Historic Deerfield
Opening Doorways To The Past.

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

Historic Deerfield Awarded Grant to Replace Roof on c. 1754 Sheldon House

DEERFIELD, Mass., June 1, 2026 – Historic Deerfield has been awarded a $7,000 matching grant from The 1772 Foundation, in partnership with Preservation Massachusetts, to support the replacement of the cedar shingle roof at the c. 1754 Sheldon House.

The grant is part of a statewide historic preservation initiative administered by Preservation Massachusetts and funded by The 1772 Foundation to support exterior preservation work on historic buildings across the Commonwealth. Historic Deerfield's project was among 15 Massachusetts preservation efforts selected for funding in 2026.

Built between 1754 and 1757, the Sheldon House is one of the finest and best-preserved examples of eighteenth-century domestic architecture in the Connecticut River Valley. Interpreted to the period 1780–1810, the house tells the story of three generations of the Sheldon family and offers visitors a vivid look into the daily life, labor, and aspirations of a prosperous rural New England household. Today, it serves as one of Historic Deerfield's self-guided houses and is among the museum's most visited buildings. (Photos of the house and roof can be found here.)

The current cedar shingle roof, installed more than three decades ago, has reached the end of its life, with shingle failure now threatening the roof's ability to protect the historic structure and interior finishes. The project will replace the entire cedar shingle roof, including the rear ells, using historically appropriate materials and installation methods that maintain the building's architectural integrity while ensuring its long-term preservation.

"This project will help safeguard one of Historic Deerfield's significant buildings for future generations," said Michael Emmons, Director of Historic Preservation & Architectural

Research. “We’re truly grateful to Preservation Massachusetts and The 1772 Foundation for their support of this work and their continued investment in preserving Massachusetts history.”

Historic Deerfield anticipates completing the roof replacement later this year. Visitor access to the Sheldon House is not expected to be significantly affected during the work.

To learn more about Historic Deerfield, visit historic-deerfield.org.

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About Historic Deerfield. Historic Deerfield is a museum of early American life situated in an authentic 18th-century New England village in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts. Its historic houses and world-famous collection of early American decorative arts open doors to new perspectives that inspire people to seek a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities, and the world. Visitors are invited to stay at Historic Deerfield’s historic inn, eat at its restaurant & pub, and shop at its museum store.

About Preservation Massachusetts. Preservation Massachusetts was established in 1985 as Historic Massachusetts, Inc. It serves as the statewide non-profit organization that actively promotes the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes as a positive force for economic development and the retention of community character. The organization is supported entirely by grants, fundraising events, and our membership. In keeping with our mission, we work in partnership with national, state, and local organizations, as well as individuals across the Commonwealth, to advance understanding, appreciation, and use of our historic places. For more information, please visit preservationmass.org.

About The 1772 Foundation. The 1772 Foundation was named in honor of its first restoration project, Liberty Hall in Union, N.J., which was built in 1772 and is the ancestral home of the Livingston and Kean families. The late Stewart B. Kean was the sole benefactor of The 1772 Foundation, which works to ensure the safe passage of our historic buildings and farmland to future generations. For more information, please visit 1772foundation.org.