

A Year in Review at J. Ralph Ingalls

December 28, 2025

About this time last year, the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society (NVHS) invited the community to share ideas for the J. Ralph Ingalls building on Church Street in the hamlet of Maine through an online survey. We're excited to share an update on the progress made over the past year.

Getting Started

NVHS took ownership of the building in early 2023. Our first year focused on cleaning, organizing, and preparing the space for community use. We held a large rummage sale, several book sales, and a few small events to reintroduce the building to the community. In spring 2024, major upgrades took place—most notably, replacing all lights with energy-efficient LEDs and giving the gym a much-needed refresh with new paint and repairs.



Rummage/book sale (before new lighting and paint).



Antique Show (after LED lighting and paint).

2025: Progress and Perseverance

Highlights



This year brought both exciting accomplishments and a few ongoing challenges. One classroom became home to arts and crafts classes, including glass-making fundraisers hosted by Jablon Studios. The gym buzzed with events: an antique tool auction, a kids' music camp ending in a community performance, a dance recital, participation in the Broome County Art Trail with sidewalk chalk artists, a Dinner & Show Gala, an Antique Show & Sale, and the Town of Maine Recreation Christmas gathering. The building also hosted several private gatherings—birthday parties, a baby shower, and even served as a backdrop for professional and family photos, including Maine-Endwell Homecoming photo opportunities.



Project Updates

Our most significant milestone this year was completing Phase 1 of the gas service project—connecting the NYSEG gas line to the building. We also now have hot water in both downstairs restrooms.

As we head into the New Year, we still don't have heat inside. The gas is connected, but the heating units require additional servicing before use. As a result, the building will be closed for events through the winter, reopening in spring 2026.

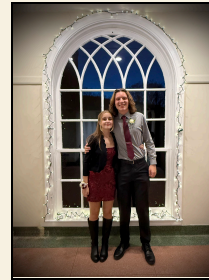
Exterior painting was also delayed. Most trim and window work will move to next year, though the large arched windows on the second floor were completed—and now make a beautiful photo backdrop!

Looking Ahead—Ongoing Work and Volunteer Needs

We still have some clutter and organization to tackle throughout the building, as well as painting some interior and exterior surfaces. Many of you offered to help through last year's survey, and we hope to reconnect with you soon as we plan for another productive year. Your time and support make all the difference in keeping this historic building alive and active.

As interest in the building and space grows, we are continuing to work on the organization of operations and the building's function within the community.

Thank you to everyone who attended events, volunteered, donated, or simply encouraged us along the way. With your continued help and support, we'll keep turning this beautiful, historic building into a lively hub for our community! For updates, check Nanticoke Valley Historical Society's facebook page and website.



St. Patrick's Day



July 4th-Independence Day



Maine-Endwell Homecoming Photos



Halloween-Trick-or-Treating!



Hanukkah & Christmas Season