

**For Immediate Release**

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**Moravian Historical Society to Beautify, Improve Properties in Nazareth**

*Project includes creation of open space for public enjoyment*

**September 22, 2013 Nazareth, PA** - The Moravian Historical Society today announced an ambitious plan to enhance the visitor experience at its key historic properties in Nazareth while providing significant benefits for the public and the community.

Located on the Ephrata Tract in the heart of Nazareth, the society operates two buildings of historical significance – the 1740 Gray Cottage and the 1740/1743 Whitefield House. The society is a leading world resource for Moravian history.

The project will enhance the Ephrata Tract to create an outdoor space for public and community events, while making needed capital repairs on the Gray Cottage and Whitefield House.

“We will significantly enhance the beauty of this historic property while increasing its value and appeal to the community,” said the Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood, president of the society’s Board of Managers. “We are fortunate to be able to make this contribution to our good neighbors here in Nazareth and beyond.”

Details of the plan include creation of a public gathering space for outdoor events, needed repairs to the roof of the Gray Cottage, and the installation of a new accessible entrance to the Whitefield House that will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Goals also

include recreating the “first house” of Nazareth and a band shell for music performances and other public presentations.

Also as part of the project, two aging rental properties in one corner of the tract will be removed. They will be offered for sale to a buyer who wants to relocate them.

Funding for the project will come in part from the society’s endowments, fundraising, and grants. For information on sponsorship or donation opportunities, contact the society at 610.759.5070 or [info@moravianhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@moravianhistoricalsociety.org).

The society maintains an extensive collection of over 10,000 objects, books, paintings and other materials focusing on Moravian history, art, culture, music, and people. Its collection includes the earliest-known violin made in the American colonies, a 1776 pipe organ, rare first editions of books by John Amos Comenius, the “Father of Modern Education,” and many other objects of historic and educational significance.