



MINI-GRANT PROJECT DETAILS 2017



The JTI Tobacco Barns Mini-Grant Project is designed to repair historic tobacco barns in Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties in Virginia and Caswell County, North Carolina. The Mini-Grant Project will allow property owners the opportunity to apply for small grants for the rehabilitation of historic tobacco barns in a manner authentic with the original architectural style.

Funding for the Mini-Grant Project is being provided by JTI Leaf Services in Danville, Virginia, a JTI joint venture for the procurement and processing of leaf tobacco in the United States. The Mini-Grant Project is administered by Preservation Virginia with assistance from a committee composed of staff members from Preservation Virginia, JTI and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources as well as members of Pittsylvania, Halifax and Caswell County Historical Societies.

Eligible Properties

- The barn must be located within Pittsylvania County or Halifax County, Virginia or Caswell County, NC
- The barns must be tobacco curing or pack barns or other barns that are proven to have served in some capacity during the processing of tobacco leaves for market
- The barn must be at least 50 years old, or of historical and/or architectural significance
- The barn must be in need of repair but must also be able to be repaired within the bounds of the funding cap. The grant funds will be spent on barns that possess enough integrity so that any work undertaken can be completed in a quality manner

Process

- Applications submitted by March 15, 2017
- Applications are reviewed, assessed, and ranked
- Barns are field checked to verify application and program eligibility
- With input from the selection committee, final applications are approved
- Estimates on the repair work are obtained from pre-approved contractors
- Contracts written and signed
- Repair work begins
- After the repair work is completed, members from the three local historical societies inspect the barns to ensure that they are repaired according to the contract

Ranking Criteria

Preservation Virginia staff will review and rank each application that is received. The criteria listed below will be used to rank each application. The highest ranked applications are taken to the committee for final approval.

- The relative historical and cultural significance of the barn or site
- The existence of original historic materials or details
- Benefits to the community (barn is visible from the public right of way or used for public purposes)
- The demonstrated stewardship shown by the owner to his or her barn or other historic structures
- The extent to which the barn contributes to the geographical distribution across the three county region

Grant Conditions

- Grants will be given for exterior improvements only (roof, foundation, siding)
- No exterior alterations will be made to the barn for 24 months after the repair work is completed. Exterior alterations include, but are not limited to, demolishing the barn, removing any parts of the barn's exterior (logs, siding, foundation stones, roofing materials), creating new openings in the barn or building additional rooms on the barn
- Grant money must be paid back if the property is sold within 24 months of receiving the grant
- Any materials obtained through the Tobacco Barn Preservation Mini-Grant Fund must remain with the property if it is transferred or sold
- **The Barn Owner agrees to maintain the area around the barn for a period of 24 months after the barn repairs are completed. Maintenance includes keeping the area around the barn clear of weeds, brush, undergrowth and trash (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT)**
- Preservation Virginia staff will be allowed to visit the site for review, documentation, and feedback for a period of 24 months
- The barn owner agrees to allow appropriate publicity about the improvements, including photographs of the work. Images may be featured on the Preservation Virginia's and JTI's websites, external newsletters, or social media outlets
- The homeowner must be willing to display a contractor sign while work is underway and to install a plaque on the barn upon completion

Project Approved Contractors

The program will utilize licensed, bonded, and insured contractors who are pre-approved by Preservation Virginia and JTI to undertake all barn repairs. The ability to adhere to current historic preservation standards, including accepted techniques and materials is a main determinant for inclusion on the approved contractor list. Similarly, review of similar projects they have undertaken and an agreement to adhere to the estimating and payment terms of the contracts will be necessary for inclusion on the list.

General Timeline

| Date | Task |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 15, 2017 | Applications for Mini-Grant due |
| March-May 2017 | Barns are ranked and field checked |
| May 2017 | Grant review committee meets to approve final selections |
| May 2017 | Grant recipients announced |
| May-Dec 2017 | Repairs to barns completed. After each barn is completed, local historical societies visit the barns to ensure that work was completed appropriately. Barns are recorded for the final report. |