



WISELY INVESTING IN HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Eagles Mere Museum



The Eagles Mere Museum Project correlates to EMHR's management action plan for historical development and regional education and interpretation.

Who's Doing It?

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc. (EMHR) represents the four-county region of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and provides historical, cultural, environmental, and recreational programming and activities that preserve, protect, enhance and promote the region's heritage. EMHR teamed up with Eagles Mere Borough residents and museum supporters to establish the Eagles Mere Museum.

What Are They Doing So Well?

In conjunction with an extensive network of supporters, EMHR facilitated the expansion of a small community archives into the first-class, high-quality Eagles Mere Museum. Hundreds of volunteers worked on the project, conducting capital campaigns, selecting consultants and designers, and administering the new facility.

Who Are Their Partners?

Eagles Mere Museum and EMHR maintain strong partnerships with local preservation groups, local municipal organizations such as Eagles Mere Borough Council, historical societies from East Lycoming County and Sullivan and Montgomery counties, the Sullivan County Commissioners, and the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau.

How Does This Work?

EMHR was fortunate to have a number of relevant professionals residing in the region who happily devoted their volunteer time and effort to the project. Of special note were the members who conducted the Capital Campaign for the project, who easily exceeded their initial goals for the campaign. Volunteer experts also assisted with strategic planning, grant writing, solicitations and networking.

Where Does This Fit With The Goals?

The Eagles Mere Museum Project correlates to EMHR's management action plan for historical development and regional education and interpretation. The new facility provides public education, preserves historical artifacts and cultures, enhances community and economic development, and promotes recreational and tourism promotion in the region.



**ENDLESS MOUNTAINS
HERITAGE REGION**
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THIS PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Type of Project:

Museum – Investing in Heritage Preservation

Cost of Project:

\$450,000+

Funding Provided by:

- Borough of Eagles Mere
- EMHR Grant
- Merchant lease revenues
- Capital Campaign
- Memberships
- Endowments

Timeframe of Project:

Approximately four years from grant applications in 2003 through final project completion in August of 2007.



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What Did It Cost, and Who Paid?

EMHR partnered with local residents on a highly successful capital campaign, which ultimately raised in excess of \$450,000 to purchase, renovate and adapt an historic borough building into the new Museum facility. The Museum has formal ties to the Borough of Eagles Mere and a supporting foundation, and is realizing sustainable funding through merchant lease revenues, memberships, endowments and other sources. The museum itself is free to the public.

What Are The Outcomes?

Eagles Mere Museum is a classic case study in the power of ordinary citizens, who by volunteering their time, money and labors can achieve big goals. From a small group of dedicated volunteers grew an army of supporters from every walk of life, all bound together in common purpose. The project thusly engendered greater community engagement and civic pride while also promoting education, historic preservation, tourism promotion and economic development. The Museum boasts hundreds of visitors a week, and has an economic impact upon its host community of nearly a quarter-million dollars annually.

Any Advice?

The key to the success of the Eagles Mere Museum project was its people. A dedicated, intelligent and egoless core group evolved into a tightly-knit and run organization that exceeded everyone's expectations. -The volunteers, from every walk of life, fostered strong community partnerships that continue to bear fruit to this day. Having local people who are familiar with the area serve as key coordinators ensures historical accuracy and imbues a passion that is readily embraced by others. Their enthusiasm was manifested throughout the project, from design and strategic planning to fundraising and final build-out of the new Museum.

For More Information:

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The recently completed Eagles Mere Museum.