



JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE & MUSEUM
BEDMINSTER, NEW JERSEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo Caption:

Somerset County Freeholder Director Patrick Scaglione (foreground) presents a \$173,790 Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant to Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House Trustees (left to right) Douglas Stevinson, Bedminster Township Committee member and Township liaison to the Friends; Robin Ray, Assistant Treasurer, of Bedminster; and Craig Sutherland, President, of Basking Ridge.

FRIENDS OF THE JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE RECEIVE TWO GRANTS FOR DUTCH BARN PROJECT

Bedminster, NJ, October 10, 2018...The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House have received two key grants, which will further propel the nonprofit organization's plan to reassemble a Voorhees Dutch Barn – a rare and important example of early Dutch agricultural architecture – for its adaptive reuse on the site of the 1772 Jacobus Vanderveer House in River Road Park, Bedminster.

The New Jersey Historic Trust, an affiliate of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, has awarded the Friends a \$50,000 Historic Site Management Grant for Planning Documents that will assist with Design Development and Construction documents for the barn project. On Tuesday, October 9, the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded the Friends a \$173,790 Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant for the project.

"We are thrilled to receive such strong support from both the state and county for this important project," commented Craig Sutherland, President of the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House. "This is exactly the type of funding we needed to proceed with formal design, development and Phase I construction. We will continue to seek philanthropic support for the remaining phases of the project from the community it will directly benefit."

In June 2016, The Friends were awarded a \$94,190 Historic Preservation Grant from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the acquisition and relocation of an early

19th century Dutch barn from a private property on Old York Road, Branchburg to the grounds of the Jacobus Vanderveer House. The 33' x 51' barn (now disassembled and housed in a 44' trailer on the Vanderveer property) will soon become the centerpiece of a planned farmstead surrounding Bedminster's historic Jacobus Vanderveer House.

The planned rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Voorhees Dutch barn will further enhance the meaning and relevance of the historic Jacobus Vanderveer House as a heritage tourism destination. Once completed, the Voorhees Dutch barn will provide much-needed space for the Friends' well-attended, rapidly growing events and educational programs. It will offer exhibit

space as well as a secure repository for the thousands of archaeological artifacts that were excavated during the Pluckemin Archaeology Project. These artifacts and the documentation thereof are currently being housed in a warehouse facility in Central New Jersey. Once these artifacts can be permanently stored in a climate-controlled facility, they will be available for exhibition and interpretation to the thousands of history lovers who reside in Somerset County and the greater New York area.

Ultimately, the barn will include an addition that will house a small catering kitchen, barrier-free restrooms, and a coat room – all of which will facilitate its suitability as a venue for public, private, and corporate events that will help financially sustain the historic property's future maintenance and operational costs.

Total estimated construction costs will amount to nearly \$1.3 to \$1.7 million. Design Development & Construction Documents, Phase I Construction Phase Services, and Phase 1 construction are estimated to cost \$521,447, which will principally include the foundation, reassembly and repair of the historic barn frame, and temporary wall and roof sheathing. The Friends are committed to raising additional funds through its Raising The Bar(N) capital campaign. For further information about Raising The Bar(N), visit www.jvanderveerhouse.org.

About The Jacobus Vanderveer House

The Jacobus Vanderveer House served as headquarters for General Henry Knox during the winter of 1778-79 and is the only surviving building associated with the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment, now recognized as America's first military training academy and the precursor to The United States Military Academy at West Point. The Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum interprets Dutch colonial life in America as well as the stay by General Knox and his family during the 1778-79 encampment. A National and New Jersey Historic Site, the Jacobus Vanderveer House is a true landmark that offers a vivid look into the history of our country and the lives of those who made it.

Operated by the nonprofit Friends of The Jacobus Vanderveer House (a 501(c)(3) organization) for the past 20 years, the museum is located at 3055 River Road and can be accessed via River Road Park. The Friends sponsor public events throughout the year; for directions and more information, visit www.jvanderveerhouse.org.

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.