

2023 CPC Application Project Description  
Field Memorial Building  
Exterior Rehabilitation

Project Description:

This project is designed to rehabilitate the exterior (building envelope) of the Bradford M. Field Memorial Building. The included photographs depict the condition of the exterior walls with two side walls in greatest need of sealing. The resulting protected exterior surface, that would be achieved through painting and caulking, prevents water from penetrating the clapboard siding and compromising the building components. The funds requested would be used to retain an architectural historian to oversee the work that will involve extensive prep work, potential remediation work and application of a waterborne bonding primer and a finish coat. Some degree of chalking may also be necessary. Vapor-barrier paints provide an effective moisture barrier.

The Bradford M. Field Memorial Building, located at 1 Shutesbury Road, was given to the Town of Leverett for a Library by Elizabeth Judson Field in 1916, in memory of her father, Bradford M. Field, who was the Leverett Center postmaster from 1863 to 1913. This town library replaced libraries that had been kept in private homes since 1891. Historic artifacts from the Field family and other Leverett families have been housed in the building for many years, including paper memorabilia and books on the second floor, and tools and larger items are housed in the basement. This building served as the public library for the town until 2003 when the current Leverett Library was built on Montague Road. The historic significance of the Field Memorial Building was highlighted in 2008, when it was named as a "contributing building" in the Town's successful application to place the Leverett Center Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

Currently, a Committee has been formed to determine the future of the building. That Committee is utilizing the \$30,000 appropriated at the April 2022 Annual Town meeting to formally survey the building's land and to complete a septic and well feasibility study for the building and site. Additional research into the building and site are planned with the remainder of those funds.

Budget:

The budget requested is \$25,000 or less depending on estimates received. Unfortunately, a more specific project budget was not available at the time of submittal. Project proponents have reached out to local craftsmen Dave Noonan, Steve Striebel, Charles Abbott, and Matt Abbott for proposals and will share estimates with the CPC when received. The project is planned to engage the services of an architectural historian or equivalent preservationist to oversee the rehabilitation work. As soon as the more specific estimates are available, they will be submitted to the CPC and the requested amount adjusted accordingly.

Timeline:

The preferred time of year to complete this work is as soon as possible in 2024 so that the building looks better for the 2024 250-Anniversary year of the Town of Leverett. With town meeting in April, work would begin in May 2024 and hopefully be complete in June 2024.

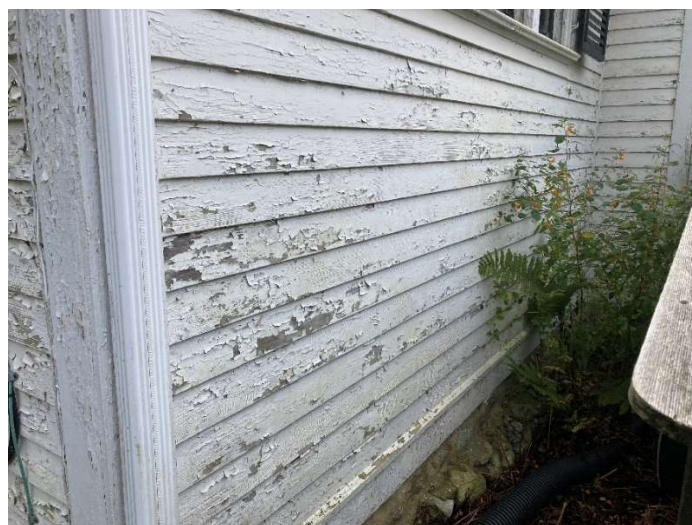
Photos:



Front – North Side



*Front detail*



*Front detail*



*East Side*



*West Side*



West side details



Back – South Side



Assessors Map - Field Building is on Parcel 214

