



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

New Jersey's FY2023 budget includes \$500,000 to refurbish 19th century Fenwick Manor farmhouse in Pemberton Township

Historic landmark provides office space for Pinelands Commission staff

NEW LISBON, N.J. July 8, 2022 – New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes a \$500,000 appropriation to refurbish, stabilize and maintain Fenwick Manor, the historic 19th century farmhouse and longtime office of the Pinelands Commission.

"We are thrilled by the special appropriation, which will help to restore and maintain a Pinelands landmark that has deteriorated in recent years," said Susan R. Grogan, the Commission's Acting Executive Director. "We want to thank the Governor and the Legislature for setting aside these funds and recognizing the importance of refurbishing this historic treasure."

Director Grogan requested the funds, and she announced the appropriation during the agency's monthly meeting today.

Located on Springfield Road in the New Lisbon section of Pemberton Township, the Fenwick Manor farmhouse was built in the 1820s and is listed in the National and New Jersey State Register of Historic Places. The 3½-story structure is an early 19th century example of the architectural transition between Federal and Greek Revival styles, whose striking western façade uniquely reflects a mixture of these associated features. The farmhouse was home to some of the seminal entrepreneurs and innovators of the New Jersey Pinelands, including horticultural pioneer Elizabeth C. White, who was instrumental in cultivating the modern blueberry from local, wild species.

The property is owned by the State of New Jersey, and the Pinelands Commission has leased the farmhouse and Fenwick Manor site as office space for its professional staff since 1980.

Increased rainfall, humidity, and extreme and unpredictable weather associated with climate change has had a significant effect on the farmhouse. During the past decade, there has been an accelerated and pronounced deterioration of the building's painted exterior and exposed wooden features, as well as the development of significant interior structural cracks and water

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seepage in the building's cellar.

In early 2022, the Commission applied for a Historic Site Management Grant to the New Jersey Historic Trust to fund the preparation of a Preservation Plan for the farmhouse. The plan will be used to identify all areas of both interior and exterior concern, comprehensively document existing conditions at the site, and establish project priorities and funding needs for the resource for years to come.

The Fenwick Manor property contains several other buildings that house the Commission's staff, including the 12,500-square-foot Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education, and a carriage house and barn.

The Commission is charged with protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the 938,000-acre state Pinelands Area, which includes parts of 53 municipalities in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

***** ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** High-resolution photos of the Fenwick Manor farmhouse can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at Info@pinelands.nj.gov. This includes the images below.



Above: Paint continues to peel off the exterior of the historic Fenwick Manor farmhouse in Pemberton Township, NJ.

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Above: Peeling paint on the exterior of the historic Fenwick Manor farmhouse, which was built in the 1820s and has been leased by the Pinelands Commission as office space since 1980.

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