



Contact:

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Archaeological Dig Conducted on Grounds of Fort Pitt Block House

Point State Park, Pittsburgh, PA – August 16, 2013. Built in 1764, the Fort Pitt Block House is all that remains of Fort Pitt, which once stood on the grounds of what is now Point State Park. The Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Allegheny County, owners and operators of the Block House, are planning a year-long and city-wide celebration of the building's 250th anniversary in 2014. As part of the 250th celebration and in recognition of the members of the DAR who have protected and promoted the Block House for the past 120 years, a memorial garden and walkway is planned for the southern portion of the Block House property. Due to the historic nature of property around the Block House and throughout the park, an archaeological survey of the area impacted by the garden installation is being conducted first.

Christine Davis Consultants (CDC), a team of highly qualified and experienced archeologists and historians, has been hired for the job. This will be the second time CDC has done archeological work with the Block House, in 2003 they completed an archaeological survey below the concrete floor inside the Block House. At that time the team uncovered approximately 135 artifacts after digging two feet down below the floor level. Some of the artifacts included a French gunflint, an arrow point, Native American pottery, glass shards, marbles, various beads, musket balls and animal remains. This dig began on Thursday, August 15th and will continue through Saturday. Because relatively few disruptions have occurred to this proposed garden area, there is a good chance of artifacts being discovered that may uncover new information about the Fort Pitt Block House and the history of the Point.

WHO: Available for interviews:

Emily Weaver, Curator, Fort Pitt Block House

Joanne Ostergaard, Block House 250 Coordinator, Fort Pitt Society/Pittsburgh Chapter NSDAR

Christine Davis, Christine Davis Consultants Archaeology and History

WHAT: Archaeological survey on the grounds of the Fort Pitt Block House to determine if any historical artifacts exist in the area where a new garden and walkway is slated to be installed.

WHERE: Fort Pitt Block House, Point State Park

WHEN: **Friday, August 16, 2013**

Archaeologists on site starting at 9:30 am, best time for photographs 11am or later

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the recent refurbishment of the grounds at Point State Park, we ask that you please park any vehicles along the fence behind the Fort Pitt Museum....thank you for your consideration.

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For more information about the Fort Pitt Block House, the archaeological survey, Block House 250 or to schedule an interview **please contact, Maureen Mahoney Hill at 412-780-4708** or by email at mmahoneycfre@gmail.com.

