

THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING ARTS
 Bridgeton, NJ USA www.historicbuildingarts.org
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Keeping ^{historic} our neighborhoods beautiful... & keeping them real.

Bring Back the Nail House!



The "Nail House," tucked under towering old sycamores at the entrance to the City Park, has just entered its THIRD century!

Home of the City's original startup industry, it makes a pretty good metaphor for the heart of Bridgeton. Maybe we can all get it beating again!?



Picture this!--muddling around the site turns up what looks to be an authentic Cumberland Iron Works... NAIL!

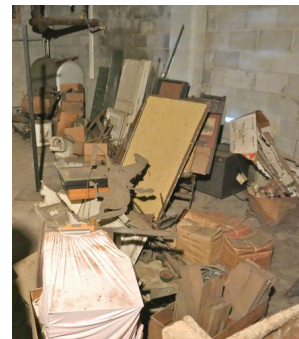
"BRING BACK THE NAIL HOUSE!"--a public-private partnership to restore Bridgeton's historic Nail House to active public use--is finally underway! The collaboration brings CHABA and several skilled professionals and dedicated volunteers together with the support of the City of Bridgeton, the County C&H Commission, the NJ Historical Commission, the 1772 Foundation and the NJ Historic Trust. J&M Engineering of Swarthmore, PA, was chosen via a competitive bidding process to analyze and supervise restoration plans over the next year.

Picture a process ...

(Top left & right): Project Mgr Maggie DeMarco enters the murky basement of the Nail House on October 19, before cleanup and relighting by CHABA and the City DPW. Remaining artifacts have been safely stored offsite till they can be properly triaged and curated. (Upstairs items were not disturbed.)

(Bottom left): DeMarco and CHABA VP & architect Maria Cerda-Moreno check out the support beams ahead of the professional team.

(Bottom right): Jessica Senker and Melanie Rodbart of J&M Engineering consult on measurements in the spruced-up space on Nov. 2.



over





Nov. 2 (Cont'd):

The J&M study team continue their work, examining the historic beams and deteriorating exterior boards to determine causes and cures. Bridgeton's own **Jim Bergmann** joins them, lending his knowledge of the structure and of historic building methods to their insights. Jim later brings his carpentry skills to repair of the rotted doorsill of the front entrance.

Below:

The view looking North to the Park from the Nail House window reminds us how historically interconnected the building and park really are. For half a century, what is now the park was a protected watershed, the source of the original water-power for the mill, before steam. It also reminds us how their future as green and sustainable resources hang together, not just to tell us of the past use (and abuse) of the environment, *but to express our commitment to the future of city, region and planet.*



COMING SOON!

How the **little** Nail House made Bridgeton **reealllly BIG!**
...for kids of all ages...

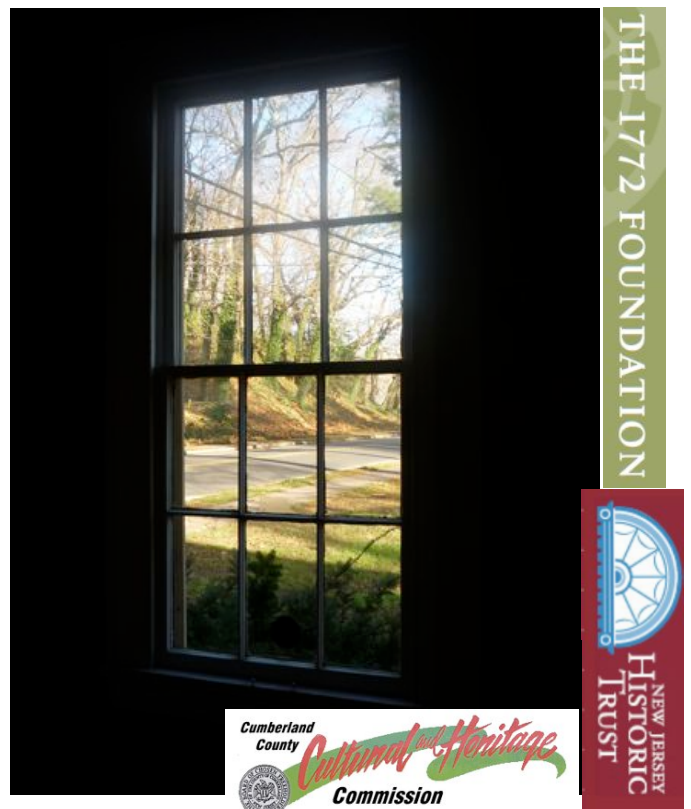
Due out in early 2017... English & Espanol! Reserve your copy!

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GROWING BRIDGETON'S CULTURAL CAPITAL



from the ground up.



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