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Historic Preservation Bulletin

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection • Division of Parks & Forestry
Historic Preservation Office

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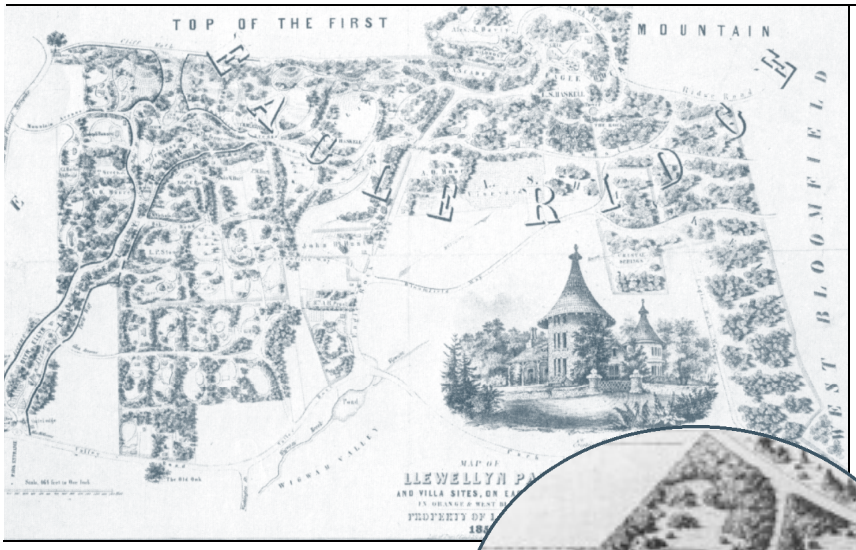
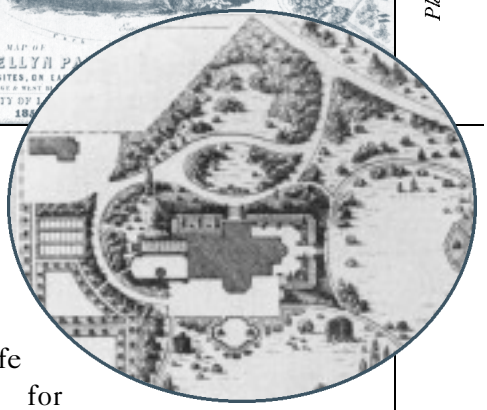
New Jersey Historic Preservation Plan

Vision, Goals & Actions





Plan and detail of Llewellyn Park, West Orange

The vision we have set for historic preservation is a bold one. It calls for historic preservation to play a major role in physical design, economic health, and quality of life in New Jersey communities for generations to come. While New Jersey has many preservation successes to be proud of, much work remains to be done to realize our vision. The following set of goals and actions are designed to build on our successes and carry preservation planning, activities and funding in New Jersey to a new level. These goals and actions were developed with the help of all of the individuals and organizations that participated in the planning process. They are meant as a starting point for historic preservation activity and can serve as a stimulus for other creative initiatives that may emerge to advance the vision and goals contained in this plan.

The Vision

The James Rose House & Garden, Ridgewood is the seminal work of James Rose, considered the founder of Modern American Landscape Architecture. It's recognition as a significant historic resource achieves Goal 3 by expanding understanding and appreciation of New Jersey's more recent history

New Jersey Partners for Preservation

offers a vision of **historic preservation as:**

Rehabilitated in the 1980's, the Trenton Cigar Factory is one of Trenton's most distinctive and popular apartment complexes in the city. It is an example of Goal 2 in its use of historic preservation as a catalyst to strengthen the local economy

a broad, inclusive movement that identifies and interprets sites and events associated with all people who have contributed to making New Jersey what it is today;

an essential tool for revitalizing our towns and cities and preserving our countryside;

an important source of jobs, income and tax revenues;

an important way to understand how diverse peoples and cultures have come together to create the society we know today; and

a source of identity and continuity as we move forward into the future.

It offers a vision of New Jersey as a place where effective public policies and sustainable funding support public-private partnerships to identify, restore and use the state's rich historic inheritance for the benefit of future generations.

A fragile and extraordinary maritime historic resource, the preservation of Grassy Sound presents a challenge and an opportunity to achieve Goal 1 in making historic preservation an integral part of local, regional & state planning.

