

NEW JERSEY  
**HISTORIC  
TRUST**

ANNUAL REPORT  
2025



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## ABOUT HORN ANTENNA

The Horn Antenna is a National Historic Landmark listed individually on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The Horn Antenna, located on Crawford Hill in Holmdel Township, NJ was constructed in 1959 to support Project Echo, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's communications satellite project. It is significant for its association with the research work of two radio astronomers who worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories, Dr. Arno A. Penzias and Dr. Robert A. Wilson. In 1965, while using the Horn Antenna, Penzias and Wilson discovered the microwave background radiation that permeates the universe. Cosmologists quickly realized that Penzias and Wilson had made the most important discovery in modern astronomy since Edwin Hubble demonstrated in the 1920s that the universe was expanding. Their discovery provided evidence that confirmed George Gamow's and Abbe Georges Lemaitre's "Big Bang" theory of the creation of the universe and forever changed the science of cosmology (the study of the history of the universe) from a field for unlimited theoretical speculation into a subject disciplined by direct observation. In 1978, Penzias and Wilson received the Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery.

This site was also used for the testing and development of communication technologies by Bell Laboratories and their successor entities from 1929 until 2023. Known as Crawford Hill, its elevation (391 feet above sea level) and unobstructed views make it ideal for experimentation and discovery.

Holmdel Township acquired the property in early 2024 and dedicated it as Dr. Wilson Park, in honor of the Nobel Laureate who resides in Holmdel. Holmdel's purchase of the site was the result of the public's interest and in acknowledgement of the site's significance.

In 2025, Holmdel Township was awarded a Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund grant for the preparation of a Preservation Plan to help guide the Township in identifying what the most pressing needs of the site are and how best to address them. The ultimate goal of the Preservation Plan is to preserve and interpret the antenna and surrounding park for the public's benefit encompassing both educational and passive recreational uses.



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## MESSAGE FROM

# THE COMMISSIONER

Dear Friends and Supporters of Historic Preservation,

It is my honor to present the 2025 Annual Report of the New Jersey Historic Trust, highlighting the continued work to protect and promote our state's historic resources. New Jersey's history is reflected in communities across the state, and preserving these places remains essential to understanding who we are and where we are going.

In 2025, the Historic Trust advanced its mission through the Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund, supporting projects that restore and revitalize significant sites. These efforts strengthen neighborhoods, expand public access, and ensure that historic places remain active and relevant. The Discover NJ History License Plate Fund continues to provide critical support for preservation and education initiatives, while Journey Through Jersey connects residents and visitors to the stories and sites that define our state.

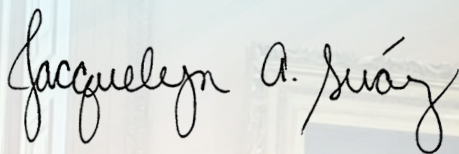
Together, these programs reflect a coordinated approach to preservation that not only protects historic resources but also supports local economies and community engagement.

As we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary this year, this work takes on added importance. Preserving Revolutionary-era sites and other historic landmarks ensures that future generations can experience the places where history happened and better understand the events that shaped our nation.

I thank the Trust's staff, board members, partners, and advocates for their continued dedication. Your work ensures that New Jersey's history remains visible, accessible, and meaningful.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to historic preservation.

Sincerely,



Jacquelyn A. Suárez  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs



# MESSAGE FROM THE TRUST

Hello

I am always surprised at how quickly the year passes, so I look forward to reflecting on this past year's accomplishments. The achievements illustrated in this annual report are due to the dedicated staff at the New Jersey Historic Trust along with the support from the Board of Trustees and DCA Commissioner Suárez and her staff. The Trust could not do what it does without their commitment. In 2025 we were pleased to welcome Nan Wakefield to the staff. Nan joined the Trust this past fall as a Historic Preservation Specialist and will be a great addition to an already great team. At the end of the year, we also offered Paula Lassiter our best wishes for her retirement. Paula served as the administrative assistant and secretary at the Trust for thirty-three years! While Paula will be sorely missed, we wish her nothing but the best on her well-earned retirement.

In June, the annual New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference was held in Burlington County. Day one of the two-day event kicked off with packed tours and workshops and concluded with a reception at the Burlington County Prison Museum in Mount Holly. Our featured speaker was Amy Bruni, a renowned paranormal investigator known for her work on the television series "Ghost Hunters" and "Kindred Spirits." She challenged the audience to think broadly about how to ethically engage with paranormal tourism at heritage sites. Day two of the conference was held at Rowan College at Burlington County and featured a wide array of sessions that explored everything from the importance of using sustainable materials in preservation to creating inclusive and accessible historic sites. The morning began with an enthusiastic welcome from DCA Chief of Staff Kia King followed by our keynote speaker, Elizabeth Waytkus, Executive Director of Docomomo US, who shared the importance of documenting, assessing historic significance, and preserving these often-overlooked modern resources.

In September, the Board of Trustees voted to fund over \$13 million in planning, capital, and heritage tourism grants. Through the constitutionally dedicated Preserve New Jersey Fund these grants will impact historic resources in nearly every county in the state. Unfortunately, we receive more grant requests than we can fulfil, however, we are grateful that these funds will be able to assist nearly seventy historic sites. During 2025 forty-eight Trust-funded projects with grant awards totaling nearly \$6 million were completed. Also, during this past year over \$3.3 million were reimbursed to grantees.

