

NJ Historic Trust 2002 Annual Report





On the cover: Paterson City Hall, Essex County. Above: before, during and after restoration, Carpenter School, Woodbury City, Gloucester County.

The New Jersey Historic Trust

The New Jersey Historic Trust was established in 1967 by the State Legislature as a nonprofit organization. The Trust provides financial support, protection and technical assistance through five programs:

The **Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program** awards matching grants to capital preservation and planning efforts. This fund continues the pioneering work of the Historic Preservation Bond Program (1987-1997), which provided more than \$52 million in matching grants to 182 projects, 30 of which are still active.

The **Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund Program** provides long-term, low-interest loans for acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of historic properties. The last loan recipient was St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark.

The **Emergency Grant and Loan Fund Program** provides limited money for critical stabilization work on endangered historic resources.

The **Preservation Easement Program** ensures the historic appearance and maintenance of historic properties that have received capital preservation grants as well as historic properties whose easements were donated, enabling private-property owners to take advantage of charitable deduction tax benefits.

Through the **New Jersey Legacies Program**, the Trust accepts donations of historic properties that are sold with protective easements. The Trust benefits from the sale proceeds, while donors may



With Gratitude, to Harriette Hawkins

Last September, the trustees reluctantly accepted the resignation of Executive Director Harriette Hawkins. During her 15-year tenure, and with extraordinary vision, Harriette guided the Trust to become the country's premiere state-level grant program. She advocated for a stable source of funding for historic preservation, worked tirelessly on numerous committees, and exhibited equal concern for all types of sites from inner-city buildings to rural farms, and for high-profile projects like Ellis Island as well as abandoned structures awaiting new uses. Among her most enduring legacies are the creation of the NJ Legacies Program as an incentive for private property owners to donate real estate that will be preserved, the establishment of the Historic Site Management Grant category, which enables project sites to conduct proper planning, investigation and testing before applying for a capital grant, and the ground-breaking 1988 *Partners in Prosperity* report that documented the financial impact of historic preservation on the State's economy. The study has been emulated by dozens of organizations across the country.



Completed projects, from left to right: Salem Municipal Hall, Salem County; Peter Mott House, Camden County; Ventnor City Hall, Atlantic County; and Old Bergen Church, Essex County.

The Year's Highlights, October 2001 to September 2002

The Trust's emphasis during the year was on accepting and reviewing applications for funding, and continuing to administer planning and construction grants under both the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program and the former Bond Program. It was a challenging 12 months, in the face of budget concerns, limited staff and an administrative move to the Department of Community Affairs from the Department of State. By the end of the year, the Trust's leadership commended the staff for its "heroic" effort to keep the Trust serving its constituents in an efficient and professional manner. The board worked energetically to facilitate the staff's accomplishments.

Grant Programs: The Trust staff administers 119 contracts from eight grant rounds, including 37 new Historic Site Management grant awards that were approved by the Legislature in January 2002. The staff coordinated scopes of work to initiate these new projects, funded by the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund (GSHPTF).

In February the Trust received 109 applications totaling \$21.8 million in requests for the third grant round under GSHPTF. Due to hiring constraints, the Trust was not able to fully staff the program, and application reviews did not move ahead as originally scheduled.

Throughout the year, program staff reviewed and approved 132 reimbursement requests totaling nearly \$7 million, requiring consistent communication with grantees, reviewing construction plans and specifications, and conducting on-site visits.

Completed Projects: The following 15 capital preservation and planning projects were completed in 2002, and represent a total commitment of \$4.2 million in matching grants toward a total investment of \$11.57 million in historic preservation projects in the state. This investment translates into jobs, tourism, economic revitalization and community pride-results that benefit all New Jersey residents.

