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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Celebrates Historic Preservation Week Highlights Restoration of Brearley House in Lawrenceville

Governor Christie Whitman today declared May 9th - 15th as Historic Preservation Week in New Jersey and highlighted preservation efforts at the Brearley House in Lawrenceville. Lawrence Township is receiving a matching grant of more than \$360,000 from the NJ Historic Trust to help fund the project.

The Governor joined eighth graders from Lawrence Middle School on an archeological tour of the area. The students are in the process of an historical archaeological mission.

"Across the nation, the theme of Historic Preservation Week this year is 'protecting the irreplaceable,' " said Governor Whitman. "Clearly the Brearley House fits that description. It is truly irreplaceable. What's more, it offers a great example of how a town can strengthen its future by protecting its past."

The Brearley House was selected by the New Jersey Historic Trust to receive a 1-1 matching grant last July. Renovation and restoration of the site will include the replacement of a temporary fiberglass shingle roof with wood shingles, more historically accurate windows and shutters, and the restoration of the interior finishes.

The Brearley House was built in 1761 and is a rare example of a farmhouse built in a vernacular Georgian style. The house is situated on an 85-acre piece of land owned by Lawrence Township. The township bought the land in 1978 with Green Acres funds. Once restoration is complete, the site will serve as the centerpiece of a nature reserve and will provide educational programs on the history and environment of the area.

This week is also National Historic Preservation Week. The week is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and helps accent grassroots preservation projects around the country. This is the 28th year that the week has been observed by preservation and community organizations around the country.

The New Jersey Historic Trust is key to preservation efforts around the state. It was created in 1967 by state law to promote the preservation of the state's historic resources and rich heritage. Its mission is to advance the preservation of the state's historic properties through financial, educational and stewardship programs. Since 1987, the Trust has administered the state's Historic Preservation Bond Program, and has awarded over \$52 million in grants for the restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of historic properties.

Historic preservation is one element of Governor Whitman's bold open space, farmland and historic preservation plan. The plan, approved last fall by a voter margin of 2-1, will establish a stable funding source of \$98 million a year for preservation efforts. Once enabling legislation is approved by the Legislature, historic preservation will receive \$6 million of that funding annually to continue efforts to save and protect New Jersey's historic sites.