The New Jersey Historic Trust looks forward to serving the residents of, and visitors to, New Jersey by continuing to invest in New Jersey's past through our programs. As you look through this report and read about the Trust's activities, I hope you will make time in the coming year and experience some of New Jersey's wonderful historic sites in person.

Sincerely,



Glenn Ceponis  
Executive Director



# YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout the year, the New Jersey Historic Trust staff helps plan and supports educational workshops and conferences that reach history and historic preservation audiences. In 2025, the Trust participated in several events including the New Jersey Conference on Tourism, New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference, Middlesex County History Day, Archaeological Society of New Jersey Conference, and the Fourth Annual Washington's Landing. In addition, New Jersey Historic Trust staff and board members regularly attend events that celebrated a project's milestones, such as a ribbon cuttings or groundbreakings. This year, the Trust celebrated ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies at Washington Crossing State Park, Old Dutch Parsonage, Kalmia Club, the William Trent House, and Grover House.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference was held at the Burlington County Prison Museum on June 4 and Rowan College at Burlington County on June 5. It was an exciting two-day event that included two half-day workshops on immersive programming and working with the Historic Preservation Office; as well as tours of Mount Holly and Burlington City, and Quaker Meeting Houses. An opening reception at the Burlington County Prison Museum invited attendees to think broadly about the effective uses of paranormal programming at historic sites with remarks from Amy Bruni. The full-day conference included 14 classroom sessions and six lightning sessions; a dynamic keynote speaker; and a closing reception where the winners of the poster session, sponsored by the New Jersey Council for Humanities, were announced. The conference received generous financial support from over 35 sponsors, many of whom were showcased in the marketplace on the full day of the conference.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Historic Preservation Continuing Education Program at Rutgers University-Camden was launched in 2016 through a partnership between the New Jersey Historic Trust and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH). Designed for those who desire to gain a deeper understanding of the vocabulary and discipline of historic preservation, students learn from professionals working in the field to gain a more realistic perspective on how the tangible remains of our past can be integrated within current environments. In 2017, the program began offering a Certificate in Historic Preservation, and in 2025 the program presented two full semesters of courses. For more information, visit: [www.preservation.rutgers.edu](http://www.preservation.rutgers.edu).



## NEW FACES AT THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST

Nan Wakefield earned a BA in Philosophy from Swarthmore College, and a Master of Historic Preservation from the University of Kentucky, where her thesis examined a Berlin Wall memorial outside the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Since graduating, she has worked with Monument Lab in Philadelphia, and with the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom out of the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. She is interested in memory studies, cultural geography, marginalized histories, World War II and the Cold War. She grew up in New York City, and has previous work experience in documentaries, oral histories, film preservation, and cultural resource management.



*Washington's Landing annual event at Washington Crossing State Park*





## GRANT PROGRAMS

# COMPLETED PROJECTS

### PRESERVE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND COMPLETED PROJECTS

The Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund was established by legislation in 2016 to provide an annual source of matching grants from the state's corporate business tax for historic preservation projects. The Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund continues the work of the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund (2000-2012) and the Historic Preservation Bond Program (1990-1997). Since 1990, more than \$200 million in matching grants have been awarded to worthy historic preservation construction and planning projects throughout the state.

Four categories of grants are awarded through the program. Historic Site Management; Municipal, County, and Regional Planning; and Heritage Tourism Grants, up to \$75,000, help support planning exercises that promote effective management and interpretation at historic sites. Capital Preservation Grants, up to \$750,000, help support construction expenses related to the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic properties and associated architectural and engineering expenses. In 2025, over \$6 million was reimbursed for construction and planning activities. The following projects were successfully completed and closed out in 2025:





### Historic Site Management

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Award
Oradell Railroad Station	Borough of Oradell	Bergen	\$34,958
Fenwick Manor	New Jersey Pinelands Commission	Burlington	\$31,387
Roebing Historic District	Roebing Main Gate Museum [DBA: Roebing Museum]	Burlington	\$28,332
White Hill Mansion	Friends of White Hill Mansion	Burlington	\$35,131
John Holmes House	Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society	Cape May	\$7,014
Millville Army Air Field Historic District	Millville Army Air Field Museum Inc.	Cumberland	\$22,500
Van Riper House	Van Riper House, Inc.	Essex	\$64,080
Mountain Historic District (Van Vleck House & Gardens)	The Montclair Foundation	Essex	\$41,025
Hunter-Lawrence-Jessup House	Gloucester County Historical Society	Gloucester	\$26,929
Bayonne Truck (Hook and Ladder) House Number One	City of Bayonne	Hudson	\$22,500
Statue of Liberty National Monument, Ellis Island and Liberty Island	Save Ellis Island, Inc.	Hudson	\$63,750
Howell Living History Farm	Mercer County Park Commission	Mercer	\$46,937
Mercer Cemetery	City of Trenton	Mercer	\$50,000
Elks - BPOE Building (Carver Center YMCA)	Isles, Inc.	Mercer	\$50,000
William Green House	College of New Jersey	Mercer	\$47,775
Dempsey Pump House	Township of Middletown	Monmouth	\$15,000
Beach Haven Historic District	Long Beach Island Historical Association	Ocean	\$25,181
Morris Canal	Friends of Passaic County Parks, Inc (FOPCP)	Passaic	\$50,000
Plainfield Masonic Temple	Jerusalem Lodge No. 26 F & AM	Union	\$45,000
Nathaniel Drake House	Historical Society of Plainfield	Union	\$14,025



