



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING
Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Deborah A. Carpenter, AICP, Division Director
Kimberly Gaines, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Amanda Whitmore, Historic Preservation Planner
DATE: January 16, 2026
RE: FY 2027 Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program Rankings

Issue:

Should the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approve the rankings of seven grant applications for the Frederick County FY 2027 Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program to be forwarded to the County Executive for further review?

Background:

The Frederick County Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program was established from legislation that increased the county's recordation tax to boost agricultural land preservation and set aside the first \$500,000 annually for three programs, one of which is grants for rural historic preservation. The grant application period opened on September 1. The Commission was provided access to all application packets. A summary of each application is included as Attachment 1.

Review Process and Schedule:

Application Deadline	November 30, 2025
Staff Review of Completed Applications	December 2025
Grant Review	January 15, 2026
Historic Preservation Commission Recommendation	February 4, 2026
County Executive Review & Decision	March/April 2026

The grant review subcommittee of the HPC reviewed and ranked the applications per the approved criteria, which consider factors such as the historical and cultural significance of the resource, urgency of the project, retention of historically significant material, provisions for long-term resource preservation, etc. Additionally, the grant review subcommittee was given the total award amount available to distribute and was tasked with deciding the award amounts to applicants. This year, the grant review subcommittee was able to stretch the total award amount to all applicants resulting in the top scoring projects receiving full funding and the bottom scoring applicants receiving partial funding.

The subcommittee has approved releasing the attached rankings and recommended award amounts forward to the HPC for review and approval (Attachment 2). The County Executive will review

the rankings and award amounts recommended by the HPC and make a final decision. Awardees will return to the HPC to receive their Certificate of Approval before the execution of the grant agreement.

Recommendation:

The grant review subcommittee reviewed the applications on Thursday, January 15, 2026 and recommended releasing the rankings and award amounts to the HPC. Staff recommends approving the rankings and awards shown on the attached chart for further review and decision by the County Executive.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Summary of Grant Applications

Attachment 2: Recommended Rankings and Award Amounts

Summary of Grant Applications

Property Name	Project Description	Request
Needwood Farmhouse	Repair porch posts, balusters, skirt, and rafters; Flash around chimneys and eaves and repair fascia and soffit boards	\$50,000.00
Carty Miller House	Replace foundation sill logs, repair foundation stones, and repoint	\$42,295.00
Henry Smeltzer	Restore or replace shutters and repair weighing shed	\$40,327.00
William Stoner House	Structural repairs and repair front porches	\$17,978.00
Walker Place	Repair shutters, door and window trim; replace some window sills; and replace portion of roof	\$28,282.00
Daniel James Barn	Repoint the stone on the barn	\$49,000.00
Libertytown Female Seminary	Repoint the east and west facades	\$38,980.00

Recommended Rankings and Award Amounts

Property Name	Average	Full/Partial	Amount
Needwood Farmhouse	87.66	Full	\$50,000
Carty Miller House	84	Full	\$42,295
Henry Smeltzer	80.33	Full	\$40,327
William Stoner House	79.66	Full	\$17,978
Walker Place	79.66	Full	\$28,282
Daniel James Barn	79.33	Partial	\$39,690
Libertytown Female Seminary	77.66	Partial	\$31,428