Capital Grants

- Lucy, \$305,190, Save Lucy Committee, Inc., Margate, Atlantic County
- Metropolitan Baptist Church/Oheb Shalom, \$300,000, Greater Newark Conservancy, Essex County

- Newark Day Center, \$242,280, Newark Day Center, Newark, Essex County
- Old Bergen Church of New Jersey, \$540,620, Old Bergen Church, Jersey City, Hudson County
- Old Carpenter Street School, \$104,850, Bethel AME Church, Woodbury City, Gloucester County
- Old School Building, \$529,035, City of Cranbury, Middlesex County. *This is the first completed capital grant from the GSHPTF first grant round.
- Paterson City Hall, \$521,957, City of Paterson, Passaic County
- Peter Mott House, \$48,624, Lawnside Historical Society, Lawnside Borough, Camden County
- Plainfield City Hall, \$306,550, City of Plainfield, Union County
- Proprietary House, \$108,400, Proprietary House Association, Perth Amboy City, Middlesex County
- Salem Municipal Building, \$120,430, Salem City, Salem County
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church, \$313,012, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Freehold, Monmouth County
- Ventnor City Hall, \$750,959, City of Ventnor, Atlantic County

Historic Site Management Grants

- Christ Church, \$12,075, Christ Church, Middletown, Monmouth County. *This is the first completed planning grant from the GSHPTF's 2000 grant round.
- Hereford Light, \$21,000, Hereford Light, North Wildwood, Cape May. *This is the first completed grant from the GSHPTF's 2001 grant round.

Preservation Partnerships: The Trust worked with

Continued on back page

Continued from previous page

a variety of state agencies, nonprofit organizations throughout the year. Trust staff commented to the State Historic Preservation Office on its five-year state historic preservation plan, testified with other preservation advocates on changes to the NJ Historic Register Law, worked with Save Ellis Island to identify funding for exhibits and tourism, served on Preservation New Jersey's endangered sites committee and assisted the Open Space/Historic Places Task Force in developing information materials to reach owners of historic farms in the Garden State.

The trustees and staff continued to plan for an expanded economic impact study, a follow up to the groundbreaking 1988 study that was published as *Partners in Prosperity*. Additionally, the staff advised Morris County on the development of an historic preservation grant program and commented on the development of curriculum for a historic preservation program for Rutgers University.

Public Information and Outreach: The staff responded to 331 requests for information, prepared a public service announcement to air during Arts and Humanities month, maintained the Trust's web site, updated the popular guide to sources of funds for historic preservation, and distributed the 2001 annual report to the legislature and 1500 citizens of the state.

The Trust participated in four Constituent Outreach Programs coordinated by the Department of State and held in different geographic areas, and shared information with new audiences for the League of Municipalities annual conference, History Issues convention and Archives and History Day. Trustees and staff promoted National Preservation Week in May with an exhibit in Goldfinch Square at the State House.

While the popular *NJ Gazette* newsletter became a victim of budget cutbacks, the Trust continues discussions with the Historical Commission and State Archives about reviving production of a history-related newsletter.

NJ Legacies: The Trust closed the sale of Lyric Hall to Outerbridge Morgan Architects, which is restoring the exterior wood siding and distinctive two-story windows, and rehabilitating the 1841 former church and theater in Rocky Hill for its offices and an on-site apartment. The building was sold with a Preservation Easement that will protect the building's historic character in

Board of Trustees and Staff

The Board of Trustees is composed of 15 members, twelve of whom are private citizens appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Appointed trustees must have demonstrated experience with preservation of New Jersey's history and structures. Three members serve *ex-officio* and represent the State Treasurer, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of Environmental Protection/State Historic Preservation Office. The Board of Trustees holds a minimum of four public meetings a year at historic sites throughout New Jersey.

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The Trust gratefully acknowledges the trustees whose terms expired last year, and who provided invaluable service, advice and fellowship: Emily Croll, Lee Ellen Griffith, Frank X. Moya, Jerome E. Raymond, Esq., Alan R. Slaughter, P.E. and Thomas E. Carroll.

Carl M. Nittinger, *Acting Director*

Ross Sweetland, *Program Officer*

Ken Roginski, *Fiscal Program Associate*

Paula Lassiter, *Office Manager*

Catherine Goulet, *Public Information Officer*

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