establishment of an academy for Epping's youth. With the help of town funds, the Watson Academy was constructed in 1883 and served as Epping's High School until 1966. The Town of Epping was awarded a LCHIP grant in 2014, which will help stabilize the structure after it was damaged in a 2012 seismic event. When repairs are complete, it is expected to be reopened as the town's Recreation Department and Senior Citizen's Center.
Pearson Hall, Haverhill, has anchored the northeastern corner of the Haverhill Commons since its construction in 1816. Originally, the building's first floor was home to the Haverhill Academy and the second floor was used as the Grafton County Court. The building also housed elementary and junior high students until as late as 1992. The building has undergone several large renovations over the course of its life and is currently in the midst of a rehabilitation which will once again transform the use of this important community landmark. The Haverhill Historical Society was awarded their third LCHIP grant in December, 2014, which will be used to install four replica windows and twenty replica shutters. A 2007 LCHIP grant contributed to the restoration of the front façade, while a 2012 LCHIP grant, which is being wrapped up, helped with masonry repairs on the rear of the building. Once restoration is complete, the Haverhill Historical Society anticipates using the building as a history center for historic displays, programs and historic research.

Francestown Academy

Francestown Town Hall was home to the Francestown Academy from 1847 to 1921. The Academy's curriculum was divided into three principle branches, which included college preparatory classes for male students, ladies' classical studies for female students, and English courses intended for all
students. The English courses included more than language and literature, they covered geography, mathematics and the physical sciences. The Academy also offered electives in the arts and natural sciences, and owned its own piano, telescope and over 340 volumes and maps as part of its reading room. After the Academy closed in 1921 the building remained an integral part of town life as the Town Hall. In 2014 Franestown received a third LCHIP grant for $200,000 to help with the interior rehabilitation of the Old Town Hall/Academy building, allowing it to be brought up to modern building code requirements and once again be fully opened for public use.