



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Vermont—Rural Housing Service

Community Building

Tiny Vermont Town Invests in New “Civic Heart”

Outline Of Need:

The tiny town of Granville (population 303) had an opportunity to convert the former school into an improved and energy efficient Town Clerk’s Office adjacent to the historic Town Hall.

How Rural Development Helped:

Leveraging energy efficiency funds of \$48,930, Rural Development invested grant funds of \$90,700 and loan funds of \$164,300 in renovations.

The Results:

The updated municipal center is more structurally sound, far more energy efficient, handicapped accessible, and—unlike the previous Town Clerk’s office—it has indoor plumbing.

The Granville Town Hall was once the Town’s only church, constructed in 1838, then rebuilt in 1871 to raise the original sanctuary up to what is now the second floor. The annual Town Meeting is held on the first floor, a far more comfortable event this year



Photo: *Left to right Vivian Branschofsky and Cheryl Sargeant (Granville Selectboard), Molly Lambert (RD State Director), Marcelle Leahy (representing Senator Leahy), Patricia Coates (representing Congressman Welch), and Jenny Nelson (representing Senator Sanders) cut the ribbon to launch the first of many parties to come.*

with increased insulation in walls and ceiling. Piers and posts added to the basement have made the floor more stable, and Granville’s historic theater curtain will hang in the renewed auditorium.

“It just made sense to combine our municipal assets into one location,” said Selectboard Chair Cheryl Sargeant. “It was really about creating a civic heart for our little community.”

Community dances and chicken pie suppers, easier access to the Town Clerk - the citizens of Granville have invested in community in a big way.

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities

Investment: \$255,000

Partners: Town of Granville, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Demographics

Rural Population—303

Impact:

- Consolidates Town Clerk’s Office with Town Hall
- Productive re-use of important historic landmark
- Reduces energy costs to Town

County: Addison

Congressional District: At-Large

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