



NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

Past Matters

May 2024

The New Jersey Historical Commission proudly presents *Past Matters*, a monthly newsletter specifically written for New Jersey's state legislators.

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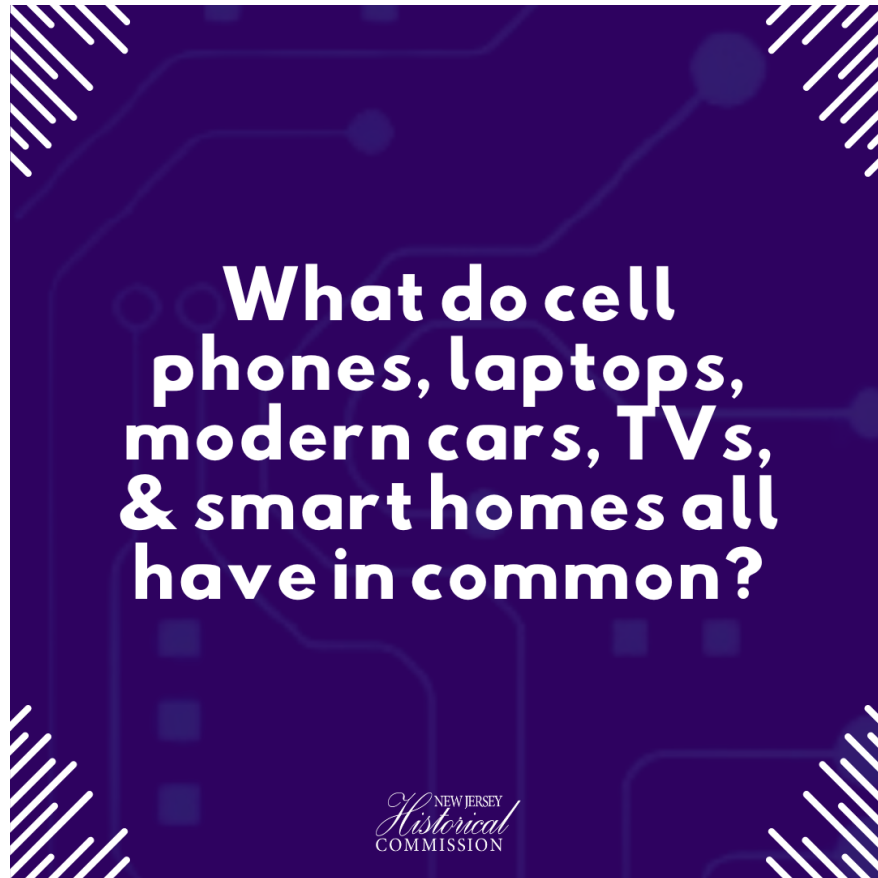
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Share New Jersey History

Below you will find drafted text and graphics about New Jersey's history that you can simply copy and paste to your social media accounts.

This month our suggested post uplifts New Jersey researchers and the invention of the transistor.



Suggested Copy:

Our modern age of computers was made possible by New Jersey researchers.

In 1947, John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley invented the world's first transistor at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, NJ. These tiny devices amplify signals in computers and control the electrical current in electronics. Their small size and powerful abilities allowed for the miniaturization of the computers that run our modern world.

For their work, Bardeen, Brattain, and Shockley won the Noble Prize in 1956. This was one of seven Noble Prizes won by Bell Lab researchers.

To learn more about the impact of New Jersey inventors, visit history.nj.gov.

If you have any questions about the post, would like to look at our sources, or are interested in learning more about the topic, we are happy to assist! Please send an email with your questions to Rachel Thimke at rachel.thimke@sos.nj.gov.



NJHC Grantee Spotlight

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
Madison, New Jersey



Photo Credit: Journey Through Jersey

The Museum of Early Trades and Crafts (METC) is a history museum working to tell the stories of the people who lived and worked in New Jersey from the colonial era through the age of industrialization. Its exhibits explore and interpret the history and culture of the past, helping visitors understand how it impacts their lives today.

During the 2024 fiscal year, the METC received \$66,300 from the New Jersey Historical Commission as a General Operating Support (GOS) grant. With NJHC support, the METC was able to hire a second museum educator. This allowed the museum to not only update their curriculum materials, but also offer more school tours during peak hours. Since hiring their second educator, the numbers of students who have visited the museum has consistently increased, and METC is now hosting more students in 2024 than they did pre-pandemic.

