



Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area
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John and Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage Named Official York County Heritage Site

Wrightsville, PA - The York County Planning Commission (YCPC) recently named the John and Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage at Historic Pleasant Garden, an official York County Heritage Site. The York County Heritage Program, which is managed by the YCPC, seeks to recognize and designate Heritage Resources in York County including natural, cultural, and historic sites. Prospective Heritage Resources must submit an application and undergo a review process to confirm they demonstrate Authenticity, Interpretation, and Visitor Readiness.

Known to many as the Dritt Mansion, after its longtime 18th and 19th century owners, the Zimmerman Center serves as headquarters for the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area (SGHA) and provides a community facility for education and interpretation of the region's rich cultural and natural heritage. In addition to being designated as a York County Heritage Site, SGHA is pleased to have assisted in providing grant money to fund the development and implementation of the York County Heritage Program and a sister program in Lancaster County.

Pleasant Garden, the name originally given to the property by owner Thomas Cresap in the early 1700s, has long played a significant role in the river's history. Situated on the fertile "Long Level" waterfront, it was traversed by Indian paths and was the center of the border dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania. The home was built in the mid 1700's and restored by John and Kathryn Zimmerman in the late 1990's. The Zimmerman's graciously donated the home to SGHA in 2007. The Zimmerman Center also serves as an access point to the Susquehanna River Water Trail and a trailhead to the Mason Dixon Trail and Susquehanna Heritage Park. SGHA is currently working with the National Park Service and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to expand and improve the public facilities and access points at the Zimmerman Center.

SGHA is a nonprofit organization serving York and Lancaster counties and strives to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality by promoting the preservation, conservation and interpretation of the Susquehanna River's heritage. SGHA is one of 12 Pennsylvania Heritage Areas and brings public awareness and understanding of the river's value to our region, state and nation and helps preserve and enhance the river's historical, environmental and recreational assets for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The Zimmerman Center is open to the public for tours and to view the *Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection*. To learn more about the programs and projects of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, please visit www.SusquehannaHeritage.org.

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Our mission is to enhance our region's quality of life and economic vitality by promoting the preservation, conservation and interpretation of the Susquehanna River's cultural and natural heritage.