

Public Notice Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of Preserving Historic Germantown's Fromberger-Harkness House

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered Germantown Historical Society, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a Challenge Infrastructure and Capacity Building grant (CHA-296082) to make critical electrical and building systems upgrades to the Fromberger-Harkness house.

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 306108. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The proposed project will take place within Fromberger-Harkness House, located at 5501 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144. Work involves repair and upgrades to the existing electrical and HVAC systems. Most of the work will occur within the house, except for the replacement of two existing condenser units. The existing boiler, air handling units, associated circulation systems, wiring and controls will also be replaced with new equipment. Some necessary demolition, including asbestos remediation, is included in the scope of work. There will be no ground disturbing activities.

The John Fromberger House is a contributing property to the Colonial Germantown Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP# 66000678). The home was constructed in 1795 and designed by Edwin Brumbaugh. It is representative of the Federal Style and is a two and one-half story, brick with stone and wood trim.

On February 11, 2025, Barbara Frederick, Environmental Review Division Manager, with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provided a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties. After reviewing Section 106 documentation and SHPO finding, NEH issues a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties, conditioned on the submission of design drawings to New York SHPO and NEH for review and comment, once available.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov.

POSTING DATES February 24th 2025 – March 3rd 2025