

GLASSBORO TRAIN STATION TO RECEIVE A HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Glassboro's historic train station on Whitney Avenue is the only New Jersey site selected to receive a 2014 Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. The Glassboro Historical Society and the Borough used a federal Stimulus Grant to restore the 19th century West Jersey & Seashore Line station to its original glory.

GLASSBORO – Glassboro's historic train station on Whitney Avenue is the only New Jersey site selected to receive a 2014 Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. The award will be presented during a ceremony on June 4 at the Philadelphia Union League.

The Alliance's Preservation Achievement Awards event is an annual celebration of the individuals, organizations, businesses and projects that exemplify outstanding achievement in the field of historic preservation throughout the region. Glassboro's train station is among 15 sites selected to receive a Grand Jury Award this year.

The Glassboro Historical Society and the Borough of Glassboro secured a federal Stimulus Grant in 2010 to restore the 19th century West Jersey & Seashore Line station to its original glory. Used alternatively as a passenger station and freight depot for nearly 100 years, activity at the train station ceased in 1971.

Thereafter the building fell into a state of disrepair – becoming an eyesore for residents and local Rowan University and also suffering significant structural damage.

The station's exterior restoration is complete and the interior is soon to follow. Moving forward the building will be used as a Welcome Center and museum celebrating Glassboro's rich history.

Glassboro received a \$250,000 grant to acquire the property from Conrail in 2002. In 2010, the borough secured a \$1.1 million grant from the federal government through a Transportation Enhancement Grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act administered by the Department of Transportation.

"We began restoration in February, 2013, understanding that this was our opportunity to rebrand the old station as a historic site. Now this building is a landmark for Glassboro, providing a glimpse into our past," said Glassboro Mayor Leo McCabe.

"Renovating the old building will bring added prosperity to the area, boosting the local economy and raising property values in adjacent neighborhoods," added Councilman Joe D'Alessandro.

Wu & Associates, Inc. of Cherry Hill was awarded the contract to oversee construction and to restore the site to how it would have looked like half a century ago. At the same time they updated the infrastructure to meet fire and safety regulations.

The reservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia actively promotes the appreciation, protection, and appropriate use and development of the Philadelphia region's historic buildings, communities and landscapes.