NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST

Special Initiative

Climate Resiliency

In the age of climate change, New Jersey's historic resources are under increased threat from stronger weather patterns that have caused high winds, widespread flooding, and even forest fires across the state. Yet, despite these threats, New Jersey's historic sites can endure if climate change is considered an essential part of stewardship and education. The New Jersey Historic Trust encourages applications that demonstrate efforts and/or initiatives that address climate resiliency projects.

The needs of sites with resiliency associations are as varied and numerous as the sites themselves, hence the goal of this initiative is to address those needs holistically using any of the activities eligible for the Preserve New Jersey grant program. To be considered for the special initiative, the scope of the proposed project needs to demonstrate efforts to plan for, adapt to, mitigate, or interpret the effects of climate change at a historic site.

Project Areas

- **Capital Investments:**
  - Physical preservation of historic resources that mitigate direct threats from weather events
  - Physical preservation of historic resources that aim to increase the life and durability of historic resources that otherwise would be vulnerable to weather events
- **Identification & Evaluation:**
  - New or revised nominations for the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, to bring sites currently under threat, or at risk of being threatened into the public eye
  - Architectural surveys, archaeological investigations, or other endeavors to identify new sites that may be or currently are threatened by climate change
  - Historic preservation ordinances, design guidelines, or elements of municipal master plans that empower communities to preserve and respond to climate change
- **Interpretation:**
  - Capital, historic site management, or heritage tourism projects which expand a site's interpretation within the context of climate change
- **Programming:**
  - Heritage tourism projects and feasibility studies that aim to promote sustainable tourism practices such as eco-friendly transportation, renewable power for signage/markers, and waste reduction

For more information, please contact the New Jersey Historic Trust at (609) 984-0473

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Examples

The following New Jersey sites have recently engaged in capital improvement, historic site management, or heritage tourism activities that embody resiliency and expand interpretations to include climate considerations:

Monmouth Boat Club

Van Liew Farmhouse

Millville Army Airfield Museum

Climate Adaptations:

- **Monmouth Boat Club, Red Bank, Monmouth County** - Constructed in 1885 with 1930s additions, Monmouth Boat Club is located along the Navesink River in Red Bank. The site's stewards received a 2025 Preserve NJ Capital Grant to repair the building's foundation and to elevate the building by 21" to account for more frequent and damaging flooding. Elevating the building, according to NJHPO *Elevation Design Guidelines for Historic Properties*, above the waterline will allow the historic resource to continue to serve its community for many generations to come while retaining its historic character.
- **Van Liew Farmhouse, Franklin Township, Somerset County** – Van Liew Farmhouse is one of oldest historic structures in Somerset County having been built in 1752. The Franklin Inn-Van Liew Homestead Association Inc. received a 2024 HSM grant to update their 2010 Historic Structures Report. Plans include a comprehensive building survey with a conditions report, revised drawings, feasibility study for lifting the house in place to mitigate flooding, code review, and an updated MEP/FP report to move all utilities to the attic.

Site Assessments:

- **Millville Army Airfield Museum, Millville, Cumberland County** – MAAFM received a 2024 HSM Planning grant for a Building Systems Analysis. The Building Systems Analysis Project will provide an objective, professional assessment of current security, fire, and HVAC systems in the historic buildings. The assessment report will identify needed improvements to help preserve and protect the historic buildings, as well as identifying additional climate risks and recommending energy saving measures.
- **Hackensack Water Company Complex, Weehawken Township, Hudson County** - The Hackensack Water Company, chartered in 1869, was one of New Jersey's first public water supply companies in the state. The 2024 HSM grant will help fund an update to a 2002 Historic Preservation Plan. The updated HPP includes among other components an environmental conditions assessment that will address moisture infiltration and elevated levels of moisture and humidity in the building.

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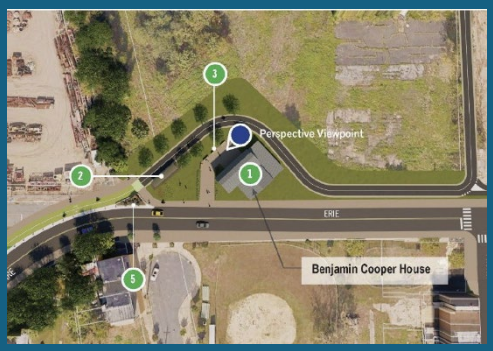
Hackensack Water Company

Cape May Historic District



Camden County Link Trail

Community Projects:

- **Cape May Historic District, Cape May, Cape May County** – The City of Cape May is the oldest seaside resort in the country and is now known for its collection of Victorian period homes. It is not only listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places but is also listed as a National Historic Landmark – the nation's highest preservation honor. In 2023, the City of Cape May published updated Historic Design Standards with financial support from the NJ State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. The Historic Design Standards now feature considerations for climate change including flood mitigation standards, resource relocation, and solar panel installation.

Promoting Tourism:

- **Rail Trail, Camden County** - The Camden County Link Trail is a planned 34-mile multi-use, off-road trail designed to serve as the "spine" for a County-wide trail network. In 2017, the County completed a feasibility study for this spine, known at that time as the Cross Camden County Trail. The result was a trail alignment that travels through seventeen municipalities from the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in Camden to the Gloucester County line in lower Winslow Township. Along the way, the trail specifically connects numerous heritage sites – not only promoting heritage tourism across county lines but also providing an eco-friendly way to access them.

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