



Town of Sudbury

Community Preservation Committee

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PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

Applicant: Sudbury Historical Commission

Submission Date:

September 6, 2024

Group or Committee Affiliation (if any):

Applicant Address: Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Purpose (please select all that apply):

- Open Space & Recreation
- Community Housing
- Historic Resource

Applicant Email: historical@sudbury.ma.us

Applicant Phone: 978-639-3346

Project Manager Email: Acting: Chris Hagger/Chris Durall

Project Manager Phone: TBD

Project Name: Hosmer House Collection Preservation Project

Project Description: In order to protect, preserve and conserve the historic Hosmer House Collection - the various house contents including archival materials, art and various other house items, the project seeks funding to carry out and implement by credentialed professional consultants the priority recommendations resulting from the FY 2024 CPC funded Hosmer House Collection Study to treat, protect, preserve the Hosmer House Collection.

Costs:

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (Amount and Source)
2026	\$119,500.00	\$119,500.00	No
2027			
2028			
2029			
2030			
Total			

How does this project meet the General Criteria and Category Specific Criteria for Community Preservation Committee projects (see attached)?

See Attachment A

Does this project fall within the jurisdiction or interest of other Town Boards, Committees, Commissions, or Departments? If so, please list the boards, committees, commissions, or departments, whether applications and/or presentations have been made, and what input or recommendations have been given.

See Attachment A

For Community Preservation Committee Use:

Form Received On: _____

Project Presented to CPC On: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Determination: _____

Attachment A

Sudbury Historical Commission

September 2024 CPC Application

Hosmer House Collection Preservation Project

Project Description

Historic ca. 1793 Hosmer House was gifted to the Town of Sudbury by its last owner, artist Florence Armes Hosmer. Following her death in 1978, the town took possession of the property that had originally been acquired in 1897 by her parents, the Rev. Edwin Barrett Hosmer and his wife, Abbie Louisa Armes. Hosmer House is a unique historic resource because the contents of house were also bequeathed to the town – the Hosmer family’s possessions, which include Ms. Hosmer’s paintings and varied household contents – such as furniture, books, farming implements, art supplies, textiles and costume, ceramics and glass, silver, photographs, manuscripts, letters and other archival materials. Hosmer House with its historical house collection reflects a family’s life in Sudbury and provides an opportunity for an historical interpretation of Sudbury. Most publicly owned historic houses are empty and do not contain the possessions of former residents. Hosmer House is a rare exception as it contains the historical collection of the Hosmer’s possessions.

In 2023 Town Meeting approved CPA funding for the Historical Commission to conduct two Hosmer House historic preservation projects as recommended in the 2021 Sudbury Town-wide Historic Preservation Plan: 1) a combined Hosmer House Historic Structure Report/Cultural Landscape Report, and 2) a Hosmer House Collection Study of the home’s historical contents. The Hosmer House Collection Study (Study) commenced in early spring 2024 and is in the final stages of completion.

This current proposed project for which the Historical Commission seeks CPA funding is to implement the high priority Study recommendations for the protection and preservation of the Hosmer House Collection, and in particular, historical family papers, manuscript materials and photographs, and for overall management of the breadth of the collection including the development of a professional Collection Management Policy Plan outlining processes to affect its protection and preservation. The project will be the first phase in implementing the Collection Study’s recommendations.

This Project will include:

- Triage Archivist and offsite storage for primary source materials.⁽¹⁾
- Light control: Preventative Conservation.⁽²⁾
- Strategic Plan for Sustainable Hosmer House governance models.⁽³⁾
- Collection Management Policy Plan Task: Create a CMP for the Hosmer House Collection.⁽⁴⁾

These tasks will be conducted by qualified professional specialists in their respective subject fields and may be conducted concurrently.

Statement of Need

The Hosmer House Collection Study was undertaken because no comprehensive professional evaluation of the historic house's contents had ever been conducted for their treatment, care, oversight and management to best protect and preserve the entirety of the collection. The Study's recommendations advise and lay out a road map for the work necessary going forward to achieve protection, conservation and preservation of the Collection. This Project is the next preservation step to address the most pressing priority needs to protect and conserve the Collection.

The mold outbreak event at Hosmer House in 2023 disproportionately impacted the archival materials and makes it even more imperative that this project happen in 2025 to carry out the Study's prioritized recommendations by qualified professionals including those which address the archival historic resources.

CPC General Criteria

Under the General Criteria the Hosmer House Collection Preservation Project is consistent:

- With the Town's 2021 Master Plan which states: *"The rich history of Sudbury is the cornerstone that gives the Town a sense of place and creates a unique experience for the people who live here and those who visit."* Hosmer House, housing an historical collection, creates a unique experience for visitors to step back in time to Sudbury's past and learn about the town's heritage. The Master Plan includes a section on Historic and Cultural Identity with the stated goal to *"preserve, protect, and develop the historical and cultural assets of Sudbury to foster appreciation of the Town's heritage for enjoyment today and by future generations."* The project will preserve, protect, and develop the collection - the Hosmer House historical and cultural assets.
- With the 2022 Sudbury Townwide Historic Preservation Plan.

