Cedar Bridge Tavern Preservation Awards

By: Catherine McLearen



Restored Cedar Bridge Tavern.
Photo Credit: C&H Staff

The Cedar Bridge Tavern historic renovation project team has received the 29th Annual New Jersey Historic Preservation Award for "demonstrating exceptional merit in the field of historic preservation." The award was presented by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office during the virtual Annual Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on February 19th to Ocean County Commissioner Virginia E. Haines and Parks & Recreation Director Mike Mangum. Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Mary Jane Bavais, Cultural & Heritage Commission Director Timothy G. Hart, and project team leader Annabelle Radcliffe-Trenner of Historic Building Architects, LLC were also in attendance to receive the award.

Cedar Bridge Tavern sits on wooded acreage in the Pine Barrens about a mile south of Route 72 as a gateway to 19th-century farmsteads, taverns, entertainment, and foodways of the New Jersey Pinelands. It is listed on the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places as the site of the last documented engagement of the American Revolution and the oldest standing tavern in New Jersey.

Selected from a highly competitive applicant pool, the Awards Program recognizes "exemplary and innovative projects and publications that contribute significantly to advancing the field of historic preservation and that promote livable communities in New Jersey." The original section of Cedar Bridge Tavern retains its early 19th-century bar, most of the original interior floor plan, and most of the original doors, trim, windows, and fireplaces. This award recognizes Cedar Bridge Tavern's contributions to "creative approaches to preservation efforts and protecting irreplaceable historic, natural, and scenic landscapes."

Cedar Bridge Tavern has also been awarded the 2021 New Good Neighbor Award. The New Jersey Business magazine and NJ Business and Industry Association's New Good Neighbor Award is presented to "New Jersey companies, higher education institutions, healthcare facilities, and other entities that have recently built outstanding construction projects that have improved the economy and landscape of New Jersey." In the July issue of New Jersey Business Magazine, a special section will celebrate the 2021 winners. The winner profiles will also run in their daily e-news service New Jersey Business Today.

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Each year a ceremony is held on the site to commemorate the Affair at Cedar Bridge on the second Sunday of December. The site is open year-round to visitors and welcomes hundreds of students and adults on individual and group tours and special events. As the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution approaches, the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission will host several commemorative events each year until 2033. Look out for these events in future Out & About publications and the Ocean County Parks & Recreation newsletter!



Commissioner Virginia E. Haines and Parks and Recreation Director Michael Mangum receive Preservation Award.
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