

Help Support DCHA's Capital Project "Building History"

The Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) has been collecting historic objects since 1945. These objects form a part of our county's cultural heritage.

The current building in which our collections are stored was constructed back in 1978 and it has now become inadequate in terms of available space to add more objects. More specifically, our collections storage is overflowing with over 10,000 artifacts and 1,300 cubic feet of archival material. We are way overfull!

To enable us to continue collecting and preserving for future generations, DCHA has embarked on a multi-year effort to construct a new purpose-built collections storage building. This approximately 8,760 square-foot facility will have modern environmental control systems, creating the best storage capabilities available to protect the thousands of irreplaceable and often fragile artifacts.

Artifacts are 3D items, and can range anywhere in size from a small political button to hand tools, clothing, quilts, furniture, carriages and farm machinery. DCHA's collections range from pre-European Native American artifacts to contemporary objects. They represent a depth of material not often found in local historical agencies. However, these collections are being damaged and are in danger of being destroyed due to the current conditions they are stored in.

Not only are artifacts in danger of deteriorating, but they are becoming more and more difficult to access. In order to bring out an object for research or to create an exhibit, DCHA's staff has to move multiple boxes and other objects. Easier and safer access to the historic items, we hope, will encourage increased visitation from researchers and others.

Aside from the issues with lack of space and accessibility, the current building was not physically constructed to store the weight of collections we already care for. A Structural Assessment/Floor Load Evaluation carried out by Herrmann Engineering (May 2024) states: "The current facility is highly over-stressed for a light-storage use. We recommend the Delaware County Historical Association review the possibility of relocating the storage to an alternative building that is capable of supporting the load."

The success of this project will help protect and preserve these artifacts of inestimable value for future historians, writers, scholars, students and researchers. The benefits will be considerable for all Delaware County residents now and far into the future.

Funding for this ambitious project is coming from a variety of sources (Federal, State, Philanthropic Foundations, etc.). But we still need your help in allowing us to achieve our goal.

All money raised will be earmarked solely for this important local project. DCHA is an accredited not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

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CAPITAL PROJECT APPEAL REPLY FORM (web)

Please complete this form and return it with a check or money order **payable to DCHA**
46549 State Hwy. 10 Delhi, NY 13753

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed please find my donation of \$_____ to be used for the Capital Project Fund.

☐ Please check this box if you wish to receive a formal thank you note.