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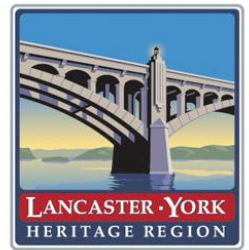
Contact: Mark Platts, President

Phone: 717-252-0229

Fax: 717-252-1224

Email: info@lyhr.org

Web: www.lyhr.org



1706 Long Level Road
Wrightsville, PA 17368

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\$1.5 Million Private Donation Benefits Local Heritage Programs and the Susquehanna Heritage Park

John & Kathryn Zimmerman Recognized for Civic Generosity

Wrightsville, PA – The Lancaster-York Heritage Region announced Thursday, May 3rd that John and Kathryn Zimmerman of Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania are donating their Historic Pleasant Garden home and property along the Susquehanna River to the Heritage Region for the benefit of the community as part of the new Susquehanna Heritage Park. The gift is valued at \$1.5 million, including the property and a building maintenance fund.

The Heritage Region also announced that the property will be named **The John and Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage at Historic Pleasant Garden**. The center will be incorporated into the programs and facilities offered at the new Susquehanna Heritage Park now under development by the County of York, the Heritage Region, and other local, regional and state partners.

The good news was shared at a press conference held at the 270-year-old stone landmark located on the river at Long Level, a few miles south of Wrightsville in York County. “This is a major expression of private support for the wide range of successful heritage initiatives that the Lancaster-York Heritage Region has brought to our community over the past five years. This exceptionally generous gift will enable us to expand our heritage programs and better share the rich history of this historic home with both residents and visitors,” David Keller, Chairperson of the Lancaster-York Heritage Board of Directors, said at the event.

Heritage Region President Mark Platts highlighted the added value the donation will bring to the Susquehanna Heritage Park, which is preserving portions of historic Lauxmont Farms adjacent to Pleasant Garden. “The gift of this unique property provides the Heritage Region and our other park partners with a great opportunity to begin on-site heritage education and interpretive programs while the rest of the park comes on line over the next few years. This donation exemplifies the public/private partnerships that we’ve always said will be an important part of the Heritage Park’s success,” Platts said.

As the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, Pleasant Garden will become an integral part of community outreach efforts for both the Heritage Park and the region. Over the next year, new areas of the home will be made available for public programs related to heritage education and interpretation, as well as public tours on a scheduled basis. These activities will be scaled appropriately to ensure that Pleasant Garden continues to be a good neighbor and friend of its riverfront community. An open house for our neighbors along the river will be held this summer.

Last week's announcement comes in observance of National Preservation Month, as designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

About Historic Pleasant Garden: In a labor of love and heritage preservation, John and Kathryn Zimmerman of Mount Wolf, PA purchased Pleasant Garden, commonly referred to as the Dritt Mansion, in 1998 and spent five years restoring and renovating the formal Georgian styled stone house to its current condition. The house and property overlook the majestic Susquehanna River at Long Level. The property is adjacent to portions of Lauxmont Farms and the site of the last known Susquehannock Indian village, the Byrd Liebhart Site, which is planned for preservation and interpretation as part of the Susquehanna Heritage Park.

The property has a rich history dating to a 1729 grant from Lord Baltimore in Maryland to Thomas Cressap, who named the property Pleasant Garden. Disputes over the location of the 40th parallel, the original boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland, soon led to fighting known as the Border War, which was eventually resolved by the Mason-Dixon Line. Although the exact age of the bluestone house that stands today is not known, it is believed to have been built in the 1730s. Over time, the property has had 11 different owners, including Captain Jacob Dritt, an officer in the Pennsylvania Militia and a businessman and early planner of Washington Boro. Since March 2004, the Lancaster-York Heritage Region has been honored to call historic Pleasant Garden our home, renting the property from the Zimmerman family.

About the Zimmermans: For over half a century, John and Kathryn Zimmerman of Mount Wolf have dedicated much of their time and resources to the betterment of the York community. Kathryn is former President of both the Junior League of York and the YWCA of York. John has served as President of the York Chamber of Commerce, Historic York, and the York County Historical Society. Through the York County Community Foundation, the Zimmermans have provided generous support for Otterbein United Methodist Church (Mount Wolf), York County Day School, the York County Heritage Trust, the Mount Wolf Athletic Association, and many other worthy community causes. John and Kathryn Zimmerman are truly great people, showing how us all how we can best share life's blessings lives with our community.

About the Lancaster-York Heritage Region: The Lancaster-York Heritage Region is a non-profit organization and State-designated heritage area working to identify, preserve, interpret and promote the rich heritage and culture of York and Lancaster Counties. For more information about our mission and programs we invite you to visit www.StoriesoftheLand.com.

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