



For Immediate Release

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Bangor Historical Society Received National Park Service Grant for Portico Restoration

Bangor, Maine, October 8, 2024 – The Bangor Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. This grant of \$100,000 will be used for part of the funding for the Portico Restoration Project at the Thomas A. Hill House, home of the Bangor Historical Society.

“We are very thankful for the help that the Congressional delegation gave us in securing this grant as part of the Congressionally Directed Spending grant last year and look forward to working with the National Park Service to complete the project,” said Risteen Bahr, President of BHS. She continued, “BHS started working on this project with an engineering investigation several years ago. We began raising money two years ago and now through this grant, several other grants, and private donations we are ready to select a contractor and secure a start date.” The Portico Project will restore the three-sided portico by removing the columns, and granite decking, and excavating and rebuilding the portico foundation. The granite decking and restored columns will then be reset.

“The Thomas A. Hill House has been an iconic Bangor landmark for nearly 200 years and has been a perfect home for the Bangor Historical Society,” said **Senator Angus King**. “Within the walls of Hill House you’ll find not only artifacts and documents detailing the region’s rich history, but also thousands of stories passed down by generations of Maine people. We have an obligation to the Bangor community and our state to ensure we’re able to best preserve this history for generations to come — and that preservation includes upkeep for this historic site, as well. I am proud to have helped secure this \$100,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending through the National Park Service to help with restoration efforts at Hill House — to ensure that this unique building continues to be accessible and attractive to all.”

“This is the biggest project that BHS has undertaken since I have been here,” stated Curator, Matt Bishop. He went on to say, “This project will return the structural integrity to the building which was built in 1835 and provide a level and safe walking surface.”

The Bangor Historical Society has been located at the Thomas A. Hill House, 159 Union Street, for over 50 years. BHS was deeded the house by the Sons of Union Veterans in 1974 and has operated it as a museum ever since. Restoration projects started this spring with the granite wall and fence restoration. The Portico Restoration project will take several months to complete. It will be the most extensive restoration project done on the House since its construction nearly 200 hundred years ago. BHS will continue to operate from the building during restoration though hours may be adjusted.

BHS is currently celebrating its 160th Anniversary with a special exhibit at the house. BHS is open for visitors Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until October 30th when it will close to decorate for Holidays at Hill House opening on December 6th. Admission is free.

For more information or questions, please call 207-942-1900 or email info@bangorhistoricalsociety.org

The Bangor Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization founded in March 1864 by 22 local businessmen led by Judge John Godfrey. It is the second oldest historical society in the State of Maine. BHS has a unique and varied collection that includes a large Civil War collection, a fine art collection, thousands of photographs and documents of the area's history, a large garment collection, and the architecturally significant Thomas A. Hill House. The Bangor Historical Society's purpose is the Preserve, Protect, and Promote its collection and the stories of the Queen City through research, education, and programs.

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