

## **Historic sites could get \$4M**

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**TRENTON** - Historic preservation in North Jersey could get a \$4 million boost if state grant recommendations announced Wednesday are confirmed.

The New Jersey Historic Trust pegged projects in six Bergen and Passaic County towns to receive the funding. But first the suggestions must be ratified by the Garden State Preservation Trust on March 11 and then gain final approval from the Legislature.

Seven projects in Edgewater, Mahwah, Oakland, Oradell, Wayne and Paterson are among 60 statewide that would receive a total of \$15.5 million.

"This is indicative of Governor Corzine's efforts to revitalize our state's economy," said Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Joseph Doria. "Not only will this action preserve these sites, but it will help spur economic growth by attracting tourism to these areas."

Among the largest awards was \$750,000 for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to use on the Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah. The conference would put the \$750,000 grant toward a \$3 million project to increase parking, rehabilitate and add onto the building so that it can be used as an office and education center. "This is going to help a lot," said William P. O'Hearn, conservation director. "It's a nice impetus for people to match that and jump in."

Edgewater stands to gain \$406,000 for its ongoing improvements to the 103-year-old Borough Hall building.

"It will certainly assist us in executing the project with much-needed funding in this economic climate we're in," said Gregory Franz, borough administrator.

The money would be used for phase two of renovations there – including adding decorative bricks and replacing windows and doors.

Also in Bergen County, Oakland could get \$40,000 for the Henry Van Allen House and Vygeborg Office. And the Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs was earmarked \$750,000 to stabilize the Hackensack Waterworks New Milford plant, which closed in the 1980s.

In Passaic County, grants were recommended for two projects in Paterson: \$180,000 for the Great Falls Power Plant and \$750,000 for the Rogers Locomotive Works Storage Building. And Wayne could see nearly \$620,000 from the state for the landmark Dey Mansion.

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