Atlantic City Convention Hall

After restoration

Restored to its original grandeur using historic preservation tax incentives, Atlantic City Convention Hall represents the success of Goal 5, providing necessary financial incentives to preserve and reuse Historic properties.

Ellis Island

Efforts are currently underway to maintain, preserve and reuse components of Ellis Island not typically seen by tourists. This is one of the stated actions of Goal 4.

The following vision, goals and actions are excerpts from *New Jersey Partners for Preservation: A Blueprint for Building Historic Preservation into New Jersey's Future*. This soon to be published document is also referred to as the **New Jersey Historic Preservation Plan** and the goals cited will be in affect from 2002 to 2007.

New Jersey's historic houses, main streets, and neighborhoods are what give our state and its communities their special character. While we are coming to recognize the value of mixed use, pedestrian friendly environments when we design new communities, we often lose sight of the fact that these qualities have characterized our historic cities and towns for generations. The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, approved in March, 2001, lays the groundwork for the state and its municipalities to work together to build preservation values into the growth and development of New Jersey's communities. The State Plan calls for the identification, protection, and enhancement of historic, cultural, and scenic resources in existing cities and towns and encourages new town centers that emulate the most attractive features of traditional New Jersey towns. Citizens told us New Jersey should make integrating preservation into local and regional planning and decision-making one of our highest priorities.

Englewood

Photo courtesy of Peter Beronio.

Englewood's Main Street Program applies multiple historic preservation goals: making historic preservation an integral part of local planning (Goal 1); using historic preservation to strengthen the local economy (Goal 2); expanding the appreciation of historic resources (Goal 3); and providing financial resources and incentives (Goal 5).

Kings Highway Historic District

Contemporary view

Seeking the New Jersey & National Register of Historic Places designation of the King's Highway Historic District was a cooperative effort of Princeton Township & Borough, and Lawrence Township in Mercer County; Franklin Township in Somerset County; and South Brunswick Township in Middlesex County. It addresses NJHPP Goals 1, 3 & 5.

Goal 1

Make historic preservation an integral part of local and regional planning and decision-making to enhance the attractiveness and quality of life in New Jersey communities.

Actions:

1. Increase the number of municipal governments that have historic preservation elements in their master plans and preservation ordinances to implement those plans.
2. Continue to develop and update municipal and county historic resource surveys, giving priority to areas under major threat and where local governments have a strong partnership interest.
3. Increase the number of localities that participate in the Certified Local Government Program and continue to strengthen the effectiveness of that program.
4. Promote regional planning activities that incorporate historic preservation into broad regional planning goals.
5. Develop changes in the Municipal Land Use Law to ensure that municipalities have the tools necessary to preserve historic resources as part of the overall planning and development process.

Goal 2

Use historic preservation as a catalyst to strengthen New Jersey's state and local economies.

Actions:

1. Increase the number of communities participating in Main Street New Jersey to revitalize downtowns and urban neighborhood commercial areas.
2. Build on the state's wealth of heritage tourism opportunities, working with a wide range of partners at the local, state, and national levels.
3. Promote urban redevelopment approaches that respect and build on the historic character of existing buildings, neighborhoods, and commercial centers.
4. Increase awareness and use of the State's award-winning Rehabilitation Sub-code.
5. Sustain efforts to make historic preservation regulatory review processes as efficient as possible at the local and State levels to allow projects to move forward in a timely manner without sacrificing the integrity of preservation review processes.

Goal 3

Expand understanding and appreciation of history and historic preservation among New Jersey citizens, elected officials, students, and organizations across the state.

Actions:

1. Increase the visibility of historic preservation by highlighting success stories, attracting media attention to preservation issues, and increasing involvement in preservation related activities.
2. Promote expansion of interpretive activities at publicly and privately operated historic sites to tell a fuller story of New Jersey's rich and complex history.
3. Continue to build a statewide preservation non-profit network to strengthen advocacy and outreach across the state.
4. Provide conferences, workshops and training materials to help municipal officials, non-profits and local citizens carry out local preservation responsibilities.
5. Seek to have an historic preservation component included in the core curriculum standards and assessments mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education, and provide historic preservation curriculum materials for use by teachers and students.
6. Nurture the development of future preservation professionals.
7. Strengthen communication and cooperation among state-level history and preservation agencies and organizations to maximize effectiveness.

