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Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 11:32am EDT

Restoration planned for Fort Dobbs in Statesville

Charlotte Business Journal - The Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area

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Boosters have launched a drive to raise \$2.6 million for a major restoration of the **Fort Dobbs State Historic Site** in Statesville.

The goal of the restoration is to boost tourism and employment driven by Fort Dobbs, the only historic site in the state related to the French and Indian War. Fort Dobbs draws about 27,000 visitors per year, but projections say the upgrades could attract an additional 125,000 while also supporting 400 jobs during the next six to eight years.

N.C. Secretary of Cultural Resources Linda Carlisle took part in a ceremony launching the fund-raising campaign. She said improvements at Fort Dobbs will encourage more visits from sought-after "cultural heritage" tourists.


"We know this type of tourist spends more money and stays longer," she said. "The more we can capitalize on these stories, the more these tourists will come here."

The site is northwest of the Statesville city limits and the Interstate 77 interchange at Interstate 40.


A federal grant of \$150,000 from the Institute of Library and Museum Services is funding design work on the project by Bill Haley, who has designed interactive experiences at historic sites ranging from Stonehenge to Valley Forge.

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