



Independence: The Best Park in History

INDE, THKO, and EDAL Ornaments Hang on 2007 White House Christmas Tree

An Independence National Historical Park ornament is prominently displayed on this year's official White House Christmas Tree. The tree is the centerpiece of elaborate decorations celebrating the theme of "Holiday in the National Parks."

The tree, located in the Blue Room, is adorned with handmade ornaments representing the country's 391 National Park Service sites. Each ornament on the 18-foot Fraser fir was designed by an artist selected by our national parks.



Ornaments showcase the Kosciuszko House, Independence Hall, and Poe House



Acting Superintendent Darla Sidles with artists Kevin Lewellen, Deirdre Murphy, and Brett Edenton, with Public Affairs Officer Jane Cowley and Volunteer Coordinator Beverly Morris.

The Independence National Historical Park ornament was created by local artist Kevin Lewellen. Other sites also represented on the White House Christmas Tree are the Edgar Allan Poe National Historical Site, with an ornament created by Brett Edenton, and the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, with an ornament created by Deirdre Murphy. Mr. Lewellen and Mr. Edenton attended a White House reception hosted by First Lady Laura Bush on November 28.

"I am grateful for the time and talent donated by these local artists, who have done such a fabulous job representing our historical sites for this national celebration," said Acting

Superintendent Darla Sidles, who has responsibility for all three sites.

The holiday displays at the White House incorporate the wide variety of natural, cultural, and recreational features preserved by the National Park Service. Models of icons such as the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the Statue of Liberty share space with paintings of scenic vistas from Grand Canyon, Zion, and Rocky Mountain National Parks. Holiday garlands intertwined with park objects including seashells, pine cones, and gold aspen leaves add to each room's festive feel.

IPI Gets Ready to Grow

INDE is nearing the end of its 2-year renovation program at 325 Walnut Street, which will soon be the newest addition to the Independence Park Institute (IPI), the education branch of Independence National Historical Park.

Once operational, this new facility will double the programs and the capacity of the IPI. We will be adding three additional learning labs to those we currently have in the Independence Living History Center.

These learning labs will give students the opportunity to experience hands-on, interactive programs in which they can role play as delegates to the 2nd Continental Congress or Constitutional Convention in a mock-up of the Assembly Room, explore symbols of freedom like the Liberty Bell, or learn about Philadelphia's connections and significant contributions to anti-slavery efforts in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Over 30,000 school children per year will be able to participate in IPI education programs at this facility when it is fully operational.



325 Walnut St

Commemoration of the President's House Site



Members of the community joined the archeologists at the site for the closing ceremony of the archeological dig, July 2007

The commemoration of the President's House site at 6th and Market Streets is moving closer to reality. Since the closing of the archeological dig of the site, a task force comprised of representatives of the Park, City, Commonwealth, and local citizens has been evaluating options for incorporating the archeological findings into the design plan for the commemoration. The City of Philadelphia and Independence National Historical Park are now ready to invite the public to learn about the options and hear about the next steps for the commemoration, "The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in Making a New Nation." A public meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2007, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Freedom Theatre, 1346 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121.

In February 2007, the team headed by Kelly/Maiello Architects and Planners was selected to design a new permanent outdoor installation on the doorstep of the Liberty Bell Center. As a result of unexpected findings uncovered during an archeological dig at the site, the design team has enhanced the plan by incorporating these findings. The team will unveil the new plan at the December 13 meeting. The Oversight Committee for the President's House, along with City and Park officials, will provide an update and review the next steps.

The President's House is an important historic project that is designed to commemorate the house where Presidents George Washington and John Adams lived from 1790 to 1800, and the long-obscured story of at least nine enslaved Africans who toiled there during Washington's presidency.

Until construction of the commemorative installation, the site will remain open to visitors, who will be able to review information posted on the viewing platform and view photographs of the dig. Artifacts unearthed during the dig will be analyzed and eventually displayed for the public at the Archeology Lab in the Independence Living History Center at 3rd and Chestnut Streets.

