

Grants totaling \$143,000 awarded

Four historic sites to receive funding

BCT By Kim Benn. 9.28.01
BCT staff writer

Four historic sites in Burlington County were awarded grants totaling more than \$143,000 for planning and preservation.

The four historic sites are among 37 statewide approved by the Board of New Jersey Historic Trust to receive funding from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

Nearly \$1.06 million will fund planning projects for historic preservation at sites in 17 counties.

Burlington County was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the preparation of a historic landscape master plan for the Smithville Historic District, a county park in Eastampton that includes 19th century industrial and farm buildings.

"It will make interpretation of the historic village more exciting for the public," county Freeholder William Haines Jr. said of the landscape plan the grant will fund. "It is one more step in making Smithville the premier county park we intend it to be."

Bordentown City received \$28,706 for the preparation of a historic-structure report that will guide future preservation efforts at Gilder House, which was built in the 1700s and is used as a museum by the city.

Perkins Center for the Arts in Moorestown received \$25,628 for the design of an addition that will link two historic properties and provide a barrier-free entrance and facilities at the Tudor-style mansion that hosts arts education.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust received \$39,207 for the preparation of a preservation master plan for 28 historic buildings at Whitesbog Farm in Pemberton Township and for a cultural landscape survey for the 2,000-acre historic district.

Created by the state Legislature, the New Jersey Historic Trust is a nonprofit historic preservation organization affiliated with the Department of State.

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This is the second round of funding under the current matching grant program, which was established by a 1998 voter-approved ballot initiative to preserve open space, farmland and historic sites.

A total of \$60 million for historic preservation funding from state tax revenues is guaranteed through 2009.