

Historic sites may get N.J. funding

Thursday, February 26, 2009

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Gloucester County Times (and Today's Sunbeam)

TRENTON - An historic landmark on a Revolutionary War site, a church that served as a stop on the underground railroad, and a county courthouse built in 1817 are among the local sites that could share part of \$15.5 million in state funding for preservation.

They were among the 60 projects recommended for funding Wednesday by the New Jersey Historic Trust. The list must still be ratified by the Garden State Preservation Trust and approved by the Legislature.

In Gloucester County, the trust recommended \$47,625 for the James and Ann Whitall House at Red Bank Battlefield in National Park. The grant would fund an updated conditions assessment and accessibility study at the house, which remains open to the public.

The Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church in Woolwich, once a stop on the underground railroad, could receive \$12,000 for a conditions assessment.

The old Salem County Courthouse could receive \$250,000 to fund part of a \$1 million project for accessibility updates to the structure, built in 1817.

An additional \$50,000 was recommended to assist in the development of the Alliance Heritage Center in Pittsgrove; and \$406,744 for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Moshe Bayuk House, also in the township.

Potential grant recipients in Cumberland County include Bivalve Shipping Sheds and Wharves in Commercial Township, set to receive \$750,000 for restoration activities at the site that once served as the centerpiece of the Maurice River and Delaware Bay oyster industry. The grant would help fund construction of office and educational space within historic shipping sheds.

The 1857 Millville Bank is slated to get \$29,767 for the preparation of a preservation plan and construction documents for roof restoration, as well as the design of a brochure and signage.

The list of proposed grant recipients will go before the Garden State Preservation Trust on March 11.

If ratified, and approved by the Legislature, the grants would come from the GSPT.

Another round of historic grants will be awarded this summer, according to Department of Community Affairs spokesman Chris Donnelly. He said the trust will then determine if any future rounds are possible.

Voters approved a \$200 million stop-gap measure for the GSPT in 2007. Nearly all of the money has been spent or allocated.

Gov. Jon S. Corzine has called for interim funding for the program, which would require approval by the legislature and passage of a bond referendum by voters.

Preservation advocates want a long-term funding source.

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