

Historic Preservation Grants Aiding Tourism

Approved By Hunterdon Freeholder Board

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board, at the September 1st meeting, continued the County's commitment to historic preservation and tourism through the approval of four grants, funded by the County's Historic Preservation Fund, for projects listed in the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places in Flemington, Stockton and Kingwood Township.

Freeholder John E. Lanza, the Board's liaison for Planning and Land Use and the Cultural and Heritage Commission, said, "Historic preservation has financial, as well as cultural benefits. Studies have demonstrated that historic preservation creates positive economic benefits, particularly in tourism. Preservation advocates point to the preservation of structures and heritage for the attraction of visitors and investment."

Voter approval of past public referenda created a set aside from a portion of the County's Open Space Tax for historic preservation projects each year.

The grants recommended to the Freeholder Board by both the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) and the County's Cultural and Heritage Commission included:

John Prall House, Stockton, roof replacement, \$102,200; grant to the Delaware River Mill Society. This circa 1795 stone house was built along the Delaware River in the 1790s and the land behind the Prall House serves as public access to trails along the Wickecheoke Creek.

Case Dvoor Farm Bank Barn Grant, Flemington, structural repair and improvement to the Bank Barn, Flemington, \$112,415; grant to the Hunterdon Land Trust. The historic Dvoor Farm Barns are from the early 19th and 20th centuries.

White House, Kingwood Township, site work, structural repair and improvement, \$45,000; grant to Kingwood Township. The White House is part of 101 acres and is part of Kingwood Township's Farmland Preservation Plan and Horseshoe Bend Park.

Doric House, Flemington, front portico restoration, \$64,623; grant to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Constructed in 1845, the Doric House was designed by Mahlon Fisher, a popular carpenter and home builder in the Flemington area, known for Greek revival style design.

Freeholder Lanza added, "Preserving these historic structures, which capture the culture of Hunterdon County, provides a rich legacy of architecture to the county, encourages tourism, and increases the value of surrounding homes.

The Freeholder Board is grateful to POSAC and the Commission members for dedicating their time reviewing the proposed grant requests. Their volunteer positions contribute to the beautification of the county and improve the experience of all who live in and visit Hunterdon County."