### Historic Site Management for Heritage Tourism

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Award
Whitesbog Historic District	Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Inc.	Burlington	\$30,000
Camden City Hall	City of Camden	Camden	\$50,000
Millville Army Air Field Historic District	Millville Army Air Field Museum	Cumberland	\$8,163
Greenwich Historic District	South Mountain TheaterWorks, Inc. d/b/a South Mountain TV	Cumberland	\$75,000
William Trent House	Trent House Association	Mercer	\$37,403
Grover House	Navesink Maritime Heritage Association	Monmouth	\$22,291
Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church	Millstone Township	Monmouth	\$50,000
Dey Mansion	Passaic County	Passaic	\$19,443
Caldwell Parsonage	Union Township Historical Society	Union	\$65,250



*Whitesbog Historic District*

### Level I Capital Preservation Grants

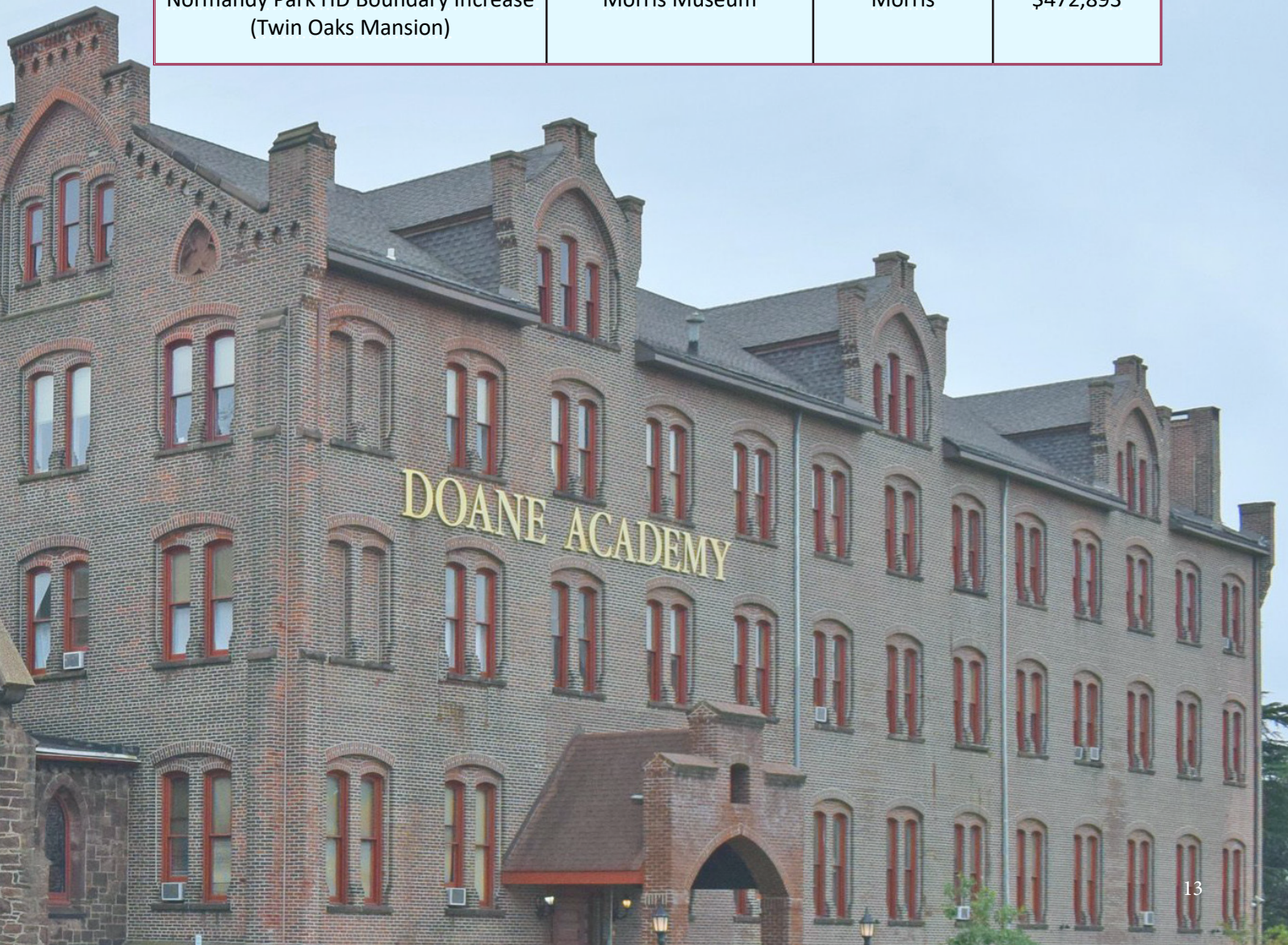
Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Award
St. Mary's Hall (Doane Academy)	Doane Academy	Burlington	\$114,628
Bordentown Historic District (Clara Barton School)	Bordentown Historical Society	Burlington	\$109,034
Red Dragon Canoe Club	The Shipman Mansion Foundation, Inc.	Burlington	\$125,700
Christoffel Vought Farmstead	1759 Vought House, Inc.	Hunterdon	\$15,000
Isaac Pearson House	Historical Society of Hamilton Township, Inc.	Mercer	\$126,531
German Valley Historic District	Washington Township Land trust of Morris County	Morris	\$31,064
Peters Valley Historic District	Peters Valley School of Craft	Sussex	\$51,150
Merchants and Drovers Tavern	Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum	Union	\$150,000
Merchants and Drovers Tavern	Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum	Union	\$45,000
Boxwood Hall	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Union	\$128,140
Littell-Lord Farmstead	Township of Berkeley Heights	Union	\$60,000



