State surveys historic resources and preservation needs

A state-run survey to determine the costs of the repair, restoration or improvement needs of New Jersey historic sites began Feb. 1, state Community Affairs Commissioner Richard E. Constable announced recently. This is the first such survey to be conducted in 22 years.

The Capital Needs Survey will be conducted by the state Historic Trust, which encourages all publicly owned and nonprofit-managed sites to participate in the survey.

“The Historic Trust recognizes that even our state’s most notable and celebrated historic sites and attractions have significant needs for repairs and improvements, all of which will ultimately serve the public better,” Constable said. “This survey will help the Trust identify those specific needs and begin to quantify the costs associated with making these historic buildings relevant and useful in their communities.”

The survey will end May 1. It will pose questions about a building’s use, repair needs, projected repair costs, and, if appropriate, its participation in heritage tourism development.

A historic building is defined as a structure that was built more than 50 years ago, or prior to 1962. A property does not need to be listed on the state or national Register of Historic Places to be included in the survey. Among the buildings that may participate are historic residences, farmsteads, factories, theaters, museums, houses of worship, fire houses, libraries, railroad stations, and schools. Buildings owned by private homeowners or businesses are not eligible for this survey.

Matt Pisarski, Principal Planner of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission, encouraged all county historic sites to apply, including non-profit organizations that fit the criteria. He advised applicants to “show as much need as possible” and pointed out that some buildings in the county, such as the County Courthouse (shown above), the Bridgeton, Bridgeton City Hall and the Millville Historical Society, have all been beneficiaries of funding for upgrades by the state.

The first capital needs survey, conducted in 1990, identified more than $400 million in historic site rehabilitation needs. The survey’s results helped garner public sup-

(Continued on page 2)
Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Carl W. Kirstein  
Director

Thomas Sheppard  
Deputy Director

Samuel L. Fiocchi Sr.  
Carol Musso

Tony Surace  
William Whelan  
Mary Gruccio

Funding for this newsletter has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission Members

Carl W. Kirstein  
Freeholder Liaison

Jean Jones  
Millville

Patricia Gale  
Heislerville

Penny Watson  
Greenwich

Marianne Lods  
Millville

Suzanne Merighi  
Vineland

Roy Kaneshiki  
Upper Deerfield

Richard Bermudez  
Vineland

John R. Garrison  
Roadstown

Ella M. Boykin  
Vineland

Joseph Polhamus, Emeritus  
Vineland

CCCHC  
790 E. Commerce St.  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
856-453-2177  
www.ccculturalheritage.org

State encourages historic improvements

(Continued from page 1)

Hoedown or ball? Come to both!

In a country mood and hankering for some old-fashioned square dancing, complete with caller? Or are you in a more formal frame of mind and yearn for a “black tie optional” event?

This end-of-winter season in Cumberland County offers both.

First there is the Vineland Regional Dance Company’s “Hoedown” on Sunday, Feb. 19, at Merighi’s Savoy Inn, East Landis Avenue, Vineland, from 3 to 7 p.m. This is a family event, say organizers, and features both adult and children’s menus. Glenn Matthews will be the caller. Tickets are $40 for adults and $15 for children, available at the web site, www.vrdc.org or through VRDC Guild President Brooke Luciano at 609-774-3839. There will also be a 50-50 drawing, basket raffles and a photographer to record the occasion.

Then there is the Barn Studio of Art’s Beaux Arts Ball on Saturday, March 17, at Centerton Country Club, Almond Road, Pittsgrove Township, celebrating the studio’s 50th anniversary. Scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m., the event includes a four-course dinner and dancing to the City Rhythm Orchestra.

Tickets are $85 per person with tables of eight available. For reservations, call 856-825-5028 or register online at BarnStudio.org. Requests may also be mailed to Barn Studio of Art, P.O. Box 29, Millville, NJ 08332.