

## **Introduction**

This project will enable the Three Village Historical Society to purchase and preserve the Dominick-Crawford Barn and two accompanying structures, in order to provide education, meeting and exhibition opportunities for the public once the buildings are restored. The Barn is a historically significant building from circa 1860, which is currently located on public land in the Village of Old Field. Old Field is part of the Three Village area in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York.

The Three Village Historical Society (TVHS) wishes to purchase, renovate, and move the buildings onto its 2.24 acre property in Setauket, New York (also part of the Three Villages) so that there will be consistent stewardship of the structures, and they will be used in a manner that will benefit the community. The Society is currently developing a concept plan for establishment of an Educational Resource Center (the Center) in the Crawford Barn. The Center will provide extensively expanded facilities for the Society to fulfill its mission to foster and preserve local history and educate the public about the area's rich cultural heritage. The Society's plans for the Center encompass the incorporation of: teaching facilities with necessary tools and aids, exhibit space that will be flexible and interchangeable, archive facilities that will be readily accessible to staff, local educators, students and the general public. The Center will allow the Society to supplement the space currently being used at the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library in Setauket and provide accessible, climate-controlled, secure storage for the preservation of the Society's many historical artifacts. The Society also plans for the Center to include research space with state of the art capabilities, meeting rooms for small and moderate-sized community groups, and facilities for special community activities and events.

## **Description of Structures**

The Crawford Barn and attached shed are currently located on the east side of the junctions of Old Field Road and Quaker Path, on land owned by the Village of Old Field. The barn is a 30' x 50' structure with an attached shed that measures 20' x 11'. The basic barn's area footprint is 1,500 square feet and the attached shed is 220 square feet. Combined they

equate to an overall footprint of 1,720 square feet. The interior of the barn, at ground level, is divided into three sections, the first of which is 30' x 20' for an area of 600 square feet, the second is 30' x 14' for an area of 420 square feet and the third is 30' x 16' for an area of 480 square feet. The second section; which is in the center of the barn is open from the floor to roof. The other two areas have lofts above them. When including the lofts over the first and third sections, at 600 square feet and 480 square feet respectively, the usable internal area would become 2,580 square feet (600+600+480+480+420). When including the 220 square feet for the attached shed, the above specified square footage dimensions become 2,800 square feet (2,580+220).



In addition to the Dominick-Crawford Barn and shed, there is an outbuilding located in the same general area. This structure is currently privately owned, but the owners have indicated an interest in transferring it to the Society. This structure would significantly compliment the barn, in terms of its historical nature and its eventual use as storage, exhibit

and/or meeting space. The outbuilding structure is 26' x 16', for a total area footprint of 416 square feet with a possible expansion to 832 square feet based on a full second floor (416 x 2).



The funding that the TVHS is currently seeking through the Strategic Investment Program is for Phase I of the Society's "two phase" plan for the project. Phase I(A) involves the disassembling of the Crawford Barn, shed and outbuilding, preparation of the structures for transport, acquisition of needed permits from town entities and utility companies, actual transport, storage of building sections not in need of any further work, repair and/or replacement of the sections of the buildings that are not salvageable, re-siting and reconstruction of the barn and additional structures onto the TVHS's property . The majority of the repairs and renovations will involve the barn. All structures' undamaged beams and frames will be transported to a location for storage until repairs are completed. The damaged beams will be transported to a mill house, preferably a local mill, to be either repaired or replaced. While the barn and accompanying structures are being disassembled and repaired, the Society's property will be prepared for structure installation, and a concrete slab will be poured.

The TVHS Crawford Barn Committee has compiled an approximate time frame for implementation of Phase I(A), and collected estimates from local contractors.

The anticipated timeframe for Phase I(A) will be approximately six weeks. The work involved will include: clean out the buildings of debris (the TVHS has already accomplished this), remove the irreparable roof and siding of the barn and other sections of buildings that cannot be repaired, disassemble the buildings, transport the barn and additional structure. This work can realistically be started in March/April of 2014 (once winter is over), and be completed by May/June 2014. This approximation is taking into account any inclement weather delays.

Phase I(B) will include: Pouring a new foundation, repairing the sections in need of renovation or replacement. Reassemble timber structures on to new foundation, install new roof, install new wood siding, install new electrical service, and re-grading area.

Phase II will incorporate work needed to modernize the structures for use by the TVHS and the public as well as meet all New York State, Suffolk County and town of Brookhaven building code requirements. Modernization is planned for this final phase, to include electricity, plumbing, heating, cooling, and appropriate access into and out of the buildings. There will also be construction of appropriate internal spaces for meetings, education opportunities, exhibit areas, and storage for artifacts.

This legislative grant will be the foundation to complete Phase I, and support the TVHS's efforts to acquire additional grant funding and general fundraising to complete Phases II of this project.

## **Conclusion**

The Three Village Historical Society recognizes the need to provide the community with much-needed space to further its mission of educating the public and sharing the riches of our local history. We also recognize that there is limited space for general community events and meetings, which the Crawford Barn project can address.

The TVHS has received strong public backing for this project. In addition to the support of Assemblyman Steve Englebright, the Village of Old Field is a valuable partner in this endeavor. The Three Village Community Trust has provided much-appreciated insight and advice during the pre-planning stages, and will be an important resource as the project moves into the implementation phase. The Board of Directors of the Society has pledged to support

fundraising efforts on behalf of the project. Initial stories have been featured in the local news media and on the Society's website, and this media campaign to inform the public of the benefits of the relocation and modernization of the structures will increase as the project begins to be implemented. This project is an appropriate continuation of prior Assembly-sponsored actions to protect, preserve and make permanently available the Three Village area's historic legacy for the community and the residents of the State of New York. Projects such as the acquisition and restoration of the Tyler Homestead and the purchase of two historically significant letters from General George Washington related to the American Revolution and the Setauket Spy Ring have enabled the Three Village area to provide exhibits and education opportunities to the public for a better understanding and appreciation of the region's important role in the early years of the country's existence.

**Expected ongoing operating expenses to maintain the proposed project and funding sources for these expenses**

Operating expenses for the buildings will be for electricity, water, heat and general grounds and property maintenance. These expenses will be covered with government funding, corporate and private foundation support and individual donations. Also, the Society hosts several fundraising events each year (including the Candlelight House Tour, Apple Festival, Selections from the Collection, etc.); some of the proceeds from these events will be used for the buildings' expenses. In addition, walking tours and exhibits will bring in additional funds. Once the Dominick-Crawford Barn project restoration is completed, the Society will consider renting out space in the building for special occasions, community events and other non-profits' fundraising events to help offset some of the ongoing expenses.