*Bordentown Historic District (Clara Barton School)*

### Level II Capital Preservation Grants

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Award
Northside Institutional Historic District (Fire Dept. 4 and Drill School)	City of Atlantic City	Atlantic	\$750,000
John A. L. Zabriskie House	Village of Ridgewood	Bergen	\$499,166
Benjamin Cooper Ferry and Tavern	Camden County Historical Society	Camden	\$750,000
Cold Spring Grange Hall	HCSV Foundation	Cape May	\$156,266
Metlar House (Knapp House/Bodine House)	Township of Piscataway / The Fellowship for Metlar House	Middlesex	\$175,000
Shadow Lawn (Woodrow Wilson Hall)	Monmouth University	Monmouth	\$750,000
Ford-Faesch Manor House	Township of Rockaway	Morris	\$348,388
Normandy Park HD Boundary Increase (Twin Oaks Mansion)	Morris Museum	Morris	\$472,893



## GRANT PROGRAMS

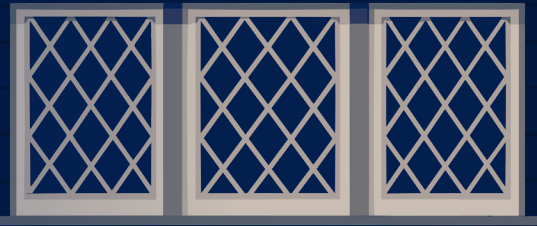
# AWARDED PROJECTS

### PRESERVE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND AWARDED PROJECTS

Historic Site Management (HSM); Municipal, County, and Regional Planning (MCRP); Heritage Tourism; Capital Level I, Level II, and Level III - Multiphase Grants

In 2025, the New Jersey Historic Trust awarded over \$13 million in matching grant funds to 67 preservation planning and capital projects across seventeen counties. Funded projects included National Register nominations, preservation plans, conditions assessments, design and construction documents, restoration, rehabilitation, and other projects that assist organizations in managing and stewarding their heritage buildings and sites. In addition to the 2025 Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund grant applications, the next phase of funding for two multiphase capital projects was allocated. The following grant awards were made in 2025:





<b>Historic Site Management (up to \$75,000)</b>				
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
The Friends of The Hermitage	The Hermitage (Waldwic Cottage)	Ho-Ho-Kus Borough	Bergen	\$75,000
Borough of Oradell	Oradell Railroad Station	Oradell Borough	Bergen	\$49,012
Roebing Main Gate Museum [DBA: Roebing Museum]	101 Second Avenue (Roebing Historic District)	Roebing (Florence Township)	Burlington	\$19,500
Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Inc.	Whitesbog Historic District	Pemberton Township (Brown Mills)	Burlington	\$21,712
Township of Willingboro	City Federal Savings and Loan Space Bank Futuro	Willingboro Township	Burlington	\$39,465
Saving Historic Moorestown	Thomas Cowperthwaite House	Moorestown Township	Burlington	\$57,188
Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities	Emlen Physick Estate (Cape May Historic District)	Cape May City	Cape May	\$65,347
East Lynne Theater Company	Allen AME Church (Cape May Historic District)	Cape May City	Cape May	\$39,863
Van Riper House, Inc.	Van Riper House	Nutley Township	Essex	\$37,980
Friends of the Howe House	369 Claremont Avenue (Mountain Historic District)	Montclair Township	Essex	\$37,875
Township of Montclair	647 Bloomfield Avenue (Montclair Central Business Historic District)	Montclair Township	Essex	\$46,875



