



## ***Progress Report Spring 2013***

The Bedford Historical Society (BHS) in Bedford, NH, is working to preserve and rehabilitate the former Stevens-Buswell School for use as a community center. The building, built in 1921 and enlarged in 1938, is owned by the Town of Bedford. However, the BHS signed a lease for the historic memorial building in September 2010 and soon began its rehabilitation. The plans for the future Stevens-Buswell Community Center were developed by Eric Palson of Sheerr McCrystal Palson Architecture, who presented the masterplan to the town in August 2010.

Once the lease was signed, the BHS contracted with Manchester Roofing to replace the roof, which was done in October 2010. The crew from Milestone Engineering and Construction, the company that the BHS selected to manage the construction project, later finished the cooper flashing and replaced rotten clapboards. Asbestos removal was completed by Green Environmental in October as well.

Some items were removed from the former school for safe-keeping until they can be reinstalled in the building. These items include vintage light fixtures from 1938 and a large blackboard, as well as doors from the two former jail cells.

During November and December 2010, the work continued. Mold remediation and demolition work were completed by North Ridge at the end of January 2011. Also in January, new basement windows A \$50,000 grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Preservation Fund, administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, allowed the BHS to pay for extensive electrical work throughout the structure. This included new underground service into a new electrical panel in the building, as well as wiring to future switches and plugs throughout. This work was finished by the end of 2011.

The BHS also received a NH Conservation License Plate Grant of \$9,800. This grant provided for the installation of the framing work for future partitions in the former school and was completed in late 2011.

In 2012, work on the building focused on preparatory work in the lower level. The concrete floor in the area below the future elevator shaft was cut, and the concrete housing for the base of the elevator shaft was installed. Boy Scout Troup 5 helped with some of this work. Additional basement work includes placing buried utilities and patching the concrete floor for framing.

The BHS has an on-going effort to raise about \$55,000 to purchase and install a heating and future air conditioning system. Once this goal is met, insulation for the future community center will become the next priority.

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