



The Communiqué

The Historical Society of Plainfield
 Drake House Museum

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Reopening Celebration

On Friday, October 16, 2009, the Society will celebrate the completion of Phase II of the Restoration Plan. The Society, as noted in an earlier article, has received tremendous financial support. Local, County and State agencies and private funders will be honored. The celebration is on the eve of the annual Four Centuries in a Weekend, a journey through Union County history, a free festival, featuring twenty-two historic houses, museum and sites event. The Nathaniel Drake House is one of the historic houses that are featured.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the celebration and also plan to visit some of the other historical sites in the County featured during Four Centuries in a Weekend.

Operating Grant from Union County

The Society was notified by Senator Bob Santori that it was the recipient of an operating grant of \$7,500 from the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Calendar of Events

September

27-Harvest Festival

October

16- Reopening Celebration

17 & 18- Four Centuries in a Weekend

November

To be announced

December

4- Annual Tree Lighting

Please check the website for updated information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Reopening Celebration	1
Operating Grant from Union County	1
Society Raises Nearly \$7,000	2
Board of Trustees Retreat	2
Maidens in May House Tour	3
Books for Sale	3
Society Seeks Donation	3
Membership Renewals	3

Society Raises Nearly \$700,000

In 2002, the Society began an ambitious campaign to restore the Drake House. A Cultural Enrichment Grant awarded through the New Jersey Secretary of State's Office enabled the Society to hire HJGA Consulting, an architectural and historic preservation firm, to complete a Historic Preservation Plan. The Plan was completed in 2004 and detailed a three-phase strategy to restore the House at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million. The Historic Preservation Plan prepared for the Drake House explored various aspects of the house. It included a summary of the historical significance and evolution of the house, detailed the existing conditions of the architectural material fabric, determined the building's period of significance and developed a preservation philosophy.

The Society, with the support of the City of Plainfield, raised \$377,927 to complete Phase One: \$128,034 in City of Plainfield capital funds; \$50,000 from the 2003 Preserve Union County Grant Fund; and \$199,893 from the New Jersey Historic Trust.

Phase I, completed in the Spring of 2006, addressed the deteriorated exterior conditions including roofing, repairs to siding, windows and doors, exterior painting and remedied the structural deficiencies in the second floor framing at the kitchen and main building.

Phase II was funded through a matching grant of \$177,985 from the 2006 Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The Drake House Preservation project was among the 61 historic preservation projects statewide that received funding. Additionally the Society applied for, and received a grant of \$38,000 from the Preserve Union County Grant Open Space and Preservation Fund and \$65,000 from the Union County Open

Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. This, and grants received from the E.J. Grassman Trust (\$7,500), Plainfield Foundation, (\$8,000) and the Union Foundation, (\$5,000) served as matching dollars. The Society is awaiting a decision on funding from the City of Plainfield.

Phase II, which is nearing completion, focused on the mechanical systems: upgrading of the heating and electrical systems, and the installation of air conditioning, dehumidification and ventilation systems and the restoration of the exterior shutters and installation of interior storm windows.

Board of Trustees Retreat

In 2006 the Historical Society received a grant from the Cultural Trust to develop a strategic plan. The grant provided for the use of a consultant to guide the Board through the process. The Strategic Plan 2006-2011 was adopted on June 6, 2006.

On Saturday, May 9th the Board held a retreat at the home of board member Robert Wilson. The Board during the retreat:

- Reviewed the vision and mission statement;
- Recapped the five goals, objectives and outcomes;
- Evaluated the progress of each goal initiatives and;
- Aligned each goal to a board committee;

The day concluded with the planning and scheduling of events to be held during 2009-2010. Thanks to Robert for his invitation to his lovely home and for being such a gracious host.

Drake House Museum included in the Maidens in May House Tour

Sunday May 31st was one of those almost perfect weather days - A day tailor made for the annual FOSH yard sale. A new feature was added this year: Maidens In May House Tour. The Drake House was one of six homes of historical and architectural significance open to the public. Over 260 individuals visited the House.

The tour was presented by the United Way Community Council of Plainfield. Proceeds from the tour will benefit the Plainfield Medical Transportation Fund. This year's fund beneficiaries included the Plainfield Red Cross and Plainfield EMS.