Goal 4

Become a national leader in stewardship of publicly owned historic and cultural resources.

Actions:

1. Develop an inventory of all state owned historic properties and strategies for the preservation and productive use of these properties.
2. Identify and protect publicly owned historic properties at the local level to keep them in productive use.
3. Stabilize and restore buildings on the New Jersey side of Ellis Island to complete the preservation and use of one of our nation's most important historic sites.
4. Develop public-private partnership models to show how historic properties acquired through the State's open space acquisition programs can be preserved, used or sold with permanent protections in place.

Goal 5

Provide the financial resources and incentives necessary to advance historic preservation in New Jersey.

Actions:

1. Expand all funding and use of economic incentives available in New Jersey to support historic preservation.
2. Develop state-level financial incentives to promote the rehabilitation of privately owned commercial and residential historic properties.
3. Encourage more local governments to adopt financial incentives to encourage preservation and rehabilitation of historic properties.
4. Allocate additional resources to develop a statewide inventory of historic resources that is integrated into the larger State Geographic Information System.
5. Expand support for preservation planning and technical assistance services at the local level.
6. Identify dedicated sources of revenue to support the stabilization, restoration, interpretation and re-use of state owned historic properties.
7. Identify a stable source of funding to support enhanced interpretation at privately owned historic sites.
8. Develop a legislative agenda on a biennial basis to advance the resource development and other portions of this plan that require legislative action.

SHPO Designated

Bradley M. Campbell, recently appointed Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, has also been designated by Governor James E. McGreevey as the **New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)**. Following his appointment as SHPO, Commissioner Campbell designated the following Deputy SHPOs: **Marc A. Matsil,** Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources, **Richard Barker,** Acting Director, Division of Parks & Forestry, **Dorothy P. Guzzo,** Administrator, Historic Preservation Office The State Historic Preservation Officer and the Historic Preservation Office are responsible for the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places; review of rehabilitation applications for Certified Historic Preservation Tax Incentives; administering the federal historic preservation fund matching grant; managing New Jersey's Certified Local Government program; developing a statewide historic preservation plan; assisting historic preservation activities; and seeking to avoid or minimize the affect public actions have on historic properties.

For more information on the background of Commissioner Bradley, please refer to the DEP web site at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/commissioner/bio.htm

Somerset County's Role In Historic Preservation

Written by Tom D'Amico

The Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission was established by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1983. Their number one priority was to conduct a survey of historic sites within the County in order to help to identify and preserve the County's historic resources. This task was achieved when the Somerset County Cultural Resource Survey was completed in 1990. The Survey was prepared by Resource and Archaeological Management with a grant administered by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. It evaluated over 4,840 sites in the County and determined that 565 sites were either eligible or possibly eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Twenty-three historic districts were identified as being eligible as well. The Survey contains architectural histories for each municipality and the County as a whole. It has proven to be the backbone of the County's preservation efforts and is being utilized as a valuable planning tool. It has been used by municipalities in establishing historic districts such as the 3,000 acre Six Mile Run Historic District in Franklin Township and by developers in preparing historic impact statements. It also has been used by planners in preparing master plans and when reviewing proposed developments in this rapidly growing County. The Survey was adopted by the County Planning Board as an element of the Somerset County Master Plan.

The Cultural and Heritage Commission also administers the Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant Program which was established in 1998 after approval by the voters of the county. Somerset County was the first to establish such a historic preservation bricks-and-mortar program. Funding may be provided to the County, municipalities and non-profit organizations whose purpose includes historic preservation. Eligible sites include those which are listed or eligible for the New Jersey Register or contribute to a district which is listed or eligible. Fundable activities include acquisition, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration and/or preservation of a historic site. Plans and reports related to the implementation of a historic preservation project as well as interpretive signs or plaques are eligible. Archaeological investigations, such as ongoing study of the Middlebrook Encampment, being conducted by the Somerset County Park Commission, are also eligible. All sites, which receive grants, must be open to the public and must be listed on the National Register if it has not been listed previously. A total of 33 projects, involving 26 historic sites, have been awarded $3,463,510 in the first three years of the program.

