



FORT PITT
BLOCK HOUSE

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Fort Pitt Block House Launches Website
Preparations Underway for 250th Anniversary in 2014

Point State Park, Pittsburgh, PA – May 30, 2013 - The Fort Pitt Block House, standing in the same spot at the Point since 1764, has entered the technology age with the launch of its first dedicated website - www.fortpittblockhouse.com. As the Block House nears its 250th anniversary in 2014, the Fort Pitt Society, owners and stewards of Pittsburgh's oldest authenticated structure, are utilizing this opportunity to build internal capacity and begin focusing on future sustainability. The website, developed with funding from the [Buhl Foundation](#), is designed to help the Block House reach a wider local, regional and national audience to increase both awareness of and financial support for this historically significant landmark in the heart of our city.

The Block House is all that remains of Fort Pitt, the largest and most elaborate British fort in North America and a key defense during the French and Indian War in the Western Hemisphere. Given to the Fort Pitt Society of the [Daughters of the American Revolution](#) of Allegheny County in 1894, the Block House has remained free and open to visitors from across the nation and around the world for over a century.

The new website will make planning a visit or scheduling a tour much easier for the public with directions, parking options and hours of operation easily accessible. The long and often complex history of the Block House is detailed with an interactive timeline enhanced with historical drawings and photographs – an interesting read for history buffs and a useful resource for students. A calendar of events will highlight activities at the Block House as well as events at [Point State Park](#) and the [Fort Pitt Museum](#). Photographs by [Roy Engelbrecht](#), a local photographer specializing in studio and architectural photography, enliven the site. Designed by [WebSAP.net](#), a Pittsburgh-based web design and development company, the site features easy navigation and high functionality.

Emily Weaver, Curator at the Block House, provided much of the historical material featured on the new website, "The archives of the Fort Pitt Society are a treasure trove of information, with 120 years of newspaper clippings, photographs, meeting notes and journals. We are thrilled to be able to share these resources with the community for the first time," she said. "In addition to the history of the Block House, there is the amazing story of the women of the Fort Pitt Society, who in many instances over the years have had to fight to keep the Block House standing."

Owned and Operated by The Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania



Page 2

“Our number one goal is and always has been to preserve history,” said Elizabeth Wheatley, incoming President of the Board of Directors of the Fort Pitt Society. “This website will help us reach a wider audience, to share our story and get more people involved especially as we approach our 250th anniversary. We have quite a little treasure here and we want more people to know about it!”

About The Fort Pitt Block House

The Fort Pitt Society is a supporting organization of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Fort Pitt Society owns, operates and maintains the Fort Pitt Block House and the surrounding grounds as a historical site and museum, and promotes preservation, education, and public awareness of Pittsburgh's role in early American history. Located in Point State Park, the Fort Pitt Block House is free and open to the public Wednesday through Sunday between 10:30 am and 4:30 pm during the summer months. For more information, visit www.fortpittblockhouse.com.

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For more information about the Fort Pitt Block House, the website, the 250th anniversary or to schedule an interview with a representative of the Block House **please contact, Maureen Mahoney Hill at 412-780-4708** or by email at mmahoneycfre@gmail.com.