*James Howe House*



*Dunham's Mill Parry's Mill  
(Clinton Historic District)*



*Kirch-Ford House*

### Historic Site Management (up to \$75,000)

Applicant	Project Name	Municipality	County	Recommended Award
Friends of Mount Pleasant, Inc.	Mount Pleasant Cemetery	Newark City	Essex	\$74,994
Bloomfield Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department	Collins House	Bloomfield Township	Essex	\$45,000
Hunterdon Art Museum	Dunham's Mill / Parry's Mill (Clinton Historic District)	Clinton Town	Hunterdon	\$54,701
Tewksbury Land Trust	Hollow Brook Preserve Bridge	Tewksbury Township	Hunterdon	\$13,073
Township of Hamilton	Isaac Pearson House	Hamilton Township	Mercer	\$44,983
League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund	204 W State Street (State House Historic District Boundary Increase)	Trenton City	Mercer	\$44,932
Township of Holmdel	Horn Antenna	Holmdel Township	Monmouth	\$74,930
Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms	Craftsman Farms	Morris Plains (Parsippany-Troy Hills Township)	Morris	\$75,000
Orchard Street Gatehouse Historical Association	Orchard Street Cemetery Gatehouse	Dover Town	Morris	\$13,140
Museum of Early Trades and Crafts	Madison Public Library and the James Building	Madison Borough	Morris	\$54,612
Township of Jefferson	George Chamberlain House	Jefferson Township	Morris	\$5,380
County of Passaic, Department of Cultural and Historic Affairs	Belle Vista (Lambert Castle)	Paterson City	Passaic	\$50,000
NJ State Park Service: Fort Mott State Park	Fort Mott and Finn's Point National Cemetery	Pennsville Township	Salem	\$75,000

### Historic Site Management (up to \$75,000)

Applicant	Project Name	Municipality	County	Recommended Award
Franklin Inn-Van Liew Homestead Association, Inc.	Van Liew Farmhouse	Somerset (Franklin Township)	Somerset	\$71,897
Township of Warren	Kirch-Ford House	Warren Township	Somerset	\$47,512
Bound Brook Borough	402 E High Street (Bound Brook Public Library)	Bound Brook Borough	Somerset	\$70,350
Historical Society of Plainfield	Nathaniel Drake House	Plainfield City	Union	\$16,725
Help Our Preservation Effort	Crusen House (Hope Historic District)	Hope Township	Warren	\$27,897
Help Our Preservation Effort	Cooper House (Hope Historic District)	Hope Township	Warren	\$26,847

### Municipal, County, and Regional Planning (up to \$75,000)

Applicant	Project Name	Municipality	County	Recommended Award
Borough of West Cape May	West Cape May Historic District	West Cape May Borough	Cape May	\$36,000
Township of Belleville	Reformed Dutch Church of the Second River	Belleville Township	Essex	\$26,250
County of Passaic	Dey Mansion	Wayne Township	Passaic	\$66,375

### Heritage Tourism (up to \$75,000)

Applicant	Project Name	Municipality	County	Recommended Award
Millville Army Air Field Museum	Millville Army Air Field Historic District	Millville City		\$7,125
EagleVision Productions, Inc.	Washington Crossing State Park	Titusville (Hopewell Township)	Mercer	\$25,000
Friends of Passaic County Parks, Inc.	Belle Vista (Lambert Castle)	Paterson City	Passaic	\$75,000



*Nathaniel Drake House*



*Millville Army Air Field Historic District*



*Hilltop Farm (Peters Valley Historic District)*



*Orchard Street Cemetery Gatehouse*

**Capital Level I (\$5,000 - \$150,000)**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>County</b>	
Roebing Main Gate Museum [DBA: Roebing Museum]	101 Second Avenue (Roebing Historic District)	Roebing (Florence Township)	Burlington	\$74,887
The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of New Jersey (NSCDA-NJ)	Old Schoolhouse	Mount Holly Township	Burlington	\$40,722
Community House of Moorestown	Moorestown Community House	Moorestown Township	Burlington	\$49,500
Gloucester Township	Hillman Hospital House (Gabreil Daveis Tavern)	Glendora (Gloucester Township)	Camden	\$150,000
Millville Army Air Field Museum	Millville Army Air Field Historic District	Millville City	Cumberland	\$67,692
Lambertville Historical Society	James Marshall House	Lambertville City	Hunterdon	\$42,332
Hunterdon Land Trust	Case-Dvoor Farmstead	Raritan Township	Hunterdon	\$30,000
Hamilton Township	Isaac Pearson House	Hamilton Township	Mercer	\$34,800
Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties	Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church	Millstone Township	Monmouth	\$30,000
Allentown Public Library Association, Inc.	First Baptist Church	Allentown Borough	Monmouth	\$50,052
Orchard Street Gatehouse Historical Association	Orchard Street Cemetery Gatehouse	Dover Town	Morris	\$150,000
Skylands Association	Skylands	Ringwood Borough	Passaic	\$150,000
Peters Valley School of Craft	Hilltop Farm (Peters Valley Historic District)	Layton (Sandyston Township)	Sussex	\$21,000
Liberty Hall Museum, Inc.	Liberty Hall (Governor William Livingston House)	Union Township	Union	\$89,995

