

State of Maryland

2007 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
1151	SB448	0590	HB64	Dorchester County Historical Society Museums
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Colburn				Eckardt
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Dorchester County				\$150,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt to serve as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Dorchester County Historical Society, Inc. for the construction of a history museum and the acquisition, construction, and capital equipping of the Neild Museum.</p>				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
<p>Grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property. The fund may consist of in kind contributions or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.</p>				
8. Special Provisions				
9. Contact Name and Title			Contact Phone	Email Address
John Neild, Trustee Emeritus			410-228-6175	pandaneild@fastol.com
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
<p>Mission of DCHS: The Dorchester County Historical Society shall collect, research, interpret, and preserve properties, documents, artifacts, clothing, tools, genealogy, and other items of historical significance to Dorchester County. It shall educate, through its properties and collections, to ensure an understanding and appreciation of Dorchester County's rich culture, uniquely influenced by its land, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. The Society shall encourage and support others who have a similar mission.</p> <p>History of DCHS: The Dorchester County Historical Society was founded in 1953 and incorporated in 1958 to promote an appreciation of Dorchester County history. The LaGrange Mansion, constructed about 1760, was purchased by the Society in 1959, assisted by a generous contribution from Thomas Steele Nichols. Mr. Nichols requested that the house be renamed the Meredith House in honor of his maternal ancestors. The Meredith House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, and has served as the Society's headquarters since its purchase. In addition to the Meredith House, the Society's LaGrange Plantation also includes the Neild Museum, constructed in 1980, which serves primarily as an agricultural museum. Other small collections were also later added in the Neild Museum because of a shortage of space elsewhere. A brick stable, the last remaining structure from the estate of Governor Charles Goldsborough, was moved to the Society's grounds in 1987. Over the years, the Society has established a formal herb garden, collected historic documents and genealogy, and joined in efforts to preserve many historic Dorchester County structures and artifacts. In 2002, the Society added an adjacent property on LaGrange Avenue. Plans are underway for a major expansion of the Society's museums.</p>				

11. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)

Expansion Project Details:

(1) Relocate, expand, and interpret various collections to be placed in the new museum building.
(2) Complete the construction of a new museum building on the property of The Dorchester County Historical Society, Incorporated (DCHS), including parking, walkways, and landscaping. The completed addition will accomplish the following:

- Enable the consolidation, at our location, of other collections of private individuals and museums in Dorchester Co., now in danger of being lost.
- House a collection of the works of Dorchester County Carvers, started in 2002 under the supervision of Master Carver Ron Rue, (now deceased). This is the only existing public collection of carvings specifically from Dorchester County.
- Provide a meeting room for lectures and the recording of Oral Histories. DCHS has formed a “Cooperative Agreement” with the South Dorchester Folk Museum (SDFM), a 501(C) 3 non-profit corporation. SDFM specializes in the recording of Oral Histories of Dorchester County people. This effort requires a meeting area to accommodate at least 80 people. That area will also be used for other DCHS lectures and exhibits.
- Provide an environmentally controlled Research and Storage Room for collections of historically important documents. DCHS now has possession of a great number of Historic Documents important to the history of Dorchester County, and has been offered many more. These are now being maintained in two locations with only minimal environmental protection. An environmentally controlled Research and Storage Room will be made available on the first floor of the new museum building for this collection.
- Provide space for interpretation and expansion of an existing Native American Artifacts Collection.
- Provide for creation of a Dorchester Manufacturing History area. A Dorchester Canneries Collection has been started through the gift of a beautiful collection of canneries tokens by the Irvin Greene, Jr. Estate. This area in the new building will be devoted to artifacts and pictures of Dorchester Manufacturing.
- Provide for an Annie Oakley collection, which is now housed inappropriately in the Agricultural Museum, will be moved to the new building.
- Storage and preparation space for changing exhibits will be provided on the second floor of the new building.
- The new building will border the Shoal Creek waterfront area, now being improved with support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. A deck and “Wetlands Interpretive Area” will be put in place on the waterfront side of the new building. The waterfront area will also have accommodations to permit access from the Choptank River to the DCHS Museums by small boats, kayaks, and canoes.
- Provide additional parking, outdoor lighting, and walkways to safely support increased visitor load -- all handicapped accessible.

(3) Install Heat and Air Conditioning in the existing Neild Museum.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	
Design	
Construction	\$290,000
Equipment	\$30,000
Total	\$320,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)			
Source		Amount	
DCHS Internal Funds		\$40,000	
Preserve America Grant		\$125,000	
Foundation and Individual Donations		\$30,000	
Maryland Bond Bill		\$150,000	
Total		\$345,000	
14. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
6-2006	1-2007	12-2006	12-2007
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2007	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
\$70,000	2500	5000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2004	\$250,000	Construct Museum Building	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Dorchester County Historical Society, Inc.		902 LaGrange Ave., Cambridge, MD 21613	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			37A
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Hubert H. Wright, IV	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-228-5450		NO
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
P. O. Box 778			
Cambridge, MD 21613			
24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
1 Part-Time	2	\$53,000	\$90,000

25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
Not Applicable			
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
Not Applicable			
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	Approx. 7800		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	Approx. 6300		
New GSF	5000 constructed in 2006		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion		1980 and 2006	
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			
Request is to complete interior construction, and equipping, of new museum building that was constructed in 2006; provide for certain development, improvement, and interpretation of the Society's historical collections to be placed in the building; provide landscaping and walkways; and provide heat and air conditioning in existing Neild Museum.			