Book for Sale

If you have not acquired a copy of the book, Plainfield, New Jersey's History & Architecture, it is not too late. There are a few remaining copies. This book, written by John Grady and Dorthe Pollard, takes you through a visual tour of homes in Plainfield. The book contains photographs of many homes as they first appeared and were transformed over the past three centuries starting with the 1746 farmhouse known today as the Drake House Museum.

Please call to arrange to purchase a copy for \$30 or mail in a request with your check or money order made payable to The Historical Society of Plainfield. A \$3.00 shipping fee must be included for each book purchased.

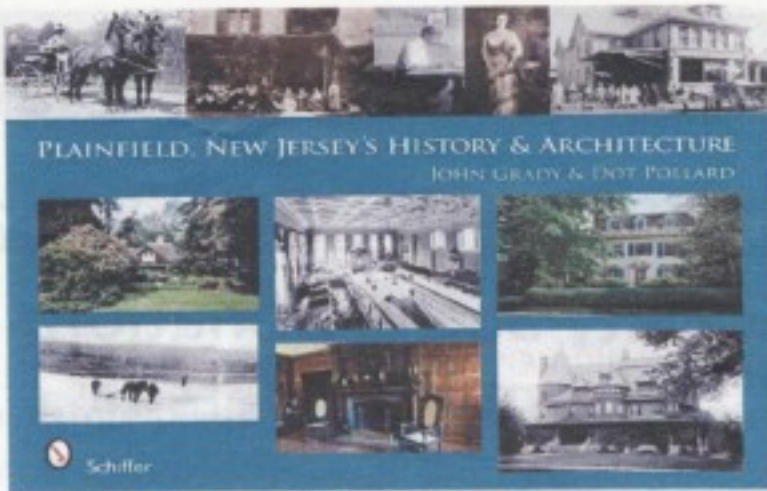
Society Seeks Donations from Members

Originally, the restoration of the front porch and the installation of a handicapped ramp were included in Phase II. Unfortunately, due to the increased cost there were not sufficient funds to complete this portion; however, the Board of Trustees has made a commitment to the New Jersey Historic Trust to complete the porch and ramp prior to the expiration of the grant period of September 2011.

The Board of Trustees is making a plea to our members for donations designated for the completion of the porch and ramp. A grant request has been submitted to the New Jersey Historic Trust; however, we must raise matching funds. This is only one of many applications that will be submitted requesting funding for this project.

Membership Renewals

Have you renewed your membership for the 2009-2010 season? If you haven't done so yet, please take the time to complete the enclosed membership renewal form. The donations from members helps to support our day to day operations, which includes staff salaries, supplies and materials, cost of exhibits, and the various educational programs that are provided to public and private schools during the year. Your membership gives you access to the events that are featured during the year and the annual June member's meeting.



??Want a Tour??
 A tour of the museum can be scheduled by calling 908-755-5831.

Have you purchased a copy of Plainfield, New Jersey's History & Architecture? If not, please see "Book for Sale" article for purchasing details.

Funding Sources

The Historical Society of Plainfield received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State. Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust/State of New Jersey, the City of Plainfield, the Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission, McCutchen Foundation, the Plainfield Foundation, the Union Foundation, EJ Grassmann Trust, the Pond Foundation and the New Jersey Cultural Trust Fund.

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Membership Renewals

Phase I, completed in the Spring of 2006. Have you renewed your membership for the 2010 season? If you haven't done so yet, please take the time to complete the enclosed membership renewal form. The donation from your renewal helps support our day-to-day operations, which includes staff salaries, supplies and materials, cost of exhibits and the various educational programs. We are pleased to provide and provide schools during the year. Your membership goes your way and the events that are featured during the year and the annual membership meeting. Additonal funding received from the Union County Grant Open Space and Preservation Fund and \$55,000 from the Union County Open

Donations included the Plainfield Red Cross in 2002 in support of the historical society. The grant provided for the use of a consultant to guide the process. The Strategic Plan 2011 was adopted on June 5, 2006. If you have not received a copy of the book, Plainfield, New Jersey's History & Architecture, it is not too late. There are a few remaining copies. This book, written by John Grady and Ernst Pollard, takes you through a virtual tour of homes in Plainfield. The book contains photographs of many homes as they first appeared and were transformed over the past three centuries starting with the 1746 farmhouse known today as the Drake House Museum. Please call to arrange to purchase a copy for \$30 or mail in a request with your check or money order made payable to the Historical Society of Plainfield. A \$3.00 shipping fee must be included for each book ordered. Thanks to donors for their generous support and for being such a gracious host.