

## **Five county sites in line for preservation money**

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**TRENTON** - The New Jersey Historic Trust recommended on Wednesday five Burlington County sites for historic preservation grants.

Sixty projects throughout the state comprise a list that will be presented to the Garden State Preservation Trust for ratification on March 11. The list then will move to the state legislature for approval before \$15.5 million in funding is distributed.

On the list is St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Beverly, with a recommended award of \$289,945. The 154-year-old landmark church has been undergoing restoration for several years. A multi-stage restoration plan outline in 2006 included reconstructing a lightning-damaged steeple and supporting tower, rebuilding the porch and repairing stained-glass windows.

The Warren Street church, which has received three grants since 2002 totaling almost \$112,000, is listed on the state and national historic place registries.

Other local sites recommended for awards are the Burlington County Historical Society in Burlington City (\$50,000), the 167-year-old Main Street Friends Meetinghouse in Medford (\$149,942), the Roebling Company's Kinkora Works in the Roebling section of Florence (\$50,000) and the Bishop-Irick Farmstead in Southampton (\$9,092), built in 1753 and home of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

The funds for this round of grants were allotted and project applications were submitted last year. The 2008 grants highlight urban resources, heritage tourism and projects not previously funded.

"The Historic Trust continues to make great strides in preserving New Jersey's culture and historic sites," said Joseph V. Doria Jr., commissioner of the state's Department of Community Affairs, in a written statement. "Not only will this action preserve these sites, but it will help spur economic growth by attracting tourism to these areas."

The New Jersey Historic Trust, an affiliate of the Department of Community Affairs, is responsible for administering grants from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The purpose of the fund is to promote historical preservation and encourage joint efforts by the public and private sectors. It funds projects for historical preservation throughout the state.

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