Category Specific Criteria

The implementation of the Hosmer House Collection Preservation Project would definitely yield 'Public Benefits' as stated in the Category Specific Category. The "Public Benefit" would be the protection and preservation of these historical resources so that they can serve as tangible links to our past, and are used to engage, entertain, and educate the community about our history.

CPC funds may be used for the preservation of historic resources – and the Hosmer House Collection Preservation Project, which implements recommendations of the CPC funded Hosmer House Collection Study – is essential historic preservation work to protect and preserve this unique historical and cultural house collection.

Town Interest

Sudbury residents have indicated that Hosmer House – the building together with the Hosmer family's possessions - the historical house collection - is a source of pride for our community, serves as a tangible and visual link to our past, serves to educate the community about our history, and its development over time, and provides an interpretive experience for residents and visitors about life in Sudbury in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Preserving the historic Collection is key to being able to tell the historical story of this property and the Sudbury residents who lived there.

Several town governmental entities have a vested interest in and oversight responsibility of and/or statutory jurisdiction to protect, maintain and preserve the building – the environment which houses the

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collection as well as preserve the collection itself, a town-owned historic resource, for its historical context, interpretative value, display, and for the enjoyment of the public.

Cc:

Town Manager
Historical Commission
Historic Districts Commission
Town Facilities Department

Appendix

The following estimates were developed by the consultant from the FY24 Hosmer House Collections Study.

(1) **Triage Archivist search and off-site storage:**

- (a) Archivist search. Cost includes time and expertise to develop a scope of work, RFP (if needed), and to locate and hire a candidate. The scope will include consultation and recommendations on long-term storage and access arrangements and more complete arrangement and description. It will include an on-site interview as part of the search that allows candidates to see the primary source materials.

Estimate: \$3,000

- (b) Archivist compensation. This will greatly depend on the scope of work, working conditions, and experience of the candidate.

Estimate: \$30,000

- (c) Off-site storage. There are few available options near Sudbury. The unit must be climate controlled, have access via an elevator, and restrooms available. Temporary storage should be around \$150/month; planning at least 1 year until more suitable long-term storage arrangement can be made.

Estimate: \$3,000

- (d) Shelving. Purchasing at least 3 units of chrome wire shelves with locking casters (Metro, Nexel, or another brand). These will not rust, are generally inert and the wire decks allow water to drain away in the event of a sprinkler system discharge. The casters will allow the shelves to be moved around while full to maximize space in the storage unit. The shelf units can stay with the collection wherever it is housed for the long term. 14-18" deep, 36-48" wide, 63"-74" high. This size will fit the boxes.

Estimate: \$1,000

- (e) Boxes and supplies. Archival document cartons and folders, phase boxes for bound materials like journals, and sleeves and folders for photographic prints and negatives. Will need 25-75 cartons, about 500 folders and a few thousand glassine envelopes in various sizes.

Estimate: \$2,000

Sub-Total: \$39,000

(2) **Preventative Conservation consultation and light control shades:**

- (a) Preventative conservation consultant. A consulting conservator (use of Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) is recommended) will provide final recommendations for the light control measures below. The consultant will also provide a manual for use and care of the shades. NEDCC charges \$1500/day for consultation services.

Estimate: \$4,500

These shades will be installed together in each window at Hosmer House. The UV shade will be down all the time, the room-darkening shade will be raised when the house is in use.

- (a) Room-darkening roller shades. These shades will block out visible light and should be drawn whenever the house is not in use. While these shades are similar to some already installed at Hosmer House, all-new shades are recommended for ease of operation and maintenance, NEDCC might determine that some of your existing shades are suitable for continued use.

Estimate: \$10,000

- (b) UV filtering shades. These clear shades will be drawn at all times and covered by the room-darkening roller shades when the house is not in use. An alternative option is to block UV light using an adhesive window film applied directly to glass. However, these are not generally recommended for historic windows. It might be possible to apply the film to a storm window, if storms are recommended by Architectural Preservation Studios. NEDCC may also have additional

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solutions. The cost here is estimated for UV filtering shades, not for any of UV film options.
Consult NEDCC before making a final choice.

Estimate: \$16,000

Sub-Total: \$30,500

(3) **Strategic planning consultant:**

- (a) This person will advise on sustainable governance models and help the SHC and Town transition to a model with the greatest chance of long-term success. The consultant should be a seasoned professional with several successful references from museums governed by municipalities. They should have developed multiple mission statements and strategic plans for the same type of organization. The person Post the RFP at hireculture.org.

Estimate: \$40,000

Sub-Total: \$40,000

(4) **Collection Management Policy:**

- (a) If it falls within the discretionary spending limit, seek recommendations from NEDCC, New England Museum Association, or Historic New England for consultants to create this document in partnership with the Town and SCH.

Estimate: \$10,000

Sub-Total: \$10,000

Total: \$119,500