

Bring Back the Nail House!



A SPECIAL CALL TO GLASS & METALWORK ARTISTS

Bridgeton's "Nail House," tucked under towering old sycamores at the entrance to the large City Park, has just entered its THIRD century!

First home—and last remnant—of the City's original startup industry, the Cumberland Nail & Iron Works, its fascinating "grunge to green" story also makes a pretty good metaphor for how preservationists here can connect past and future. CHABA is fundraising to restore it and to continue telling its fascinating story. We think decorative, beautiful objects for resale will capture some important themes AND help keep its history alive!

Can you help?

A FEW CROSSOVER IDEAS

On the right is a lovely floral design—not from the Nail House, but a castiron motif throughout the official residence of the 'NailMaster,' the mid-Victorian owner who oversaw his once-massive factory complex from a fabulous house on the bluff above it. Glass and ironmaking were BOTH huge in these parts. We'd LOVE to bring both 'making' themes together! So how about a jewelry or paperweight repro in glass?



And then there's the nails themselves! Wouldn't a nail or spike make 'Gothic' gold as a glass earring or pendant?



...You've even got the Park & the Zoo to play with—

Only the park, mill-raceway & Nail House were saved when the Works left the city. The Cohanzick Zoo was added later. Now famous for its peacocks and tigers, we think it makes for a great tourism tie-in.

Us dull old building preservationists would love to steal some Zoo cachet...and help make their porcupines more famous. So we've come up with a character named Spike—a kind of fictional great-grandpa to their current spiny pair named (not kidding) 'Stanley' and 'Stella.' We think it's a fun way to remember that the Iron Works used to make spikes. (And we even have a leftover spike machine back of the Nail House to prove it!

What would you like to make?
What might it cost?
Give us a call or send us an email!
Let's talk about it!



Got any other ideas? We'd love to nail 'em!

[chaba]

THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING ARTS
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Keeping our ^{historic} neighborhoods beautiful... & keeping them real.



AN INVITATION TO
GLASS & METAL-WORK
ARTISTS

Newel-post and cast-iron eagle from
the so-called "Nailmaster's House"
on a bluff high above City Park
in Bridgeton, NJ

[**chaba**]

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