

Historic Grain Elevator Restoration Project

Harmony, MN



2017



early 1900's

The McMichel elevator was erected in the early years (circa 1879) when the railroad first came to Harmony and was critical to Harmony's development. Based on the elevator's historical significance to agricultural and economic development of Fillmore County and the state of Minnesota, the Harmony Area Historical Society (HAHS) sees the need to facilitate a project that would address the Historic Grain Elevator Restoration.

The project will help preserve the historic structure and its historical context, create an attractive entrance to the city and potentially offer a valuable interpretive site in the future. A critical part of the success of this project is interpretive material highlighting the agricultural significance to Harmony and our area with special attention given to century farm stories and oral history stories. Farming was the foundation of Harmony's development and that of Fillmore County and this history needs to be gathered, shared and preserved.

This project needs to be a collaborative effort with HAHS, City of Harmony, interested community members, local businesses and organizations, area agricultural partners and the Harmony Area Community Foundation.

This effort is expected to be a multi-phase (multi-year) project:

Phase I = Development Plan

The Phase I goal is to define a detailed development plan to save and restore the elevator, preserving it as a key piece of Harmony's history.

Proposed Phase I goals:

- 1. Form a restoration committee**
- 2. Establish a development agreement with the City of Harmony**
- 3. Finalize Phase I details and budget**
- 4. Identify funding sources (near & long term)**
- 5. Survey and acquire property**
- 6. Identify/perform any critical work needed to ensure building stability**
- 7. Research the elevator history to assess feasibility of submitting it for inclusion on the National Registry of Historic Places**
- 8. Obtain an architecture review/drawings and contractor estimates for final restoration needs**
- 9. Develop specific goals for Phases II – IV**

Phase II = Complete External Restoration

Phase III = Internal Restoration

Phase IV = Interpretive Center.

Conversations between HAHS, Community Foundation and community members have been ongoing for some time. We have also consulted with the Preston Historical Society to study its process for preserving and restoration of Preston's Grain elevator; they have offered to share additional project information. We have received initial input from an experienced historical architect and preservation contractor that have both expressed the opinion the structure is basically sound and worthy of restoration.

Amy Hahn has researched the elevator and generated a report that documents some history of the elevator, the potential of National Historic Registration and funding possibilities, recommendations for restoration of the limestone foundation as well as future uses of the elevator. Initial discussions with the Harmony Area Community Foundation and the City of Harmony have indicated interest in support of this project. If you would like to receive a copy of the report, contact us at hahs@harmonytel.net.

The following is a budget submitted for a grant request to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for 2018 and is given here as reference material. HAHS did not receive the SMIF grant and we would expect that the final Phase I plan and budget would need to be modified in order to move forward with this project.

Initial Phase I budget estimate (based on grant submitted to SMIF 8/27/17):

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Historical Research @\$50/hr x 120hrs (for project definition & Nat. Reg.) | \$ 6000 |
| Arch. & Const. Review/Drawings @\$50/hr x 60hrs | \$ 3000 |
| Property Survey | \$ 500 |
| Materials Analysis | \$ 500 |
| Legal Fees | \$ 500 |
| Communications (postage, printing, etc.) | \$ 200 |
| Marketing/Promotion/Publicity | \$ 500 |
| Travel (business) @ \$.535x 250(airport)x11 trips | \$ 1500 |
| Travel (volunteers) @ \$.14x100(Roch.)x 20 trips | <u>\$ 300</u> |
| | \$13000 |
| Critical initial stability work (if needed) | ???? |

Fund raising efforts will need to address the initial Phase I development plan and also look to long term funds from a variety of sources.

Harmony Area Historical Society

The Harmony Area Historical Society (HAHS) organized in the year 2000 and has been active in cataloging and preserving the history of the Harmony area. In addition HAHS has been instrumental in creating interpretive displays related to Harmony.

Harmony High School
Karst Geology
Harmony Military
Karst Interpretive Site
Artist Herbjørn Gausta
Harmony History Images

Harmony Community Center
Harmony Visitor Center - Chamber Office
Harmony Visitor Center - Conference Room
Harmony – Preston Valley Bike Trail
Harmony Visitor Center – Conference Room
Harmony Visitor Center – Conference Room

Historical Signage (Spring 2018) Downtown Harmony

The Grain Elevator Restoration Project needs to be a community wide effort and will need the support of several individuals in the Harmony Area. If you have any questions about the project, suggestions or wish to be involved with the project, please feel free to contact any of the board members listed below. You also may contact us at hahs@harmonytel.net.

Harmony Area Historical Society

Board of Directors:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|
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