the CHABA newsletter Bridgeton, NJ: November-December 2016

THE CENTER FOR hISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING ARTS Bridgeton, NJ USA www.historicbuildingarts.org 856-369-1300 centerhabarts@gmail.com

Keeping our neighborhoods beautiful... keeping them real.

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 dedicated, skilled volunteers and professionals 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.

















(Top, then clockwise): Project Mgr Maggie DeMarco enters the murky basement of the Nail House before cleanup and relighting by CHABA and the City DPW Oct. 19. Remaining artifacts have been safely stored offsite till they can be properly triaged and curated. (Upstairs items were not disturbed.) DeMarco and CHABA VP & architect Maria Cerda-Moreno check out the support beams ahead of the professional team. On Nov. 2 Jessica Senker and **Melanie Rodbart** of J&M come in to study the spruced-up space, and Jim Bergmann lends his historic carpentry skills to the rotted

doorsill of the front entrance and joins Jessica to study the condition of the rear siding. **Right:** Looking North to the Park

from the Nail louse window.





COMING SOON! How the little Nail House



made Bridgeton reeallly BIG! ...for kids of all ages.... Due out in early 2017... Reserve your copy **HERE**

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