HISTORIC MORAVIAN BETHLEHEM RECEIVES NOMINATION FOR INCLUSION ON WORLD HERITAGE LIST

National Historic Landmark District is on US Tentative List for nomination alongside Ellis Island, Central Park, Brooklyn Bridge and Early Chicago Skyscrapers


Historic Moravian Bethlehem’s footprint is 14.7 acres of the original 18th-century Moravian settlement which served as the center of Moravian activities in America. With its intact core of original buildings, Historic Moravian Bethlehem preserves some of the most important structures and sites relating to the Moravians in the New World and is significant as an outstanding example of Moravian architecture and town planning.

The settlement played a key role in both the international and American Moravian communities and includes the oldest building in Bethlehem, the 1741 Gemeinhaus and America’s earliest industrial park that contained a pottery, tannery, soap mill, wash houses, grist mill, oil mill, blacksmith shop, brass foundry, and the first pumped municipal water system in America. Today, visitors can enjoy some of the finest 18th-century colonial Germanic architecture in the nation and explore artifacts that speak to the Moravian community.

Historic Moravian Bethlehem is working with the historic Moravian community of Herrnhut, Germany, founded in 1722, and Gracehill, Northern Ireland, founded in 1765, to prepare a joint transnational serial nomination to the World Heritage List with a detailed dossier and statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the three sites as an extension to the World Heritage listing in 2015 of Christiansfeld, an historic Moravian Church Settlement in Denmark.

The World Heritage List was established in 1972 to “encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.” There are currently just over 1,000 sites on the World Heritage List, two examples of which are the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids at Giza in Egypt. There are only 24 World Heritage Sites in the United States, two of which are Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the Statue of Liberty in New York.

Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites invites the public to experience Historic Moravian Bethlehem in person with group, custom, museum, and walking tour offerings provided year round. We welcome visitors from 50 states in the US and 26 foreign countries. For more information, please visit our website at www.HistoricBethlehem.org or call 1-800-360-TOUR.
Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites is a not-for-profit institution that brings to life three centuries of American history. Historic Bethlehem tells the story of a small town of great influence, home to some of our nation’s early settlers, to the first pumped municipal water system in the American colonies, and to one of the world’s greatest industrial companies. Historic Bethlehem is located in eastern Pennsylvania, only an hour drive north from Philadelphia and 2 hours west of New York City. Historic Bethlehem is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, part of a National Historic Landmark District, and a designated site on the US Tentative List.

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