In addition to the preservation of the structures themselves, the Historic Preservation Grant Program contributed to an increase in the general knowledge of the County's historic resources, especially Dutch architecture. The preservation and restoration of Revolutionary War sites, such as the Abraham Staats House (Von Steuben's Headquarters) in South Bound Brook, will have a positive effect on the proposed Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and the proposed Washington-Rochambeau National Heritage Trail. Downtown development will be enhanced by improving cultural tourism attractions such as the Somerville Fire Museum.

The Cultural and Heritage Commission also administers a mini-grant program, which has been used to fund interpretive programs involving historic sites and maintains a small library of research materials and local histories. The Historic Preservation and History Awards Program recognizes outstanding historic preservation projects and history projects as well as individuals who have contributed to preservation and history. The Commission also provides assistance to other County Departments such as the Public Works Department and the Community Development Office concerning historic preservation issues.

The Cultural and Heritage Commission office is within the County Planning Board. The Planning Board provides staff for the Commission and plays a key role in preservation. County Planning initiatives, such as the Smart Growth Strategic Master Plan currently being developed, will incorporate historic resources into the planning process. In addition, all subdivisions and land developments are reviewed for impacts to historic resources. The ongoing effort to establish a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the County will include historic resources data that will provide, but is not limited to, geographic information and photographs of historic sites.

The Public Works Department maintains a number of historic resources including the Historic County Courthouse and numerous bridges. In cooperation with the Cultural and Heritage Commission, National Register Multiple Property listings for stone arch bridges and metal truss bridges were completed. A number of historic bridges have been restored and rehabilitated. The Somerset County Court House and the Lord Memorial Fountain, which was awarded a 2002 New Jersey Historic Preservation Award, have also been preserved and rehabilitated by the Public Works Department.

The Somerset County Park Commission has recently acquired a number of historic sites on open space. With assistance from the County's Historic Preservation Grant Program, these sites are being restored now. This includes historic Dutch farmsteads as well as a rare German fachwerk (half-timbered) barn in Warren Township. The recently adopted Somerset County Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan contains historic preservation goals and objectives for the Park Commission. The plan was adopted by the Park Commission and also by the County Planning Board. The Cultural and Heritage Commission and Park Commission will cooperate in the future in interpreting these important historic resources.

Somerset County remains committed to preserving and promoting historic sites. The County fully supports the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and the proposed Washington-Rochambeau Route National Heritage Trail. Both of these national heritage efforts will promote the County's Revolutionary War headquarters sites, battlefields and encampments as cultural tourism destinations. The Board of Chosen Freeholders have allocated $850,000 toward the Historic Preservation Grant Program for 2002. These efforts, along with the those of municipal governments, non-profit organizations and individual property owners, will help to ensure that our historic resources are preserved for future generations.

New e-mails

E-mail addresses for employees of the

Department of Environmental Protection

have changed. The new format is:

firstname.lastname@dep.state.nj.us

New Jersey & National Registers of Historic Places

Dr. John Wiley House, Middle Township

Reaville Historic District, East Amwell & Raritan Townships

Sacred Heart Church, Trenton City

The New Jersey & National Registers of Historic Places are the official listings of registered historic properties in the State. The National Register was established in 1966 and the New Jersey Register was created in 1970. Thirteen nominations were added either to the New Jersey Register or the National Register (*) since September 2001.

Cape May County

Dr. John Wiley House, Middle Township

Hunterdon County

* Reaville Historic District, East Amwell & Raritan Townships
* Historic Bridges of Tewksbury Township, Multiple Property Documentation Form
The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) nominates groups of related significant properties. This form serve as a basis for evaluating the National Register eligibility of related properties and it may be used to nominate thematically related historic properties simultaneously or to establish the registration requirements for properties that may be nominated in the future. Each resource is made on a National Register Registration Form and then together, the MPDF and individual from constitute a multiple property submission.
This MPDF is centered specifically in Tewksbury Township and includes the historic context and background of Tewksbury and transportation development and types of bridges within the township. The MPDF also sets forth the Registration requirements, detailing the characteristics that should be retained for Registration.

