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Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation Selected to Receive a 2024 Americana Corner Preserving America Grant

JAMESTOWN, VA. (May 6, 2024) –

Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (JRF) has been selected to receive a Preserving America grant from Americana Corner supporting the new, permanent exhibits inside Jamestown's iconic brick church tower. Dating to circa 1680, the Church Tower is the sole standing example of 17th-century architecture at the James Fort site and has stood as a symbol of America's beginnings.

The Church Tower dates to Jamestown's fourth church, ca. 1680. It stands on the same site as two prior churches dating to 1617 and 1639. It was on this site that the first General Assembly convened in 1619. Governor Sir George Yeardley, his four councilors, the colony secretary, and twenty-two burgesses gathered in the church's choir and ratified the three Great Reforms, establishing the principles of private property, ending martial law, and founding a new society grounded in the rule of law and consent of the governed. These reforms represent the beginnings of America's democratic experiment. In 1676, Jamestown's third church was heavily burned during Bacon's Rebellion, an uprising that came close to destroying the governmental fabric of the royal colony. The Church Tower, and the archaeological remains within, represents these monumental touchstones in our nation's history.

To preserve the tower and all it represents, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation recently completed the installation of a steel-framed glass roof, a perimeter drainage system, and a new floor with a glass portal to protect and display the 1617 church foundations. New lighting and an all-glass entry will complete the years-long preservation project. Funding from Americana Corner supported the installation of new signage in and around the Church Tower, transforming the restored structure into a place-based, educational exhibit.

"The Church Tower has long been evoked as an icon of America's beginnings and a symbol of historic preservation. The fact that it was still standing at the end of the 19th century was the reason the site was saved from development and further neglect," said Jim Horn, President & CO of Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation. "The preservation of the Tower and the associated exhibit will carry on this legacy for generations to come. We're delighted to have the support of Americana Corner for this important project."

The preserved Church Tower and exhibit space is open to visitors now.

Americana Corner Grant Program

Americana Corner was founded by Tom Hand in 2020 as an online resource to help others rediscover America's incredible founding and first century of expansion. The Preserving

America Grant Program assists organizations that tell the story of our nation's wonderful past and rekindle a love for American history in all its splendor.

More information about Americana Corner can be found at americanacorner.com.

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Available photos [can be found here](#). All images courtesy of Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (JRF) preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. JRF is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit. JRF jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.