



**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

PROJECT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Project Title:

Stage Fort Park Welcome Center Restoration

Project Summary:
The exterior of the Welcome Center building is in need of cleaning, restoration, and rehabilitation. We are seeking funds to restore the exterior of the building. The stone work including the facade and steps are in need of pressure wash cleaning, re-pointing, and re-capping the stairways. The wood areas all need to be cleaned and re-painted and the deck flooring needs to be cleaned and treated, with a few boards needing replacement. The City has funded the replacement of the roof.

Estimated start date: March 15 2017 Estimated completion date: June 15, 2017

CPA Program Area:
 Open Space Historic Preservation
 Community Housing Recreation

II: Applicant/Developer Information

Contact Person with primary responsibility for project: Mark Cole

Organization (if applicable): Department of Public Works

Mailing Address: 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930

Daytime phone #: 978-281-9785 Fax #: 978-281-3896

E-mail address: ncole@gloucester-ma.gov

Federal ID#

III: Budget Summary

Total budget for project: \$80,000

CPA funding request: \$55,000

CPA request as percentage of total budget: 69%

Applicant's Signature: 

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Please provide a project timeline below, noting all project milestones. Please note that because the City Council must approve all appropriations, CPA funds may not be available until up to two months following Committee approval.

	Activity	Estimated Date
Project Start Date:	Lead Paint testing	03/15/17
Project Milestone:	Pressure washing stone and decking	04/01/17
50% Completion Stage:	Re-point stone, repair windows and trim, replace deck boards	04/30/17
Project Milestone:	Recap steps, repaint windows and trim, treat deck boards	05/30/17
Project Completion Date:	Welcome Center complete	06/15/17

Please note: If the project is approved, the recipient must provide progress reports to the Committee on a quarterly basis (by the 15th of January, April, July and October) depending on the length of the project. The recipient shall also provide an interim report at the 50% Completion Stage, along with budget documentation.

Please feel free to photocopy or re-create this form if more room is needed.

Narrative

The project calls for the rehabilitation and restoration of the exterior of the Welcome Center at Stage Fort Park, including the roof, the windows and trim, the stone facade and steps, and the wood porch decking that surrounds the building. This project falls under the Recreational Land Category and the Rehabilitation and Restoration Definition of a Historic Structure. The exterior of the building needs and requires professional grade rehabilitation and restoration.

Stage Fort Park is one of the crown jewels of the City of Gloucester and is one of the most scenic parks to be found anywhere. The park is visited by thousands of tourists and residents every year and hosts several events, both large and small every year. It hosts the Waterfront Festival every August, a world renown Cyclecross race each fall, the Farmers Market each week from May through October, Sunday night band concerts throughout the Summer, the Rotary Club pancake breakfast, a summertime Blues Festival, and many weddings and private outings ; all centered around the feature building – the Welcome Center.

The Park itself was the original farm of Ben and Elizabeth Hough who sold it to the City for \$75,000 in 1899. The Welcome Center building has significance architecturally and within Gloucester's history. The Welcome Center at Stage Fort Park has been in existence since 1925, originally called the "Rest House". It was designed by Arthur Shurtleff (1870-1957) , a Landscape Architect and Urban Planner who had worked under Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. It was built by a retired stone mason Eli F Gabry (1858-1942). Mr. Gabry was the proprietor of a grocery store in West Gloucester for some 20 years. After the "Rest House", history tells us in the 1950's to the 1970's the building served as the summertime concession stand and bath house used by park goers. Some may remember purchasing their beach stickers there in the 1980's. In 1997 the building re-opened as the Gloucester Welcome Center, and in 1999, the interior was renovated with the addition of a handicap bathroom and storage room.

