

## Gordon Hall preservation effort gets big boost

Posted by [Special Writer Lisa Allmendinger](#) July 18, 2007 06:12AM

Categories: [Breaking News](#)



Efforts to save Gordon

Hall got a big financial boost with a \$300,000 from United Methodist Retirement Communities.

The Dexter Area Historical Society got a large bump in its fundraising efforts to purchase a historic mansion and surrounding property.

The United Methodist Retirement Communities recently added \$300,000 to the pot, marking the group's largest monetary milestone since Gordon Hall was saved from the wrecking ball two years ago.

Paul Bishop, chairman of the Gordon Hall Management Committee, said the gift represents about 40 percent of the total \$1.5 million purchase price for the home and 47 acres.

"Since we purchased the property, this is the biggest milestone we've passed, and we're thrilled that UMRC committed to the project because it ensures our efforts in raising the other money is not in vain," Bishop said.

UMRC bought about 15 acres of the 67-acre property where Gordon Hall is located. UMRC plans to build The Cedars of Dexter, a senior housing community that will have about 60 individual units.

"This is the first major project in our second hundred years of service to the senior community," said John Thorhauer, president and CEO of UMRC.

Thorhauer said the retirement communities and historical society have worked together closely on the project to preserve the history of Gordon Hall.