About Us

Historic Elmira, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2007, with a mission to champion historic preservation in the Elmira region by providing education, advocacy, collaboration, and facilitation in activities supporting the preservation and enhancement of buildings and sites that are of historic significance.

We are pragmatic preservationists with a clear understanding that historic preservation is directly linked to enhancing economic well-being in Elmira. We seek to strengthen the efforts of individuals and organizations in our community that share our vision.

Historic Elmira continually seeks opportunities to better the community. In 2015 Historic Elmira successfully collaborated with the Near Westside Neighborhood Association to assist them in obtaining a grant of $333,910 from the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to allow the stabilization of 359 West Church Street, the Richardson-Kennedy House (formerly known as the Ritz Carriage House) to make it marketable for a developer. Most recently, Historic Elmira successfully raised and contributed the full amount of the required 25% match for the nearly half million dollar project.

Historic Elmira also continues their advocacy of Historic Tax Credits to help homeowners and business owners take advantage of tax credits for the repairs of older buildings.

We operate on a voluntary basis, without paid staff. Expenses and the work done to support its mission are the responsibility of the members of its board of trustees and other volunteers. Historic Elmira is not a funding agency. However, we will help guide individuals and organizations to funding sources.