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New Jersey Historic Trust Launches Campaign to Preserve NJ's Heritage

Trenton, N.J., Sept 28, 2018—The New Jersey Historic Trust is launching a new state-wide campaign, “Revolutionize. Revitalize. Rediscover. NJ History,” to help save New Jersey’s history through sales of the *Discover NJ History* license plates.

The New Jersey Historic Trust plays a key role in preserving New Jersey history for future generations. The Trust has helped restore and preserve hundreds of historic locations in every county in the state. Unfortunately, many historic sites are still threatened.

Proceeds from sales of the *Discover NJ History* license plates are used to provide grants to communities and non-profit organizations to preserve the state’s historic sites.

“Every New Jerseyan can support the Trust’s important work by purchasing a *Discover NJ History* license plate,” said Dorothy Guzzo, executive director of the New Jersey Historic Trust. “Buying and displaying the license plate helps save New Jersey’s history, now.”

Just a few sites aided by the New Jersey Historic Trust include:

- The Hunterdon County Courthouse is best-known as the site of the 1934 “Trial of the Century,” where Bruno Richard Hauptmann was convicted for the abduction and murder of the son of aviation hero Charles Lindberg. Grants from the New Jersey Historic Trust helped restore the courthouse and attached jail to its appearance during the Lindberg trial era.
- A major Jersey shore attraction for over a century and a National Historic Landmark, Lucy the Margate Elephant stands six stories high and is visited by more than 25,000 people a year. Lucy required a great deal of work to ensure her continued survival. New Jersey Historic Trust grants helped fund exterior repairs and painting, including the “Howdah” mounted on her back that is used as the observation deck.
- The Dey Mansion, located in Wayne, served twice as George Washington’s headquarters. Washington advisors Alexander Hamilton and James McHenry stayed at the mansion with him. Here Washington gave command of West Point to infamous traitor Benedict Arnold. It has served as a museum since 1934. The New Jersey Historic Trust helped fund interior and exterior restoration.
- The Peter Mott House is the oldest known house in the community of Lawnside, which was founded as a free African-American settlement. It was almost demolished, but local efforts helped save it. It is now a museum that highlights the connections between the house, Lawnside, and the Underground Railroad. New Jersey Historic Trust grants helped fund exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation of the house.

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Another goal of this campaign is to support heritage tourism, a major reason visitors come to New Jersey.

About 11 million people visit New Jersey's historic sites each year, almost half from out-of-state, resulting in \$2.8 billion in spending, supporting almost 40,000 jobs and generating \$715 million in federal, state and local taxes.*

About the New Jersey Historic Trust

The Trust was created by law in 1967 to preserve New Jersey's historic resources for generations to come through education, stewardship and financial investment.

The Trust serves as a:

- Leading voice for historic preservation
- Catalyst for preservation and community revitalization
- Partner in developing state policy
- Technical and financial resource for stewardship of historic properties

You can learn more about The New Jersey Historic Trust, how to help save New Jersey's history and how to purchase the *Discover NJ History* license plate by visiting njht.org/preservenjhistory.

*Source: The Economic & Fiscal Impacts of Heritage Tourism in New Jersey

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