

Hunterdon Freeholders Approve NJ Historic Trust Grant For Historic Courthouse Improvements

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board, on February 18th, approved an agreement with the New Jersey Historic Trust for a \$747,000 grant, which the County will match, for restoration and renovations to the Courthouse complex.

Plans call for stabilizing the structure, which is the site of the 1935 Lindbergh baby kidnapping trial and is a major tourist attraction in the County. The project will include exterior upgrades, safety improvements to the steps and handrails, roof repairs, protection from weather, and energy saving windows, among other improvements. All rehabilitation work must meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation.

Freeholder John Lanza, liaison for the Cultural and Heritage Commission, stated, "The Courthouse, located prominently and dominating Flemington's Main Street, anchors the downtown business and historic district and is integral to the identity of Hunterdon County.

The Courthouse is a desirable location for the County and non-profit organizations to hold large meetings and special programs. Its raised portico is used several times a year for outdoor programs and street festivals that attract thousands of local and regional visitors to downtown Flemington, contributing to Hunterdon County's economy and stimulating local tourism. The scheduled work will stabilize and improve the building to better serve the needs of the County and groups who use it."

The last restoration work took place during the period 2000-2004.