The GOS program is one important way the NJHC supports history in New Jersey. From FY 2024 to FY 2025, the number of applications for GOS grants doubled. We believe that this is due in part to historic sites preparing for increased visitation during America's 250th in 2026. We are proud to support New Jersey's heritage tourism industry through this critical grant program.

Museum of Early Trades &
Crafts

About New Jersey Historical Commission Grant Programs:

One of the many ways we fulfill our mission of sharing and preserving New Jersey's history is through an active grant program. Grant-making has been an integral part of the NJHC's activities for over fifty years. From its inception, Project Grants, followed by GOS and later CHPP

grants, enable the NJHC to strengthen New Jersey history organizations and activities statewide.

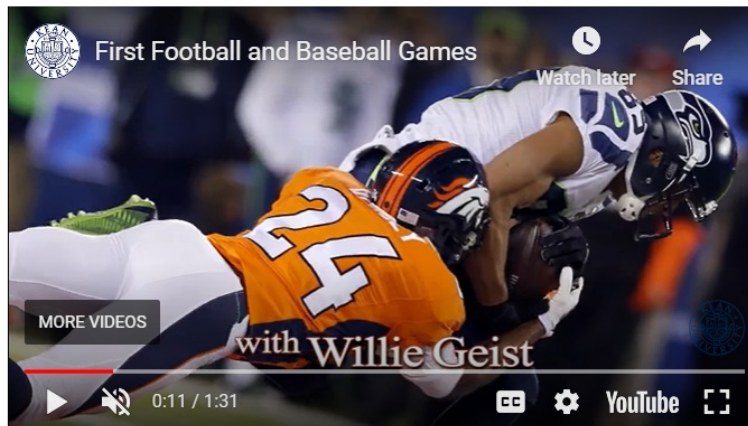
NJHC Grant Opportunities



NJHC Resource Spotlight

NJHC Resource Spotlight *It Happened Here: New Jersey*

First Football and Baseball Games



The first modern games of football and baseball were both played in New Jersey. Princeton and Rutgers students played a game of football in 1896, and the Knickerbockers played at Elysian Fields in Hoboken in 1846.

[First NJ Games Video Credits](#)

[Series Credits](#)

In collaboration with Kean University, the New Jersey Historical Commission offers the *It Happened Here: New Jersey* video archive.

These 32 short videos highlight important figures and moments throughout 300 years of New Jersey's history. Each video is accompanied with educational resources for educators including suggested classroom activities.

It Happened Here Video Archive



Upcoming Events

Juneteenth County Funding Sessions from the NJHC African American History Program

FUNDING HISTORY PROJECTS IN NEW JERSEY

JUNETEENTH 2024



NEW JERSEY
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APPLY for a grant for your history project from your local County History Partnership Program (CHPP).

MONDAY, JUNE 3
11:00AM - 12:30PM
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY | ZOOM

TUESDAY, JUNE 4
2:00PM - 3:30PM
CENTRAL NEW JERSEY | ZOOM

THURSDAY, JUNE 20
10:30AM - 12:00PM
SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY | ZOOM

FRIDAY, JUNE 27
6:30PM - 7:30PM | ZOOM

REGISTER FOR ZOOM MEETINGS AT:
WWW.LINKTR.EE/NJHC

New Jersey Historical Commission's (NJHC) African American History Program is pleased to present three opportunities for historical organizations and public historians to meet with the cultural and heritage office in their county. All are welcomed!

June 3, 2024 11:00 - 12:30, Northern Region

Participating Counties: Essex, Union, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Warren, and Morris

<https://bit.ly/northerncounties>

June 4, 2024 2:00 - 3:30, Central Region

Participating Counties: Middlesex, Mercer, Somerset, and Hunterdon
<https://bit.ly/centralcounties>

June 20, 2024 10:30 - 12:00, Southern Region

Participating Counties: Cumberland, Burlington, Salem, Cape May,
Ocean, Atlantic, and Gloucester
<https://bit.ly/southerncounties>

June 27, 2024 6:30 - 7:30pm

Funding Your Black History Program
<https://bit.ly/bhfunding>

Please note that Sussex, Monmouth, and Camden counties are unable to attend, but interested parties are invited to reach out to their county representative at anytime.

Explore New Jersey & Discover the Past with History Pinned!



For the fourth annual Civic Season, RevolutionNJ has teamed up with five historic sites with connections to New Jersey's civic history to launch History Pinned!

From June 1st - July 31st, each of these sites will hand out unique

History Pinned buttons highlighting different civic superpowers. Visit each site to collect all five buttons and win a special History Hero badge!