Stone is probably the oldest building material used by mankind. Many historic stone buildings in the United States have been lost to the "progress" of modern development or have crumbled due to lack of maintenance and repair. There are several significant stone structures of note including buildings at West Point, the University of Georgia, Essex County Courthouses, Yellowstone National Park, and our nearby Blue Hill Reservation that have



CITY OF GLOUCESTER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
3 Pond Road, 2nd Floor • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel. 978-281-9781 • Fax 978-281-9779

March 1, 2016

Mr. Frederick J. Geisel
Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee
15 Steep Hill Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Geisel:

The Community Preservation Committee has received your Community Preservation Act Eligibility Determination Form for 2016 CPA funding, round 7, for historic preservation for the purpose of rehabilitation/restoration of the Gloucester's Stage Fort Park Visitor Center.

The Committee has determined that your project proposal meets the basic eligibility requirements for funding through the Community Preservation Act. The Committee looks forward to reviewing the full Application for the project, due by noon on April 15, 2016. Please submit 12 paper copies of the application, double-sided, plus an electronic copy (PDF format) to dlaurie@gloucester-ma.gov.

Please note that all CPC funded historic preservation projects shall "comply with the Standards for Rehabilitation stated in the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties codified in 36 C.F.R. Part 68." (M.G.L. ch.44B) as I am sure you are aware of. The Standards can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/rehab/rehabapproach.htm>.

Also, since the property is owned by the City, you must get approval from City of Gloucester DPW. Please contact Mark Cole at 978 281 9785 or mcole@gloucester-ma.gov.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance throughout the application process.

Sincerely,

Deborah Laurie
CPA Senior Project Manager



Photo by Carl Wycoff

Antonio Gentile Bandstand Summer Concert Series

David L. Benjamin, Cape Ann Community Band

32 Revere Street • Gloucester, MA 01930 • 978-281-0543 • www.davidlbenjamin.com

April 11, 2016

Frederick J. Geisel
15 Steep Hill Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Geisel,

This letter is written in support of your efforts to secure CPA funding for rehabbing the Gloucester Visitor Center at Stage Fort Park. I direct the summer music programs held at the Antonio Gentile Bandstand. Our audience is familiar with the Visitor Center in many ways, including the rest room amenities offered during our Sunday evening concerts. Many of our audience members sit on the visitor center porch to watch and listen to the entertainers.

A grant from the CPA would enhance the building and insure the continuance of the many functions the building serves. I should think it is of great benefit to the city to maintain this important building for years to come.

Good luck in your efforts.

David L. Benjamin, Director
Antonio Gentile Bandstand Summer Concert Series

24 HOUGH AV

Location 24 HOUGH AV

Assessment \$4,610,700

Mblu 216/ 140/ //

PID 11247

Owner GLOUCESTER CITY OF

Building Count 2

Current Value

Assessment			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2016	\$619,300	\$3,991,400	\$4,610,700

Owner of Record

Owner GLOUCESTER CITY OF
Co-Owner
Address 9 DALE AV
 GLOUCESTER, MA 01930

Sale Price \$0
Certificate
Book & Page
Sale Date 01/01/1898

Ownership History

Ownership History				
Owner	Sale Price	Certificate	Book & Page	Sale Date
GLOUCESTER CITY OF	\$0			01/01/1898

Building Information

Building 1 : Section 1

Year Built: 1900
Living Area: 1250
Building Percent 72
Good:

Building Attributes	
Field	Description
STYLE	Other Municip
MODEL	Industrial
Grade	Average +10
Stories:	1
Occupancy	1
Exterior Wall 1	Stone/Masonry
Exterior Wall 2	
Roof Structure	Gable/Hip
Roof Cover	Asph/F Gls/Cmp
Interior Wall 1	Drywall/Sheet

