

Seven historic sites in county receive state funding

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Seven historic sites in Burlington County will receive a total of more than \$1 million as a result of two funding bills signed into law by Gov. James E. McGreevey yesterday.

The bills provide \$11.3 million in funds to the New Jersey Historic Trust, which will distribute the money to 60 sites

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Whitesbog Preservation Trust

statewide. Earlier this year, the trust approved the appropriations, but some historic-site officials worried funding might have become a casualty of state budget negotiations.

"We felt cautiously optimistic that we were going to get (the grant), but you just don't know when it goes through the state budget process," said Steve Thompson, executive director of Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

Whitesbog will receive \$13,968. Thompson said the money will be used to finish a landscape survey of the 3,000-acre site in Pemberton Township. Thompson said the survey is the last piece needed for the

berry farm and village to apply for National Historical Landmark status.

The largest grant in the county, \$750,000, will go to Burlington County to help fund a \$2 million restoration project at Smithville Park in Eastampton. The project will re-create Park Avenue, which served as the main street of the 19th century manufacturing village of Hezekiah B. Smith.

"It's all part of the county's plan for improving Smithville

Park," said Jeffrey Kerchner, county supervisor of parks.

Other grants awarded to organizations in Burlington County are:

■ \$199,361 to the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation for exterior restoration of Paulsdale in Mount Laurel, the homestead of the women's-rights advocate.

■ \$43,375 to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Beverly for preparation of a preservation plan for the 1850s-era Gothic

revival-style complex.

■ \$29,250 to Mount Holly for a preservation plan and archaeological investigation of an 18th century industrial millrace.

■ \$23,655 to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance for use at its future headquarters, the Bishop-Irick Farmstead/Drowsey Tree Farm in Southampton.

■ \$7,310 to the Mount Holly Meeting/Society of Friends for preparation of a preservation plan for the Arney's Mount Meetinghouse in Springfield.