

Archives

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York County history buffs push for the public's eye

More than two centuries ago, travelers went out of their way to enjoy the hospitality of Dill's Tavern.

That might be about to happen again.

The York County Planning Commission has agreed to list the Dillsburg landmark and 21 other destinations on its new York County Heritage Web site to encourage tourism.

"We were looking for sites that would reflect the culture, history and nature of our county," program coordinator Anne Walko said.

The goal of the **York County Heritage program** is to help visitors discover what's out there.

Walko said a lot of people tour the Gettysburg battlefield and then drive along Route 30 to explore Amish country around Lancaster without realizing there are interesting places in between.

The effort was inspired by the nonprofit Lancaster-York Heritage Region, which helped launch Lancaster County Heritage several years ago.

"Lancaster's on a different plane," Walko said. "They're a little bit ahead of us, but we're learning from their experience."

One of the things they've learned is that organized promotion can go a long way in helping groups like the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society "get some of their underutilized or generally unknown resources out for the general public to discover," Walko said.

For NYCHAPS, which has been renovating the 1794 Dill's Tavern on North Baltimore Street in Dillsburg since 2002, the timing couldn't be

better.

Joanne Klase, a member of the tavern preservation committee, said there is only one room left to restore in the structure.

Training will begin next week for volunteer docents, who will be entrusted to guide visitors through the tavern or the nearby Maple Shade Barn, which houses the organization's archives and also has been included on the York County Heritage list.

Klase said initial plans are to open both structures to the public every Sunday afternoon. If all goes well, a weekday might be added next year.

INFOBOX:

ON THE WEB

* Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society:

www.northernyorkhistorical.org

* York County Heritage: www.yorkcountyheritage.com

Section: Local/State

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