**Capital Level II (\$150,001 - \$750,000)**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
City of Atlantic City	West Pavilion (Atlantic City Convention Hall)	Atlantic City	Atlantic	\$750,000
Camden County Historical Society	Benjamin Cooper Ferry and Tavern	Camden City	Camden	\$750,000
The Home Port Alliance for the USS New Jersey Inc	USS New Jersey (BB-62)	Camden City	Camden	\$750,000
Camden County	Ebenezer Hopkins House (Cooper River Park Historic District)	Haddon Township	Camden	\$334,837
Bayshore Center at Bivalve	A.J. Meerwald Schooner	Port Norris (Commercial Township)	Cumberland	\$164,000
Township of Maplewood	Woman's Club of Maplewood (Maplewood Village Historic District)	Maplewood Township	Essex	\$702,850
The Montclair Foundation	William D. Van Vleck House (Mountain Historic District)	Montclair Township	Essex	\$397,310
Bloomfield Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department	Oakes Estate	Bloomfield Township	Essex	\$435,660
Township of Weehawken	Hackensack Water Company Complex	Weehawken Township	Hudson	\$383,750
Tewksbury Library Association	31 Old Turnpike Road (Oldwick Historic District)	Tewksbury Township	Hunterdon	\$430,213
Washington Crossing Park Association, Inc.	Washington Crossing State Park	Titusville (Hopewell Township)	Mercer	\$324,459
Mercer County Improvement Authority	Old Eagle Tavern	Trenton City	Mercer	\$750,000
City of Perth Amboy	Perth Amboy Public Library	Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	\$750,000
Monmouth Boat Club	Monmouth Boat Club	Red Bank Borough	Monmouth	\$750,000
Little Falls Historical Society	Municipal Building (Little Falls Old Town Hall)	Little Falls Township	Passaic	\$472,885



*Monmouth Boat Club*



*Hackensack Water Company Complex*



*A. J. Meerwald*



*Old Eagle Tavern*



**Capital Level III: Multiphase (\$500,000 - \$750,000)**

Applicant	Project Name	Municipality	County	Recommended Award
Burlington County	Smithville Historic District (Revised Nomination)	Eastampton Township	Burlington	\$750,000
County of Passaic	Passaic County Courthouse Annex (Passaic County Court House, and United States Custom House and Post Office Historic District)	Paterson City	Passaic	\$750,000

**Miscellaneous**

Applicant	Project Name	Municipality	County	Recommended Award
Hunterdon Land Trust	Case Dvoor Farmstead	Raritan Township	Hunterdon	\$750,000
New Jersey Historic Trust	Emergency Intervention Fund	Trenton City	Mercer	\$100,000
County of Passaic	Passaic County Courthouse Annex (Passaic County Court House, and United States Custom House and Post Office Historic District)	Paterson City	Passaic	\$750,000



*Passaic County Courthouse Annex (Passaic County Court House, and United States Custom House and Post Office Historic District)*



GRANT PROGRAMS

# DISCOVER NJ HISTORY LICENSE I



# PLATE FUND

The Discover NJ History License Plate Fund provides grants (up to \$7,500) to develop and promote visitor-ready sites as heritage tourism destinations. The Fund was established at the recommendation of the 2010 Heritage Tourism Master Plan for New Jersey. Since 2012, 65 projects have been awarded for a total of \$282,150. The following grant awards were made in 2025:

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Award
Cape May Historic District	Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (Cape May MAC)	Cape May	\$7,500
Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society	Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society	Cumberland	\$4,500
Crane House and Historic YWCA	Montclair History Center	Essex	\$5,000
Washington Crossing State Park	Washington Crossing Park Association, Inc.	Mercer	\$4,000
Acorn Hall	Morris County Historical Society	Morris	\$5,000
Liberty Hall	Liberty Hall Museum	Union	\$7,500
Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum	Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum	Union	\$5,000

For a complete list of awarded projects, please visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dca/njht/programs/discover/>.

## DISCOVER NJ HISTORY LICENSE PLATE

Help us fund more projects by purchasing a Discover NJ History license plate today! It is easy to order your "Discover NJ History" license plate online from Motor Vehicle Services. The cost is a one-time fee of \$50 (or \$100 for personalized plates) and an annual \$10 renewal fee. Your purchase helps sustain the Discover NJ History License Plate Fund for Heritage Tourism. The greater number of license plate sales



and renewals, the more funding there is available for heritage tourism projects! Go online and visit, [preservenjhistory.com](http://preservenjhistory.com) for more information and to purchase a Discover NJ History license plate.



*Washington's Landing annual event at Washington Crossing State Park*



# JOURNEY THROUGH JERSEY



*Edelman Fossil Park and Museum*

In February of 2017, the New Jersey Historic Trust launched [journeythroughjersey.com](http://journeythroughjersey.com), the first website dedicated solely to promote heritage tourism in the state and to support and improve quality visitor experiences at the state's many and diverse historic sites. The development of the award-winning website arose from the needs identified in *Linking our Legacy to a New Vision: A Heritage Tourism Master Plan for New Jersey*, published by the Trust in 2010. This master plan documented the untapped potential for a robust heritage tourism sector and outlined the steps necessary to achieve that goal.

In 2025, the New Jersey Historic Trust continued implementing its comprehensive marketing plan to increase awareness of Journey Through Jersey. The plan included sponsored content articles and advertisements on NJ.com, full-page advertisements in *Jersey's Best* magazine, full-page advertisements in the *Star Ledger Digital Travel Guide*, and targeted social media posts. The marketing plan was very successful as traffic to the website grew by 229 per cent!

Journey Through Jersey was also a prominent sponsor of the 2025 New Jersey Conference on Tourism. Ten Journey Through Jersey partners benefited with paid admission through our conference sponsorship where they learned about marketing trends and how to position their site to attract new audiences.

