

NEWS RELEASE

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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PENNSYLVANIA FOCUSING ON BLACK HISTORY

Preserve America Grant will Fund Study, Support Local African American Heritage Tourism

Harrisburg, PA –The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will coordinate a multi-year study to identify and document African American historical and cultural resources in the state.

Another focus will be on the development of heritage tourism programs focusing on local black history.

“We all accept the importance of studying American history and recognize that Pennsylvania has played a key role in the development of our country” said PHMC Executive Director Barbara Franco. “But that story is incomplete without the inclusion of the African American experience in Pennsylvania. This project is an opportunity to tell a richer and more accurate story and make this information available to the public.”

The commission, in partnership with the African American Museum of Philadelphia, will conduct the survey. The cost is covered by a \$142,500 grant from Preserve America, a federal program that encourages and helps fund historic preservation projects. PHMC will provide matching state funds to cover the \$285,000 cost.

Franco said funding will also be available to:

- Assist in developing local tourism projects that feature African American history;
- Help not-for-profit organizations identify, document and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places, historically significant African American cultural resources, as well as nominate them for the PHMC’s historical marker program; and
- Support the development of other public history programs, such as lectures, exhibits, and heritage tourism products such as walking or driving tours and marketing programs.

PHMC has selected black history as its theme for 2010. The study results, a related Web site, public educational programs, as well as the African American heritage tourism programs, will be launched in early 2010.

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