

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cumberland County Historical Society Launches Raise the Roof Capital Improvements Campaign

Historic Downtown Carlisle, 11/28/23 — As the Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) approaches its 150th year, the organization is embarking on a critical mission to preserve its most iconic artifacts: its historic buildings. CCHS is thrilled to announce the kickoff of the ***Raise the Roof Capital Improvements Campaign***, a significant initiative aimed at addressing crucial infrastructure needs for the Main Campus in Historic Downtown Carlisle.

Founded in 1874 as the Hamilton Library Association, CCHS has been steadfast in its mission to collect, preserve, and exhibit items of enduring historic value to Cumberland County. Now, as we enter our sesquicentennial year, we are laser focused on rehabilitating the most visible artifact in our collection: the historic buildings that tell the story of our rich heritage.

The primary focus of the campaign is the replacement of the roof over the original 1881 building, generously gifted to the Hamilton Library Association by the estate of James Hamilton Jr. This pivotal structure has stood as a beacon of history for over a century and a half, witnessing the transformation of the library into the Cumberland County Historical Society.

Additionally, the campaign seeks to stabilize the northwest corner of the original building, which has suffered significant water damage over the years.

“We are committed to ensuring that our historic buildings receive the care they deserve,” said Shawn Gladden, executive Director at CCHS. “By addressing these crucial infrastructure needs, we are making a promise to the community that, with their support, we will continue serving for another 150 years.”

Raise the Roof kicks off on **#GivingTuesday** with a Facebook match campaign on CCHS’s Facebook page. On Friday night, December 1, CCHS will host an exclusive event for donors to inform them of the necessary repairs and announce a major matching gift from Pat Ferris, incoming board president, and her husband, Ron Ferris.

The Ferris’s have generously challenged CCHS to raise \$200,000 for the project, promising to match every dollar. The campaign will span the next three years, but the urgency of the needed work cannot be overstated. CCHS has already signed a contract with Mowery Construction to commence the work in December. Project completion is slated for February 2024, just in time for the opening of the new 150th Anniversary Exhibit and Kickoff in April.

For more information on how to support Raise the Roof, please visit www.historicalsociety.com.

About Cumberland County Historical Society: The Cumberland County Historical Society, founded in 1874, is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich history of Cumberland County. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach, CCHS strives to connect the past with the present and inspire future generations.

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