



New Jersey's Semiquincentennial

QUARTERLY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

- New Jersey now has representation on national commission
- Rep. Bonnie Watson-Coleman (NJ-12) appointed in February
- Serving on Education Committee



Additional U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Updates

- Strategic Plan due by the end of 2019
- Establishment of sub-committees
- Commission's priorities include:
 - Fostering unity
 - Increasing civic engagement
 - Reaching the next generation



Regional Updates

- **New York**
 - Hired state historian
 - Initiating planning meetings scheduled
- **Pennsylvania**
 - Established a statewide semiquincentennial commission
- **Massachusetts**
 - Established Revolution 250 (under fiscal leadership of Massachusetts Historical Society) to help create programs, partnerships, and opportunities in relation to the Semiquincentennial
 - Website created and events already underway
- **Delaware**



New Jersey Updates

- Madeleine Rosenberg joins the New Jersey Historical Commission staff as Senior Research Associate
 - madeleine.rosenberg@sos.nj.gov or 609-633-0776
- Upcoming projects include:
 - Engaging a consultant for the initiative's long-range planning process (implemented in spring/summer 2019)
 - Conducting assessment of history education in New Jersey public schools (implemented in spring 2020)
 - Series of listening sessions at the county level and with other communities



Site Assessment Project

- **RFP** issued in February to find professional consulting firm to:
 - Inspect, assess and estimate costs for improvements to NJ Revolutionary War sites
 - Recommend possible sites for NJ Revolutionary War Visitor Center(s)
- Selection team included representatives from Crossroads, NJHC, and Advocates for NJ History
- Selected team of Clarke Caton Hintz/Hunter Associates/HTC Partners



Ongoing Funding/Development

- **Progress made on Campaign Council**
 - **Objective:** raise millions of dollars for site improvements
 - Crossroads leading recruitment of high net-worth members
- **Fall fundraiser in planning stages**
- **NJ State funding for FY2020**
 - Early signs showed possible shortfall
 - Crossroads testified at March 27 budget hearing
 - Anticipate level funding



Signage program makes progress

- Crossroads continues to install branded signage at NJ Revolutionary heritage sites
- Newest sign unveiled during Battle of Bound Brook weekend
- More signs in progress in Union and Somerset Counties
- Continuing to attract sponsor funding



Next Steps

- Assistance from site stewards when site assessment team comes to your site
- Listening session follow-up



Resources

- **Community Census Data**

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

- **NJHC Audience Evaluation Workshop Toolkits 2014 - 2017**

<https://nj.gov/state/historical/assets/pdf/evaluation-definitions-and-tips.pdf>

<https://nj.gov/state/historical/assets/pdf/2015-fukushima-best-practices-building-arts.pdf>

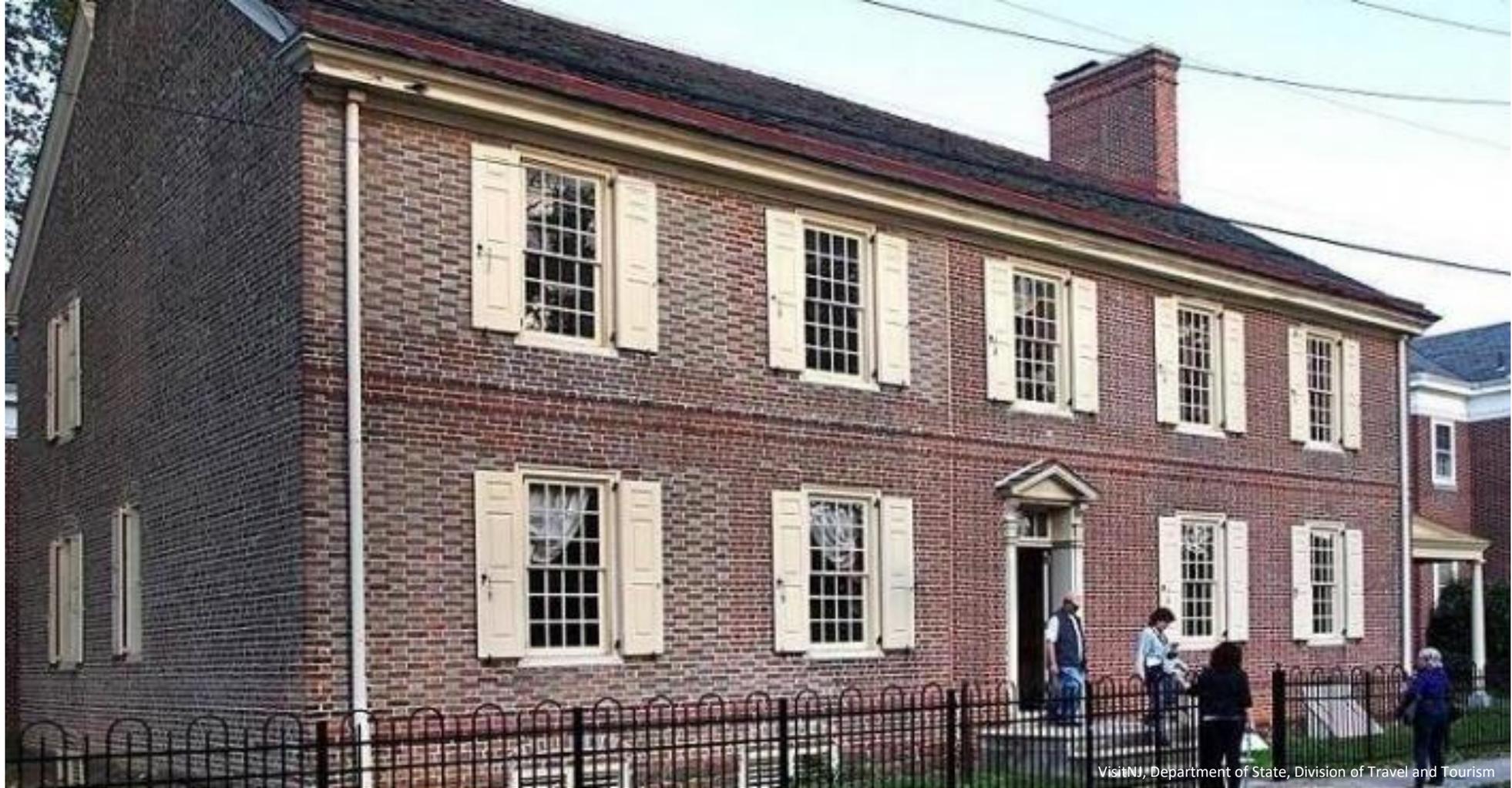
<https://nj.gov/state/historical/assets/pdf/2014-postworkshop-best-practices-understanding-audiences.pdf>





Monmouth County Historical Association, Gift of Mrs. Delphine B. O'Donnell

Questions?



Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 24, at Camden County Historical Society

Contact Information

- Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area

Janice Selinger, Executive Director

609-341-3245

jselinger@revolutionarynj.org

- New Jersey Historical Commission

Sara Cureton, Executive Director

609-943-3306

sara.cureton@sos.nj.gov