Nearly 300,000 visitors came to the public viewing platform to witness this extraordinary place, to learn from the archeologists, and to interact with each other on important topics such as race and slavery in the United States. To learn more about the site and archeological findings, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/inde/parkmgmt/publicinvolvement.htm.

The Friends of Independence Facilitate Community Engagement at Independence National Historical Park

The Friends of Independence, an independent, non-profit organization, works closely with INDE to support the Park in a variety of ways. In 2007, the friends provided more than \$17,000 to support park gardens; \$7,500 to restore Penn family artifacts in the Independence Hall Governor's Council Chamber; nearly \$4,000 for the restoration of the original workings of the clock once located in Independence Hall, as well as several smaller amounts for acquisition of artifacts important to the Park. In all, the Friends have provided nearly \$300,000 to improve and enhance the park this year.

In November, the Friends sponsored a public meeting on Washington Square. This very successful meeting brought together over 50 local residents and business owners to talk about their



concerns regarding Washington Square. Issues that were raised included the desire for more events (and more publicity for events) on Washington Square; more effective protection of the Square, particularly in regards to the many homeless people who frequent the Square; and the need to better address the conflicting uses of the Square by residents and local schools and daycare centers. The park is currently reviewing all of the

comments that were received and will use these comments to inform its decision on how to revise park use policy for the Square.

The Friends also recently provided \$268,000 to the park supporting the construction of an area on Independence Mall that celebrates the First Amendment and provides a highly visible space for groups that choose to gather in the park. INDE will hold a public event early in January to celebrate the opening of this exciting new space to promote public assembly.

For membership information, please call (215) 861-4971.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

NPS Photographers:
George B. Feder, Top Guns Corporate
Photography
Park Staff

Comments? Write to:
Jane Cowley, INHP
143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 597-0060
Fax: (215) 597-0042
Email: Jane_Cowley@nps.gov

News from the Printing office

Independence National Historical Park is proud to be able to offer our visitors an exciting trip through history at the Printing Office in Franklin Court. Visitors can learn about the history of printing while park staff provide demonstrations.

We would like to thank the staff, volunteers and locals who have donated rags to the printing office over the last 7 months. In the past it has cost Eastern National almost \$400 a year to supply the Franklin Court Printing Office with rags. With these donations we have not needed to purchase any rags. We are looking for your continued support. We need any old rags or clothing -- anything made with natural fibers. These can be dropped off at the printing office anytime between 11 am and 5 pm, Monday through Sunday.

The office has a new printing press that is a duplicate of the English Common Press that Franklin used in London and that the Smithsonian now owns. If you haven't seen the press in operation, come to Franklin Court and check out a demonstration. We are currently printing the Dunlap broadside of the Declaration of Independence on the new press. The old press is still in action -- we are using the old press to print three different items: the political cartoon "Join or Die"; Abigail Adam's letter "Remember the Ladies"; and Franklin's famous line, "Wine, constant proof that God loves us and wants to see us happy."



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
 143 S. Third Street
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

First Class Mail
 Postage and Fees
PAID
 City, State
 Permit Number

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

INDE Cultural Resource Staff Brings Life back to Nicholas Biddle Bust



Biddle Bust Before Treatment



Artist John Schoff

On November 13, the Nicholas Biddle plaster bust in the Second Bank “People of Independence” exhibit was given a new surface finish by contract artist John Schoff. The revised surface finish was the result of a 6 month research project by INDE curators in an effort to create a more historically accurate and visually interesting display of the late 19th /early 20th-century plaster bust.

Through the use of surface analysis and cross-section microscopy, contract art conservators Virginia Naude and Katherine Cuffari determined that the original paint layer was not retrievable under the modern chalky white paint surface that had been added to the bust in the late 20th century. Taking into account the conservation analysis results, as well as research conducted on early 20th-century plaster art catalogs and the plaster art collection at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA), it

was determined that a visual effect of an aged plaster, similar to the original surface of plaster casts by Philadelphia artist Samuel Murray at the PAFA, would show the portrait to its best advantage in the exhibit on the first floor of the Second Bank.



Biddle Bust After Treatment