

## V. Community and Institutional Resources

The rationale for utilizing community and institutional resources is well established. The concrete and close at hand command attention, arouse interest, awaken a sense of pride or concern, and displace remote and impersonal subject matter with the personal and intimate. Interest is aroused because students enjoy being active and doing things, whether it is handling, viewing or interpreting manuscripts and artifacts, preparing an exhibit or scrapbook, interviewing, or taking a field trip. The past is made real through familiarity which helps students to mentally picture material conditions and events of the past and to reproduce in themselves similar mental states that determined or were determined by them. Related to this is historical continuity, the understanding of which is promoted by a study of the local scene which shows in microcosm changing patterns and similarities or contrasts between past and present. An awareness of community problems and the development of the vital skill of critical thinking, through locating and weighing evidence and interpreting the past, can lead to the exercise of good citizenship.

One caveat should be raised. In the use of community and institutional resources for classroom purposes, antiquarianism should be avoided—the teaching of the past for the past's sake and the belief that age alone gives value and usefulness.

## COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

### A. Agencies and Organizations

*Association of County Cultural and Heritage Commissions of New Jersey.* Formed in 1975 this organization is an alliance of the seventeen county commissions that exist in New Jersey. The list below gives the mailing address and telephone number of each. The commissions are sources of useful information on local historic sites, historical programs aimed at students and the general public, and programs in history and the arts.

*Atlantic County* 739 Guarantee Trust Building, Atlantic City 08401; (609) 344-3579

*Bergen County* Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd. Paramus 07652; (201) 447-1500

*Burlington County* 49 Rancocas Rd. Mount Holly 08060; (609) 267-3300

*Camden County* County Court House, 10th Floor, Camden 08101; (609) 757-8191

*Cape May County* 36 Main St., Dennisville 08214; (609) 861-2388

*Cumberland County* 300 Cherry St., Apt. 12, Vineland 08360; (609) 691-8572

*Essex County* County Hall of Records, Room 123, 470 High St., Newark 07102; (201) 961-8273

*Hunterdon County* R.D. 1, Annandale 08801; (201) 735-7358

*Mercer County* County Administration Building, 640 S. Broad St., Trenton 08607; (609) 989-6701

*Middlesex County* County Administration Annex, 841 Georges Rd., New Brunswick 08902; (201) 246-5788

*Morris County* County Court House, Ann St., Morristown 07960; (201) 285-6198

*Ocean County* 33 Brooks Rd., Toms River 08753; (201) 349-2506

*Passaic County* c/o Paterson News News Plaza, Paterson 07509; (201) 274-2000

*Salem County* County Court House, 90 Market St., Salem 08079; (609) 935-1776

*Sussex County* Information unavailable  
*Union County* McKay Library, Union College, Springfield Ave., Cranford 07016; (201) 272-3140

*Warren County* County Court House, Belvidere 07823; (201) 475-5571

Although Hudson County does not have a cultural and heritage commission, its very active *Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs* provides similar services. Address c/o Planning Department, Hudson County Administration Building, 595 Newark Ave., Jersey City 07306; (201) 659-5062.

*Historic Sites Section, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*, John Fitch Plaza, Trenton 08625; (609) 292-2023. Information on historic sites in general with special reference to state-owned structures and sites.

*New Jersey American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Commission*, 379 W. State St., Trenton 08625; (609) 292-6576. Official Bicentennial agency for New Jersey. Information on local, state and national Bicentennial programs. Newsletter published five times per year; no charge.

*New Jersey Historical Commission*, 113 West State St., Trenton 08625; (609) 292-6062. State agency charged by statute with promotion of public interest in and awareness of New Jersey history. Publications,

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annual teachers' workshop and symposium in New Jersey history. Newsletter published September through June carries news of meetings, programs, and on-going projects dealing with New Jersey history; no charge.

*New Jersey Historical Society*, 230 Broadway, Newark 07104; (201) 483-3939. Museum and library facilities. Publication of *New Jersey History*, the only scholarly journal devoted exclusively to the state's history. Jerseyman Student History Program encourages study of New Jersey history at secondary level; publication *The Crossroads* presents a different topic for student consumption periodically throughout the academic year.

## B. Publications

Dehoney, Martyvonne. "A Resource Guide to Art and Architecture in New Jersey from Pre-Columbian Times to the Civil War," 1968. Unpublished doctoral dissertation providing teachers and students with a reference work which includes several hundred collections in the state of furniture, glass, ceramics, textiles, prints, paintings and sculpture, a portion of which was produced in the late colonial and revolutionary eras. May be purchased from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI 48104; order no. 69-10,537.

Lindemer, George C. *Guide to the Educational Uses of New Jersey Historical Museums*. South Orange: Seton Hall University Press, 1974. A well developed, thoroughly documented handbook which highlights fifteen of the principal historic houses and villages in New Jersey, and includes an excellent examination of the educational

purposes underlying the utilization of historic museums and a lengthy geographic listing of historical museums and societies in the state.

Museums Council of New Jersey. *Directory*. Trenton: Museums Council of New Jersey, 1975. Compiled by Karen G. Cummins. Write c/o New Jersey State Museum, 205 W. State St., Box 1868, Trenton 08625. A compilation of the programs and services offered by member institutions, including Newark Museum, New Jersey Historical Society, State Museum. Information by county and includes address and telephone number.

*New Jersey Environmental Times*. Special Historic Sites Edition. Vol. 6, no. 2, February, 1974, 12 pp. Pictures and text of publicly-owned Bicentennial related historic sites. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Room 805, Labor and Industry Building, John Fitch Plaza, Trenton 08625.

*Scenic and Historic Tours*. New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry, State Promotion, Division of Economic Development, P.O. Box 400, Trenton 08625. Delineates a series of historic and recreational motor tours of the state.

Stember, Sol. *The Bicentennial Guide to the American Revolution*. Volume II: *The Middle Colonies*. New York: Saturday Review Press/E.P. Dutton & Co., 1974. Excellent combination of detailed descriptions of the battles, skirmishes, forts and encampments of the American Revolution, and specific travel guide explaining how to reach sites and describing their current appearance as well as how they looked two centuries ago. Written in a

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readable, stimulating style, half of this volume is devoted to New Jersey.

*What to Do in New Jersey*. Published annually by What to Do County Publications, P.O. Box 84, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Includes, besides a wide variety of other subjects, listing and locations of landmarks, museums and libraries.

Wright, William C., comp. *Directory of Historical Societies of New Jersey* (League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, 1972). Order from New Jersey Historical Commission, 113 W. State St., Trenton 08625. Alphabetical listing of nearly two hundred local, county and statewide organizations. Lists services, collections, library and museum hours, address and telephone number.