Moreover, Journey Through Jersey continued to accept site nominations throughout the year. In 2025, nine historic sites were nominated and added to the Journey Through Jersey website representing a variety of themes identified in the 2010 master plan. New blog posts and travel itineraries were also added regularly that took visitors across the state exploring cranberry bogs, forgotten ghost towns and lost villages, the only remaining royal governor's mansion, revolutionary riverside retreats, NJ's literary legacy, the Edelman Fossil Museum and Park, and NJ film and television locations

We look forward to keeping the momentum going and to exciting developments in the year ahead!  
To plan your journey, visit [journeythroughjersey.com](http://journeythroughjersey.com) for more information.







*Historic Wicoff House Museum*



*Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey*

# EASEMENT HIGHLIGHT



*View from the 3rd floor window in the John C. Rulon House*

In 2023, the New Jersey Historic Trust began the process of acquiring a historic preservation easement on the John C. Rulon House located at 428 Kings Highway, Swedesboro. The John C. Rulon House was listed in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places on October 12, 2000, and in the National Register of Historic Places on October 22, 2000. The house is noteworthy for its Gothic Revival architecture and its association with John C. Rulon, who played a pivotal role in Swedesboro's development.

The John C. Rulon House is a two-story, double-pile, gabled-roof, brick Victorian Gothic style house originally constructed around 1814. John Rulon made significant contributions to the Victorian-era development of Swedesboro. Upon purchasing the house in 1881, Rulon established the bank by donating part of the land adjacent to his home for its construction. He was also one of the promoters and incorporators of the Swedesboro Electric Light, Heat, & Power Company. Additionally, he opened the Lake Park Cemetery and established the town's telephone system.

From the time of construction to the 1830s, ownership of the house changed several times, but the form remained the same until Dr. Charles Garrison acquired it in 1832. He resided in the house with his son, Dr. Joseph Garrison, for forty years. During their residency, Dr. Garrison made several enhancements to the property, including constructing a large addition that transformed it into a two-story home. This addition introduced a central hall, a dining room in the original section, and two parlors. It is thought that the dining room also functioned as an office, evidenced by the presence of a small marble and porcelain sink. John Rulon purchased the property from Garrison in 1881 and undertook extensive renovations. Rulon added a third section to form a rectangular floor plan and updated both the exterior and interior to reflect the Gothic Revival style.

In 1999, Albert C. and Edith A. Rohrman purchased the John C. Rulon House in order to protect it from development. To ensure the house would be preserved in perpetuity, Edith began the process of placing a historic preservation easement on the Rulon House in 2023, and willed the house to the Swedesboro-Woolwich Historical Society upon her passing. The Historical Society fulfilled Edith's wishes by recording the easement in 2025.

The Rulon House was sold following the easement recording to a preservation-minded private owner who will continue to preserve the John C. Rulon House in perpetuity.



*John C. Rulon House*





# ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST



## League of Municipalities

The New Jersey Historic Trust advances historic preservation for the benefit of the state's diverse population today and for its future generations. Through its education, tourism, stewardship, and financial investment programs, the Trust saves New Jersey's heritage and strengthens its communities.

In order to present a fuller understanding of our heritage, the New Jersey Historic Trust actively supports the discovery, preservation, and appreciation of the tangible remains of history that have been previously under-represented in the historical record.

The New Jersey Historic Trust seeks to achieve its mission by serving as:

- A leading voice for preservation at the state level,
- A catalyst for preservation and community revitalization activities,
- A full partner in state policy development,
- A technical and financial resource for the stewardship of historic properties.

# RIC TRUST

**The Trust also provides financial support, protection, and technical assistance through its programs:**

**The Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund** was established by legislation in 2016 to provide an annual source of matching grants from the state's corporate business tax for historic preservation projects. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and government entities. The Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund continues the work of the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund (2000-2012) and the Historic Preservation Bond Program (1990-1997). Since 1990, over \$200 million in matching grants has been awarded to worthy construction and planning historic preservation projects throughout the state.

**The Discover New Jersey Historic License Plate Fund for Heritage Tourism** provides grants up to \$5,000 to develop and promote visitor-ready sites as heritage tourism destinations.

**New Jersey Cultural Trust Capital Preservation Grants** protect and improve historic properties that are used by nonprofit organizations that have history, humanities and arts programming. Grants may fund projects for stabilization, repair, restoration, adaptive use, and increased accessibility. Funding is offered on a schedule provided by the New Jersey Cultural Trust, which also qualifies eligible organizations.

The New Jersey Historic Trust offers long-term, low-interest loans through the **Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund** for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of historic properties.

An **Emergency Grant and Loan Fund** has limited funds for critically needed work on endangered historic resources. Currently only loans are available.

**The Emergency Intervention Fund** was established in 2022 to address immediate stabilization needs of a historic resource following a natural or human-made disaster and/or to assist efforts when a resource is threatened by demolition.

**The Preservation Easement Program** ensures the preservation of privately-owned properties in perpetuity using deed restrictions. The Trust initiated the first statewide program of this kind, which enables easement donors to take advantage of charitable deduction tax benefits. In addition, the Trust can now acquire easements on special properties that meet certain criteria.

