



Nearly \$700K Investment Will Help Preserve Bethlehem's Colonial History

By Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

BETHLEHEM - The National Park Service has awarded \$699,300 through the Historic Preservation Fund's Semi-quincentennial Grant Program to support preservation work within Bethlehem's Colonial Industrial Quarter (CIQ). The three-year project will preserve the historic 1761 Tannery and address invasive vegetation threatening historic resources throughout the CIQ.

The 1761 Tannery has been closed to the public for 22 years due to water infiltration and resulting damage. Originally used to process hides essential to Bethlehem's colonial economy, the Tannery later produced leather goods during the American Revolution, helping supply the Continental Army. HBMS previously completed work to address water infiltration as part of a multi-phase effort to preserve and eventually re-open the building. The new grant will fund Phase III, focused on preservation of the Tannery's historic stone walls. A separate, final phase will address HVAC and electrical improvements.

The grant will also fund efforts to combat Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant that has spread throughout the CIQ and can threaten historic structures. Work will include developing and implementing a mitigation plan, removing existing knotweed, and establishing native vegetation to help prevent its return.

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Inc. (DLNHC) will serve as the project lead and federal grant administrator, bringing experience in federal grant and project management, as well as historic preservation. "The Colonial Industrial Quarter is such an important part of what makes this city unique and is central to the story of the heritage corridor," said Tony Pierucci, executive director of DLNHC. "We are excited to step alongside HBMS and other partners to help advance the preservation of this important resource."

"The 1761 Tannery is the only surviving 18th-century Moravian industrial building in the world. With preservation efforts and updated interpretation, we can invite students and the public back into the expansive historic space to learn about daily life in Bethlehem, including the many trades and crafts the Moravians practiced on the Monocacy Creek," said Lori-Ann Wukitsch, president and CEO of Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites.

The Tannery and the CIQ are also part of Moravian Church Settlements – Bethlehem, one of four historic Moravian settlements across the world that comprise a transnational UNESCO World Heritage.



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