

Trenton Historical Society Announces Historic Grants for Seven City Restoration Projects

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By David Karas/The Times



Five of the Trenton Historical Society's Restore Trenton! 2012 winners with images of their historic Trenton properties: (L-R) Back row: Rachel Cogsville-Lattimer; Mike Mattei; Rev. Raul Mattei; and Ralph Porzilli. Front row: Deborah McBride and Elias Amaya.

TRENTON — City residents and others embarking on seven rehabilitation projects have received a collective \$12,000 in grant funding through the Trenton Historical Society's Restore Trenton! Historic Property Rehabilitation Grant Program, which since 2007 has funded a variety of endeavors to the tune of \$75,000.

The David Collier Grant Fund supports qualified exterior restoration work on eligible properties 50 years of age or older and in residential use. Preference is given to homes owned by city residents and those located in one of the city's eight historic districts.

"We are really excited to be able to do this," said THS trustee Stephanie Cherry-Farmer. "This promotes both the preservation and celebration of Trenton's historic resources."

This year's round of funding was described as a blessing by Jon Nelson, who received enough to cover the cost of a repair job for the exterior of his Victorian home on South Montgomery Street.

The much-needed dollars will allow him to replace deteriorated wood molding on the roof of his home. Craftsmen will duplicate the remaining molding on other portions of the roof, restoring it to its 1862 condition, right down to the color.

"It has to be historically accurate," he said. The small piece of molding, roughly 2' x 2' in size, carries a price tag of \$1,000.

"It is a lifesaver for me," he said. "There are so many pressures against the city, (and) this is a source of support to maintain the history of our city," he said.

Cherry-Farmer said that the grant helps to support owners of historic homes who want to preserve their homes the right way, which can carry extra costs.

"These are people who would not have come across these funds in another matter," she said. "We have physically seen properties go from needing maintenance to being fully restored."

Funds will allow Ralph Porzilli to restore the outside of his Hamilton Avenue home, and for exterior painting and repairs to Rev. Raul Mattei's Berkeley Avenue house, Rachel Cogsville-Latimer's Carteret Ave. home, and Elias Amaya's Bridge Street digs.

Funding was also awarded to Tom and Wendy Nardi, who will be having the exterior of their Berkeley Ave. home painted; and Mercer Street resident Deborah McBride, who received funding for masonry pointing and exterior stair repairs.

More information on the Trenton Historical Society can be found at www.trentonhistory.org.

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