



NEWS

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

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State Grant for Historic Meetinghouse \$72,000 toward stabilization

JENKINTOWN, PA – A \$72,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), was recently awarded to the Little Abington Meetinghouse on Jenkintown Road at Fisher Road in Abington Township, Montgomery County. The Meetinghouse Restoration Committee, a group community leaders overseeing the building's revival, applied for the grant. Awarded by the state's official history agency, the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant represents the first major funding secured by the committee.

Built in 1836, the Little Abington Meetinghouse has been vacant since the early 1970s when the last members stopped worshipping there. The building is a wonderful example of Quaker meetinghouse architecture and it has been little altered since it was first built. According to David Rowland, president of the Old York Road Historical Society, "The grant award is the perfect endorsement we need for a project that will restore to the community a gem of a building."

The committee is planning to use the meetinghouse space for small community gatherings, meetings, performances, discussion groups, a film series, lectures and small social activities. The Little Abington Meetinghouse is owned by Abington Township and is encompassed within the boundaries of Abington Art Center's Sculpture Park.

The PHMC funding, which requires a dollar for dollar match, will support a new cedar shingle roof; masonry and stucco repairs; doors, shutters and window repairs; and other projects toward rejuvenating the building. Work could begin as early as February 2007 funding permitting. All tax-deductible donations to restore the meetinghouse are being accepted through Abington Art Center.

The Meetinghouse Restoration Committee members include, in addition to Rowland, Lucy Strackhouse, historic preservationist; Paul Macht, architect; Kevin Burke, landscape designer; Doug Wendell and Michael O'Connor, representatives of Abington Township; Sue Makler, a member of Abington Friends Meeting; Christopher Paquette, a member of Abington Township's Historic Preservation Committee; Reis Calfayan, general contractor; and Laura Burnham, executive director of Abington Art Center.

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Abington Art Center is a non-profit cultural center that gives everyone an opportunity to appreciate and participate in the arts at whatever level they choose. AAC brings the region arts through exhibitions of contemporary artists, fine art instruction, innovative community education programs and special events. The Center is located in Jenkintown at the intersection of Meetinghouse and Jenkintown Roads and receives operating support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the William Penn Foundation, the Philadelphia Cultural Leadership Program of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Independence Foundation, the Beneficia Foundation and Abington Township. **Gallery hours:** Tuesday through Friday, 10am to 5pm; Thursday until 7pm; Saturday 10am-3pm; free to the public, donation requested.