

# Historical Society of Moorestown

Smith - Cadbury Mansion c. 1738

April 2024

Hello, members and friends! Greetings from the just-repainted Smith-Cadbury Mansion. This past year, we welcomed more than 20 new families to our membership and three new members to our board. In addition, 79 newly engraved commemorative bricks now lie in the side patio, next to the refurbished porch. You may also have noticed our new front-lawn sign introducing Smith-Cadbury's history, which begins in 1738. Inside the house, you'll find a recently acquired hand-colored map titled "Moorestown Lands," circa 1820. And remaining on view until May 14 is the exhibit *Malcolm Wells: One Man's Crusade to Save the Environment Through Architecture*, which received an excellent review in the Philadelphia Inquirer. You can also see a slideshow of the exhibit on our YouTube channel.

In 2023, not only were we awarded a \$25,000 Inclusive History Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to document the history of the West End Community Center, but also our newsletter, *From the Front Porch*, received a Kevin M. Hale Publication Award, given by the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey in recognition of excellence in newsletters.

It was another wildly successful year for our Living History and Ghost Tours; our historic house plaque program is as popular as ever; and we're excited to welcome the third graders this spring for their annual tour of Smith-Cadbury. We've hosted talks on Malcolm Wells, Revolutionary War artifacts, the Gilded Age, the 1686 Provincial Path, the West End Center, and lastly, *Of Dusk & Death Rays: A Reflection on Architecture and Change*, exploring what makes a building valuable to a community. Indeed, next month we're honoring 10 buildings with a blue ribbon in recognition of excellence in historic preservation.

The coming year will see us begin preparations for the forthcoming U.S. Semiquincentennial. This 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our democratic republic will provide a unique opportunity to reflect on its origins and evaluate its evolution to the present day. As a member of RevolutionNJ, which is planning our state's commemoration, we hope to create exciting experiences in which people can engage with history, see themselves in the American story, and learn how the events, ideas, and ideals of the Revolution continue to be relevant. At the same time, the West End Center project grant will allow us to explore underrepresented narratives in Moorestown with a goal of expanding inclusive, community-centered interpretations of our history. The center was the social and cultural hub of Moorestown's segregated Black community from 1944 to 1968. Finally, a retrospective of the painter Ben Eisenstat is in the works.

We at the Society embrace our responsibility as stewards of Smith-Cadbury and all that it holds in trust for the public. We hope you'll continue to support our mission to provide opportunities for the community to learn about the history of Moorestown and its neighbors. Please renew your membership today, or join us if you're not a member yet!

Sincerely, 

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson