



UMHC Topics

Upper Moreland Historical Commission

Summer 2009

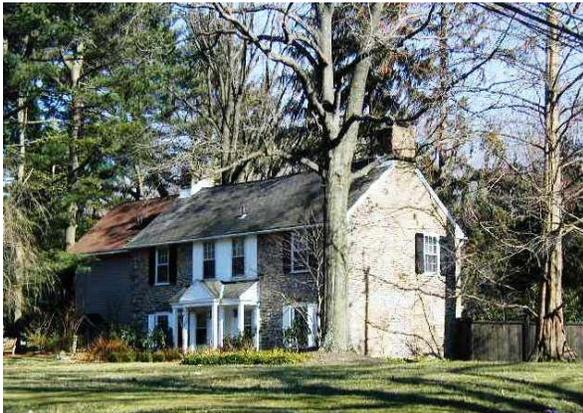
Welcome to "UMHC Topics"

The Upper Moreland Historical Commission is pleased to introduce our bi-annual newsletter which is intended to provide information to our UMHC Historic Resource Inventory property owners and other interested residents of the township. The first item of note is the new UMHC logo (above), which has been designed to reflect the ceramic plaques which are distributed to all property owners when they join the UMT Historic Resource Inventory.

We plan to publish "UMHC Topics" twice each year and distribute it by e-mail and regular mail to those interested in receiving it. Comments, questions and suggestions for future articles should be directed to Dick Sayer at hdsayer@verizon.net.

Heritage Tea Date Set

This year's Heritage Tea will be held on Sunday September 13th at the home of Jill Goldman at 2045 Terwood Road, Huntingdon Valley. We hope all inventory property owners and government officials will attend this annual event. Invitations will be sent out in early August.



2045 Terwood Road

Inventory Properties Photography

Another initiative launched by the UMHC this year is to create a detailed digital photographic library for all the properties on the township's Historic Resource Inventory and expand it as properties are added to the list. Not only has Jill Goldman agreed to host this year's Heritage Tea in September, she has also taken on the job of photographing and developing the expanded library for the Historical Commission. So if you see Jill out in front of your house, she's there on behalf of the UMHC.

Proposed Zoning Code Revisions

In reviewing Article 20A of the UMT Zoning Code, we found that property owners listed on the Historic Resource Inventory are subject to reviews by the Code Enforcement Office, the UMHC and the UMT Board of Commissioners when filing an application for a building permit to modify the exterior of their properties. This is not the case with properties not on the inventory, and the UMHC feels that this expanded process is an unnecessary impediment to those who have agreed to list their homes on the township's Historic Resource Inventory.

To resolve this problem, the Historical Commission has proposed a series of modifications to Article 20A of the UMT Zoning Code and a public hearing on the ordinance required to make these changes will be held at 7:00 on Monday July 6, 2009 in the Council Room of the township building. We urge all inventory property owners to attend this meeting and express your support of the proposed revisions to your Ward Commissioner prior to the meeting.

Under the revisions to Article 20A of the Zoning Code, historic inventory property owners wishing to modify their homes or buildings would submit their permit applications to the Code Enforcement Office the same as any other township property owner. The application would be forwarded to the UMHC for its review and recommendations and a meeting would be scheduled with the applicant. Following that review meeting, the UMHC would forward its recommendations to the applicant and to the Code Enforcement Officer and if all parties agreed with the recommendations the Code Enforcement Office would issue the appropriate construction permits.

If the applicant or the Code Enforcement Officer do not agree with the UMHC recommendations, they could appeal to the Board of Commissioners for further review and consideration.

This simplified building permit application review and approval process would only apply to situations where there were no other issues, such as zoning variances or other special approvals needed.

A package of information and the detailed wording of the proposed changes to Article 20A of the UMT Zoning Code will be sent to all inventory property owners prior to the public hearing. The wording of Article 20A can be found on the UMT website under the heading "Associations & Commissions".

Willow Grove Tri-Centennial

In 2011, Willow Grove will reach its 300th birthday as a municipality and it certainly has an extensive and storied history going all the way back to the days of William Penn and the on-going formation of the Philadelphia region. Revolutionary War battles took place in and around our township and for the first half of the 20th century Willow Grove Park was one of the great entertainment venues in this part of the country. Newly built trolley and railroad lines replaced the stage coaches that served the area and several major roadways crossed in the middle of town.

In 1961, Willow Grove / Upper Moreland celebrated its 250th anniversary with a concentrated one week schedule of events that included parades, concerts, fireworks and nightly performances of a play called "Our Community Heritage".

At our meeting June 2nd, the Historical Commission decided that it would be appropriate for the UMHC to serve as the organizer and overall coordinator for events in 2011 commemorating the 300th anniversary of Willow Grove. A series of kick-off meetings are being arranged to solicit a broad range of participation from local organizations and as plans are developed we will be contacting our inventory property owners to assist us in this effort.

Boileau Farmstead Improvements

Nick Scull, Friends of Boileau President, reports that significant remedial has been completed at the barn to stabilize the structure and remove the interior partitioning that was constructed within the building long after it was originally built. It is now possible to see the original timber framing of the barn and determine how best to take on the job of restoring it in detail.

The Friends of Boileau hosted a gala evening fund raising party and a fair at the farmstead in May both of which were well attended. This property houses the last remaining colonial period farm buildings in Upper Moreland Township.

Upper Moreland Historical Commission

The UMHC was established by township ordinance in 2002, as a part of the township government, with three basic areas of responsibility.

1. To identify significant historical properties within Upper Moreland Township and create a Historical Resource Inventory of such properties
2. To educate local residents and others relative to the extensive heritage that exists within Upper Moreland Township.
3. To assist township government and others in dealing with matters related to the preservation and maintenance of historically significant properties within the township.

The Upper Moreland Historical Commission has 15 volunteer members each appointed by the Board of Commissioners for three year terms, and they are:

- Dick Sayer – President
- Mariann O'Connor – Vice President
- Millie Wintz – Secretary
- Bill Kuhfuss – Treasurer
- Murrell Dobbins
- Nicholas Scull
- Jonathan DeJonge
- Mark Gallagher
- Carla Loughlin
- Joe Lavalle – Board of Commissioners
- Cindy Joy Marselis
- Kim Branson
- Jill Goldman
- John Connell
- Tony Winkler

The Upper Moreland Historical Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the township building and meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in serving on the Commission please contact Mariann O'Connor 267-767-0457.

Upper Moreland Historical Commission
117 Park Avenue
Willow Grove PA 19090

