

New Jersey Historic Trust Awards Heritage Tourism Grants

Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society will use Grants to Develop and Promote Visitor-Ready Sites

TRENTON, N.J. – The New Jersey Historic Trust recently awarded two grants for heritage tourism projects from the “Discover NJ History” License Plate Fund. The Medford Historical Society will receive \$5,000 to develop a tour highlighting the life of Dr. James Still, a 19th century African-American physician, that will incorporate several historic sites related to Dr. Still and his family. Another \$5,000 grant will go to the Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society to help create a “passport” visitor program in which five historic sites will participate.

“The Historic Trust is pleased to fund these heritage tourism projects that encourage connections between sites,” said Dorothy P. Guzzo, executive director of the New Jersey Historic Trust. “New Jersey has a rich history and potential for creating visitor experiences that explore cultural, architectural and social themes.”

The License Plate Fund was established at the recommendation of the 2010 Heritage Tourism Master Plan for New Jersey. Since 2012, 14 projects have been awarded grants totaling \$48,185.

Successful projects include creation of wayside and interpretive signage, a smartphone app, a marketing guide for historic sites, and collaborative tour development. Successful grant projects will develop and promote visitor-ready sites as heritage tourism destinations. Eligible applicants include nonprofit, county, or municipal entities that may request up to \$5,000. The preferred method of application is an on-line form, and grants are awarded quarterly.

For more information visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dca/njht/touring/plan/>

The fund is supported by sales and renewals of the “Discover NJ History” license plate, which is available as a “dedicated plate” from the Motor Vehicle Commission. Plates may be also ordered from dealerships at the time of automobile purchase, or during on-line or in-person registration renewal.

Established in 1967, the New Jersey Historic Trust is the only nonprofit historic preservation organization in New Jersey created by state law. The Trust, a DCA affiliate, advances historic preservation in New Jersey for the benefit of future generations through education, stewardship and financial investment programs that save our heritage and strengthen our communities. For more information, visit: www.njht.org