Mercer County

* Sacred Heart Church, Trenton City
This grand Romanesque Revival church played a vital role in the social and educational improvement of Trenton's working class families. While the parish itself is older, the current Sacred Heart Church was built in 1889 by the noted architect Patrick Keely. The complex contains five buildings: the church, the Rectory, also designed by Patrick Keely, the Catholic Club, designed by local Trenton architect William Poland, and the final buildings constructed in 1924, the Sacred Heart School and Monastery of St. Clare.

Middlesex County

* Roosevelt Hospital, Edison Township
* Livingston Homestead, Highland Park

Monmouth County

* Lauriston, Rumson Borough
  Set on landscaped grounds, this opulent country house was constructed in 1914 for New York financier Henry A. Caesar. Lauriston, named for Caesar's wife, was built during a time when wealthy Americans wished to have homes of leisure within commuting distance to New York City. While the original land has been subdivided, the remaining grounds still retain many of the original landscaped features and the impressive home retains a high degree of integrity; still intact are its elegant stairs, fireplaces, ceiling decorations and moldings.

* Camp Evans Historic District, Wall Township

Morris County

* New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad Station, Butler Borough

* U.S. Army Steam Locomotive No. 4039, Hanover Township
  Built in November 1942, No. 4039 was one of 80 commissioned for U.S. military service in Africa or Europe during WWII. However, the locomotive remained in the U.S. during its military career and after being decommissioned, the years that followed saw the locomotive serving in different locations with different purposes. No. 4039 is unique in the fact that it is from the original work order and is virtually the only one to have survived intact with its original appliances.

Somerset County

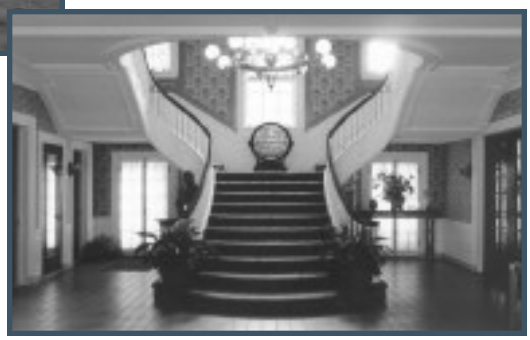
* Van Horne House, Bridgewater Township

Sussex County

Black Creek Site, Vernon Township
Archaeological evidence suggests that this site was utilized as early as 8000 BC (circa). Recovered artifacts have revealed important information concerning the production of stone tools and have shown the interaction between different cultural groups. It has produced evidence of the interaction between the Lenni Lenape and Europeans and is indicative of the demise and removal of the Lenni Lenape in the northern New Jersey region. This site is a valuable resource concerning the indigenous people of New Jersey and modern Lenni Lenape.

Roosevelt Hospital, Edison Township

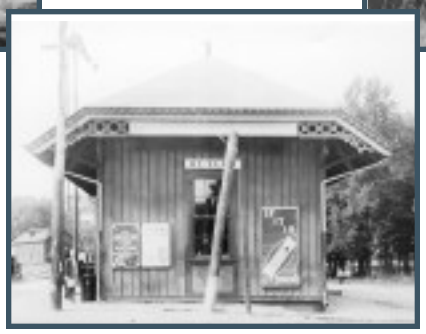
Livingston Homestead, Highland Park



Lauriston, Rumson Borough

Camp Evans Historic District, Wall township

U.S. Army Steam Locomotive No. 4039, Hanover Township



New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad Station, Butler Borough

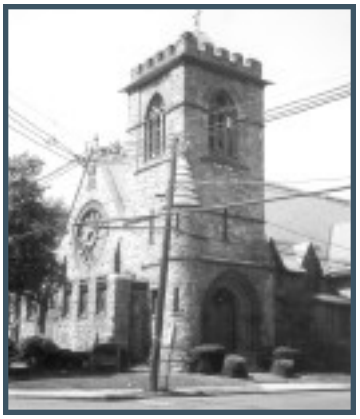
Union County

Grace Episcopal Church, Plainfield City

Warren County

* John Richey House, Franklin Township

Van Horne House, Bridgewater Township



Grace Episcopal Church, Plainfield City

John Richey House, Franklin Township

Photos provided courtesy James Rose Memorial Foundation, from Creative Gardens, 1958

Peter Beronio, Englewood Main Street

Tom D'Amico, Somerset County and the files of the Historic Preservation Office.

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