

Amity landmark to be rebuilt in Albany

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The Peter Jones homestead, an Amity Township landmark that was demolished in 2005 for a shopping center, will be rebuilt in northern Berks County.

The Colonial home built by Peter Jones in 1772 exists now as a pile of stone in an Amity Township field.

The Amity Heritage Society has been searching for a location to rebuild the home for several years, and Albany Township recently offered a parcel near the Kempton Community Center in Trexler Village.

Albany will lease the property to Amity Heritage Society at no cost. In return, the society will give the township office space in the building, Albany supervisors Chairman Charles Volk said.

"It's good for both parties," Volk said. "It's good for the folks in our community."

Peter Jones was a grandson of Mouns Jones, who in 1701 established Berks County's first European settlement along the Schuylkill River in what is known as Morlatton Village.

The Peter Jones house stood about a half-mile northwest of Morlatton Village, along present-day Route 422 in Douglassville. It was dismantled in 2005 to make way for a CVS/pharmacy and strip mall at Route 422 and Maplewood Drive.



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The Peter Jones homestead as it appeared in 2005 along Route 422 near Maplewood Drive in Douglassville.

Charles J. Miller, president of the Amity Heritage Society, said the agreement with Albany paves the way to rebuild the home and create the Peter Jones Historical and Conservation Education Center.

He noted that the village of Trexler is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It is perfect for our use and purpose," Miller said.

Last year, the society made a public plea for land, fearing that it would lose state grants for the reconstruction if a site wasn't secured.

A \$60,000 state grant and donations from various business will cover the cost of construction and relocation, Miller said.

Miller said that when the Jones center opens, he wants to partner for events with other organizations, including the nearby Albany Township Historical Society.

The facility would be utilized much like a community center for researching and studying local historical and conservation topics, Miller said.

"This is going to be a community education center," he said.

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