



Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission Receives Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Estate of Henry Willard II

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2020,

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The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This grant was made possible from the Estate of Henry Willard II. A long-time resident of Jefferson County, Mr. Willard bequeathed his entire estate to causes and charities in Shepherdstown and the Eastern Panhandle.

The grant will be divided between two of JCHLC's ongoing programs. Part of the funding will go to the Jefferson County Historic Preservation Fund, an agency endowed fund managed by the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation. This program will begin making small matching grants for historic preservation projects in Jefferson County once the fund reaches \$100,000. The current balance is approximately \$59,000.

The remaining funds will support the ongoing rehabilitation of Duffield's Depot, in recognition of Mr. Willard's lifelong interest in railroads. Duffield's Depot is the oldest surviving combined freight and passenger station in the U.S, circa 1842. Planned projects include elevation and boundary survey, getting electricity to the site, removing debris, hiring a structural engineer and architect.

The JCHLC is a branch of the Jefferson County government and operates under authority granted to landmarks commissions by the West Virginia legislature. The JCHLC's mission is to preserve historic sites, structures, and rural landscapes in the unincorporated areas of Jefferson County and to educate the public about the county's heritage. For more information about JCHLC programs and activities visit: www.jeffersoncountyhlc.org or the Landmark Commission's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyHLC/> and find them on Instagram: @jeffersoncountyHLC