Building Photo



{<http://images.vgsi.com/photos2/GloucesterMAPphotos/\00\04\08\38.jpg>}

Building Layout

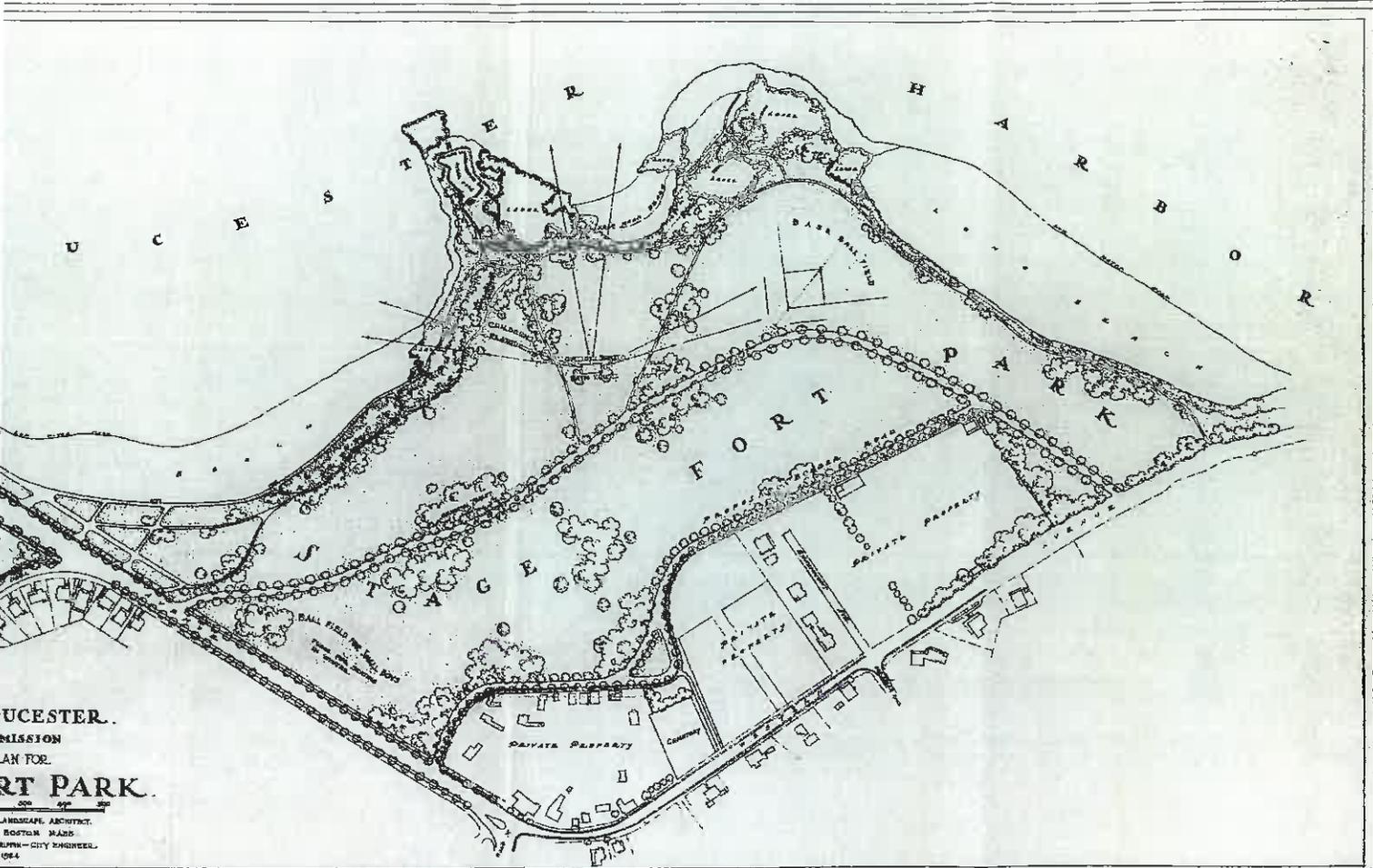


VISITORS WELCOMING CENTER









GLoucester.
MISSION
PLAN FOR
FORT PARK.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.
BOSTON MASS.
MUNICIPALITY ENGINEER.
1884

SK. 40,080

