



UMHC Topics

Upper Moreland Historical Commission

Summer 2010

Historic Resource Inventory Adds Two

At the December 14th Board of Commissioners meeting, historical plaques were presented to two new members of the UMHC Historic Resource Inventory. Robert and Michelle Young's house, located at 218 Cameron Road, was constructed in 1910 within the Ferguson Tract, which was one of the first residential subdivisions in Willow Grove.



218 Cameron Road, Willow Grove

The second new inventory property is the home of Drs. David and Mary Robertson and it's located within the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust environmental preserve at 2955 Edgehill Road in Huntingdon Valley. The original part of the farm house was constructed in 1791 and there have been three additions to the building over its 200 year history.



2955 Edgehill Road, Huntingdon Valley

There are now a total of 36 properties included on the Commission's Historic Resource Inventory and photographs with narrative descriptions for each property can be found under "Commissions & Associations" on the Upper Moreland Township website at www.uppermoreland.org.

Willow Grove Tri-Centennial Takes Shape

Under the leadership of the UMHC, development of the Willow Grove Tri-Centennial Program is rapidly moving ahead. A Steering Committee, made up of representatives from local service, educational, commercial, volunteer, and governmental entities has been meeting on a regular basis since January to develop an overall framework for the Willow Grove 300 celebration. The Tri-Centennial Program will include parades, village fairs, band concerts, athletic and youth events, history seminars, fireworks, etc. and the time frame has been set for the entire month of May 2011.



Willow Grove Tri-Centennial Logo

On April 29th, the Steering Committee held a public meeting to present the proposed Willow Grove 300 program and to solicit expressions of interest from commercial, volunteer and other community groups wishing to participate in the celebration. About 100 residents and community group representatives attended the "roll-out" meeting and the committee has spent the last couple of months reviewing the information gathered and following up with potential participants.

One of the more interesting components of the WG 300 celebration will be a multi-week program of seminars on the history of Willow Grove beginning with the ownership of William Penn and moving into

Tri-Centennial (continued)

the 21st century. Highlights of this program will include the history of Willow Grove Park, which opened in 1896, the early commerce of Willow Grove, including its mill villages and farms, and the transportation history of our town. Did you know that the North Pennsylvania Railroad was extended to Willow Grove in 1871, just six years after the end of the Civil War, and electrified trolley lines from Philadelphia and Doylestown to Willow Grove went into operation in 1895? Willow Grove Park opened a year later.



Trolley lines came to Willow Grove in 1895

The Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust will offer programs on the history of the Pennypack Creek and environmental issues that are impacting our natural waterways

The Steering Committee has established a goal of making the Tri-Centennial Celebration a “zero tax dollars” event and a sponsorship and contributions campaign has been initiated to achieve this goal.

For additional information about the Willow Grove Tri-Centennial Celebration, please contact Dick Sayer by e-mail at hdsayer@verizon.net.

UMHC Heritage Tea Set for 2010

The annual Heritage Tea will be held on Sunday September 19th at Ashland Farm, which is located at 640 South York Road in Hatboro. Our hosts will be Marge and John Connell, and Ashland Farm is one of the 36 properties currently listed on the Upper Moreland Historic Resource Inventory.



Ashland Farm – Built in 1759

The smaller section of the house was built in 1759 by Joshua Potts, the first pastor of the Southampton Baptist Church, Hatboro’s first school teacher and one of the founders of the Hatboro Library. The larger section to the right is believed to have been added in 1787 by Joseph Folwell. The property was later renamed “Ashland Farm” by Joseph B. Yerkes who bought the house in 1843.

The farm once belonged to Nathaniel B. Boileau, a prominent politician who served in the State legislature and was Speaker of the Commonwealth in 1808. It was later owned by Pennsylvania Chief Justice William Allen, who was reported to have been one of the richest men in the state in his day.

Heritage Tea invitations will be mailed out in August, and we hope that all UM Historic Resource Inventory property owners will attend this event.

Upper Moreland Historical Commission
117 Park Avenue
Willow Grove PA 19090