The New Jersey Historic Trust accepts donations of real estate through **New Jersey Legacies**. Property donors may realize significant income and estate tax benefits by their donations. Donated properties are resold by the Trust with protective easements to ensure their preservation.



*New Jersey Historic Trust Board of Trustees and Staff in the New Jersey State House Restored Rotunda*

# NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST

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## BOARD BIOS

### Jody Alessandrine, Cape May

Mr. Alessandrine, Jr., MPA is the Director & CEO of Cape May MAC. Jody previously held Executive Director positions for two Special Improvement Districts (State College, PA and Toms River, NJ) and was the inaugural Director of the former Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Center Foundation. His role before joining Cape May MAC was as Director of Land Protection for the New Jersey Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Jody is also a former municipal administrator and served as a thrice-elected city councilman in Ocean City, NJ (1998-2008). Jody also has experience in public education, as well as tourism and casino marketing.

### Lisa Easton, AIA, Hunterdon County

Ms. Easton has worked on the restoration of some of the New York Metropolitan Region's most noteworthy landmarks. She has developed a reputation in the historic preservation field as an expert architect, planner, and historian. Her work consists of commercial, institutional, and residential projects set within urban and sub-urban settings. She teaches, lectures, and serves on a variety of non-profit boards, promoting the integration of architecture and preservation.

### Janet W. Foster, Morris County

An architectural historian and historic preservation consultant, Janet W. Foster is a proponent of New Jersey and its vernacular architecture. She lectures and writes on the topic. She serves on the Madison Borough Historic Preservation Commission and on the NJ State Review Board.

### Deborah Marquis Kelly, Mercer County

Ms. Kelly is a former executive director of Preservation New Jersey and since 1996 has been an independent historic preservation consultant through her company, Preservation Partners. She is the co-author of the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail, the current secretary of the Chesterfield Township Historical Society, and immediate-past Chair of the Chesterfield Township Historic Preservation Commission.

### Peter Lindsay, PE, Sussex County

Mr. Lindsay has more than thirty-eight years of professional experience in engineering and holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology. Mr. Lindsay participated in the structural stabilization project of the Hamburg Presbyterian Church's 1868 sanctuary. He is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and several classic car clubs in addition to professional organizations.

### Kenneth A. Miller, Morris County

Mr. Miller is retired from the financial services industry, and serves in several volunteer positions, including treasurer of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township Foundation. He has been involved in preservation as a Commissioner and Chair of Morristown's Historic Preservation Commission, as well as restoring his private residence, a National Historic Landmark.

### Meme Omogbai, MBA, CPA, CGMA, Somerset County

Named one of 25 Influential Black Women in Business by The Network Journal in 2010, Ms. Omogbai has been a leader in the nonprofit, corporate, museum, and government sectors. As the first American of African descent named Board Chair of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), Ms. Omogbai co-authored its ground-breaking strategic plan, *The Spark*, and led the initiative to rebrand the AAM as a global alliance. As Co-Director, Interim CEO, COO, CFO and Trustee, she led a major transformation in operating performance at the 105-year-old Newark Museum.

### Chris Perks, PE, Camden County

Mr. Perks is a professional engineer and construction manager who has worked on many historic projects including comprehensive renovations of the Philadelphia Academy of Music, the Philadelphia Water Works, and fifty-three Philadelphia Free Library buildings, with fifteen historic Carnegie Libraries. He served on the Camden City Historic Preservation Commission and is the president of the Camden County Historical Society.

### Patricia Anne Salvatore, Cape May County

Ms. Salvatore founded, developed, and preserved/restored two history sites as nonprofit museums: Historic Cold Spring Village (where she currently serves as executive director) and Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum. She is a leader locally and regionally in promoting historic preservation, history education, and heritage tourism.

### Troy Joseph Simmons, Essex County

Troy Joseph Simmons is Principal and Owner of McPherson, Simmons Brothers & Sons LLC. In 2006, he was curator to *Form, Function & Faith*, an exhibition held at Seton Hall University, highlighting the Arts and Crafts movement and its influence on Roman Catholic ecclesiastical architecture in America. He is the co-author of “Guidelines Concerning the Handling of Ecclesiastical Patrimony,” a document that instructs church pastors and parish administrators in the proper handling of art and artifacts that are of historical value to the Archdiocese. Troy has published numerous articles and has lectured both in the United States and Canada on the topic of American ecclesiastical art and architecture.

### Linda Stender, Union County

Linda Stender served as the Mayor of Fanwood Borough from 1988 to 1995, a member of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1994 to 2001, and in the New Jersey General Assembly from 2002 to 2015, where she represented the 22nd legislative district. Ms. Stender now serves as the Director of Planning and Policy for the Union County Utilities Authority. As Councilwoman and then Mayor of Fanwood, Ms. Stender led the renovation of the Fanwood Community House/ Train Station building and helped protect the Farmhouse at Oak Ridge Park from demolition. As President of the Fanwood Junior Women’s Club, she led the fight to save the Fanwood Carriage House and its adaptive reuse as the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center.

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*Horn Antenna, Holmdel Township*