History Pinned 2024 Sites:

- [Alice Paul Institute](#)
- [American Labor Museum](#)
- [Hoboken Historical Museum](#)
- [New Jersey State Museum](#)
- [T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center](#)

Unfamiliar with Civic Season? Civic Season is a new tradition for self-discovery and civic upskilling, co-created by Gen Z and cultural institutions. Learn more at <https://www.thecivicseason.com/>.

History Pinned



In Other News

Press Release: First Sites Selected for the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail



Pictured Left to Right - Dr. Synatra Smith, Project Manager, Black Heritage Trail, Noelle Lorraine Williams, Director, African American History Program and Black Heritage Trail and Greg Odey, Assistant Project Manager, Black Heritage Trail work in the new offices Trenton.

TRENTON, NJ - The New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) has selected 32 sites to receive markers for the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail.

Signed into law by Governor Murphy on September 7, 2022, the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail legislation calls for the NJHC to establish a Black Heritage Trail that will “highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connects the stories of Black life and resiliency.”

“The Black Heritage Trail will serve an important role in connecting our state’s residents and visitors with the complex histories of African Americans in New Jersey,” commented Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way. “We have a responsibility to make all of our histories visible, and I am proud to oversee the New Jersey Historical Commission and its work uplifting these aspects of the American story.”

In March, the NJHC Black Heritage Trail team received over 60 responses to their first call for nominations. After passing eligibility and historical accuracy reviews, 32 sites were brought before the New Jersey Historical Commission at their public meeting on April 19th. All of the recommended sites were approved in a unanimous decision.

[Full Press Release](#)

Historical Briefing: Open Public Records Act

Earlier this month In May 2024, A4045/S2930 was adopted by the New Jersey Legislature, implementing changes to the public process of requesting and accessing government records across the state.

To help provide context for this legislation, our intern, Erica Fugger from the Eagleton Institute of Politics, has compiled a concise briefing reviewing the history of open public record laws across the country and in New Jersey.

[Read The Briefing](#)

NJHC Award Nominations Next Deadline: June 3, 2024

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2024 AWARD NOMINATIONS

6/3

ALFRED E. DRISCOLL PRIZE

A prize of \$1,000 given every year to the author of an outstanding doctoral dissertation in New Jersey history

6/3

RICHARD J. HUGHES AWARD

An award recognizing outstanding lifetime achievement in the field of New Jersey history.

6/3

AWARDS OF RECOGNITION

Several awards are given every year to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to New Jersey History

9/17

MILDRED BARRY GARVIN PRIZE

A prize of \$1,000 given every year to a New Jersey teacher, guidance counselor, or school librarian for outstanding teaching of Black American history

More information at bit.ly/NJHCAwards

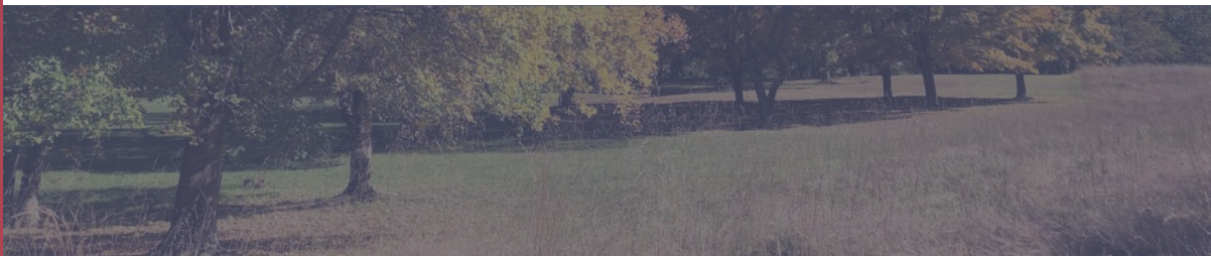
Do you know of an individual or a historical organization in your district that is doing great work with New Jersey history? Consider nominating them for an NJHC award!

The NJHC annual awards program uplifts excellence in the field of New Jersey history through research, preservation, curation, community engagement, public service, teaching, and advocacy.

Nominations for the Alfred Driscoll Prize, Richard J. Hughes Award, and Awards of Recognition will be accepted through Friday, June 3rd. Nominations for the Mildred Barry Garvin Prize will be accepted through September 17th.

To learn more and submit a nomination visit our [Awards and Prizes](#) page.

Submit A Nomination



Within the New Jersey Department of State, the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) is a state agency dedicated to the advancement of public knowledge and preservation of New Jersey history. Established by law in 1967, its work is founded on the fundamental belief that an understanding of our shared heritage is essential to sustaining a cohesive and robust democracy.



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