Historic sites come alive in new podcasts

Have you ever visited a historic site and wondered what happened there in the past?

With budgets ever tightening, operators of many historic sites find it difficult to be open as much as they would like. Given the area’s huge array of extremely significant historic architecture, Cumberland County has been challenged to showcase its history.

To solve the problem, the Commission sought and received a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for the creation of audio podcasts of fifteen of the most significant architectural sites in the county and to create a website to centralize the county’s architectural history.

This site, www.cumberlandhistorical.org, is being revealed to the public today.

John Garrison, Chairman of the Commission explains, “Advertising and promotion of events are critical components to their success. With funding being an ever greater challenge, organizations are hard pressed to adequately market their events. The Commission recognizes this challenge and is pleased to provide this small service to help spread the word of Cumberland County’s unique cultural offerings.”

He continues, “Although there is still much work to complete, we wanted to unveil this effort to the people of Cumberland County and to our visitors to show how modern technology can be used to connect all of us with the past. Hopefully this website and these podcasts will help to bring our collective past to life and help people to understand the importance of our county to the nation’s history.”

In addition to the information on the website, each of the fifteen sites will have signs installed over the coming weeks, which will include quick response, or QR codes to direct smart devices to the sites’ podcasts.

Freeholder Director Carl W. Kirstein explains, “We wanted to provide something beyond just the name of a place or building. We sought to present an interpretation of each site’s history to visitors who come upon these significant places. The QR codes link visitors to the audio podcasts, so as they walk around the site they hear its unique history.”

The podcasts were produced by local resident Keith Wasserman at Shoot the Moon Productions, while the site signs were

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Grants available in new partnership

The Commission is thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Southern Shore Destination Marketing Organization (SSRDMO) which has resulted in a new tourism and marketing grant opportunity for Cumberland County nonprofits providing cultural programming. Grants of up to $3,000 are available for use in 2013 to promote cultural programming through funding provided by the State’s Division of Travel & Tourism.

“Advertising and promotion of events and activities is such a critical component to their success,” said John Garrison, Chairman of the Commission. “With funding being an ever greater challenge, organizations are hard pressed to be able to afford to market their wonderful events sufficiently. The Commission has seen this challenge and we are so happy that we can provide this small service to help spread the word of the fantastic cultural offerings of Cumberland County.”

Non-profit organizations and governmental entities which are planning to conduct cultural programming within Cumberland County in 2013 are encouraged to visit the “Grant Opportunities” section of the Commission’s website at www.cccultural-heritage.org for more information and to download the application.

New website showcases architectural gems

(Continued from page 1) designed by VSBA, the successor firm to Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates in Philadelphia. Loaded Media in Millville designed the site.

As Matthew Pisarski, Coordinator for the Commission describes, “This project has been in the works for over two years and everyone involved worked to ensure we maintained a high quality product to improve its impact on the community. From the scholars who reviewed all the content, to the editing and re-editing of everything from the website layout to the individual sign locations, each of us wanted the best product for the people of Cumberland County.”

The website will continue to grow as the podcasts are completed and the interpretation is expanded to include other sites. The site signs, currently undergoing manufacturing, will be installed in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit www.cumberlandhistorical.org.