

Pawlet Town Hall Project, 2003 - 2018

The Pawlet Town Hall has served Pawlet's town government continuously since it was built in 1881. An example of High Victorian Italianate architecture, it is the only public structure in Pawlet to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building has many distinctive features, most notably the ceiling of the upstairs auditorium, which is hand-painted and stenciled. The restoration project began in 2003 after the voters of Pawlet decided by a margin of 3:1 not to investigate construction of a new town office building.



Phase 1, First Floor Renovations, 2003 - 2007

Renovating the first floor town offices, refurbishing the vault to meet state standards, restoring the front porch, installing new front windows by main entrance, restoring second floor windows, improve septic system, replace defective heating and electrical systems, and making other improvements.

Phase 2, Building Accessibility, 2008 - 2013

Making all three floors of the building accessible by installing an elevator, ramp, additional door and fire stair. Stabilizing historic painted ceiling. Certificate of occupancy awarded in 2013 for maximum of 143 people.

Phase 3, Restoration of Upstairs Auditorium

The final phase will be to restore the upstairs auditorium so that it can once again be used for community functions. Requires additional ceiling work, light fixtures, window treatments

Total Spent as of 9/13/16: \$851,844 (55 % paid by Town, 45% paid by grants and donations)

Grants Awarded, \$287,645:

- Better Communities through PTV: \$3,500.00 (Auditorium paint)
- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board: \$41,662.00 (Front porch)
- Preservation Trust of Vermont/Village Revitalization Project: \$75,000.00 (Auditorium restoration)
- Vermont Division for Historic Preservation: \$11,000.00 (Cupola)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: \$2,000.00 (Auditorium ceiling consultation)
- Vermont Community Development Program – Accessibility Modification: \$50,000.00 (Elevator - requires total ADA compliance for building)
- Help America Vote Act: \$5,000.00 (Ramp and ADA-compliant door to clerk's office)
- USDA-Rural Development/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: \$34,253.46 (Elevator –equals 15% of total project budget)
- Vermont Arts Council-Community Facilities (accessibility modification): \$14,800.00 (Elevator)
- Successful Grants for auditorium ceiling stabilization and fire stair:
 - Vermont Division for Historic Preservation: \$15,000.00 (auditorium ceiling stabilization)
 - Vermont Arts Council-Community Facilities \$26,930.00 (fire stair)
 - Vermont Division for Historic Preservation: \$8,500.00 (auditorium ceiling repair/cleaning)

Private Donations: \$95, 618

Amount Paid by Town of Pawlet: \$468, 581

Work Remaining: window treatments, lighting for auditorium, stage lighting, stage curtains

Recent Community Use of the Pawlet Town Hall Auditorium

In the past few years, the auditorium has been used by various community groups for classes, fairs, fundraisers and other purposes. In 2017 the space housed:

- Classes, including yoga and tapdancing
- An energy fair organized by the Pawlet Energy Group, Efficiency Vermont, and Green Mountain Power
- A fundraising dinner and opera evening to benefit the Slate Valley Museum of Granville, NY
- Three public programs by the Pawlett Historical Society
- A Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting hosted by Pawlet's Emergency Management Team as part of the Rutland area's emergency preparedness efforts.
- Occasional use by the Pawlet Select Board for meetings when another group needs to use the first floor conference room.



Wording for Historic Site Marker to be installed in 2018:

Pawlet Town Hall

Serving the Community Since 1881

The Pawlet Town Hall was built cooperatively by the town and local merchant Marcellus Wheeler in 1881 to be the seat of town government and provide commercial space. Prominent features of this High Victorian Italianate-style structure include its cupola and wraparound porch.

Continuously functioning as a town hall since 1881, it has also housed a general store, tin shop, school, post office, apartment, library, and many civic events. Today it remains the site of the town offices and offers meeting space for community use. As the ongoing center of town government and village life, this Town Hall is a valuable resource – a direct connection to Pawlet's past and an important part of Vermont's heritage.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation – 2018