



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National  
Historical Park

143 S. Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office

215-597-0060 phone  
215-597-0042 fax

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## Independence National Historical Park

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For Immediate Release  
For more information contact:  
Jane Cowley, 215- 597- 0060

### **Rehabilitation Project Scheduled for Deshler- Morris House and Bringhurst House, Independence National Historical Park**

The National Park Service has announced a multi- million dollar federal contract to renovate and preserve the Deshler- Morris House and Bringhurst House, a unit of Independence National Historical Park located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Work will start in October 2007 and last for about 18 months. This important project will update the HVAC, electrical and drainage systems and complete architectural repairs on the original wood and masonry of the houses. New exhibits at the Bringhurst House will interpret the outcome of the Battle of Germantown, introduce President Washington's household, including their enslaved servants, and link the 300 year history of Germantown with other key neighborhood sites and museums. For complete information on the pending contract, please go to <http://ideasec.nbc.gov> and look for Solicitation Number N4500070901.

There's still time to see the Deshler- Morris House before it closes for this project! The site is open Friday through Sunday, 1 pm to 4 pm and admission is free. Call 215- 597- 7130 for more information or to schedule a special tour. On October 6, 2007, from 10 am to 4 pm, the Deshler- Morris House will feature former resident, British Commander General Howe, during the annual Revolutionary Germantown Festival commemorating the Battle of Germantown. General Howe was Commander of all British forces in North America at the time of the Battle of Germantown and he used the Deshler- Morris House as his temporary headquarters after the battle in 1777.

Ironically, the Germantown White House (Deshler- Morris House) also sheltered President George Washington. In October 1793, the President found refuge in Germantown during the Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia and held four cabinet meetings here. The next summer, the house provided a welcome retreat for the First Family near Philadelphia, then the Federal Capital. The new exhibits will teach visitors about the nine enslaved Africans kept by Washington while he resided in Philadelphia, continuing the story currently being told at the President's House site at 6<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. The exhibits will include the story of the house through the eyes of three women occupants: Martha Washington, granddaughter Nellie Park Custis, and enslaved African Oney Judge.

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



Located at 5442 Germantown Avenue, the site is operated by the Deshler- Morris House Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers. For more information on the Revolutionary Germantown Festival, visit [www.revolutionarygermantown.org](http://www.revolutionarygermantown.org).

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