

3 sites offered as places to rebuild historical Peter Jones house

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By Darrin Youker
Reading Eagle

The caretakers of the remains of the Peter Jones house are considering three possible sites to relocate the 18th century building.

Members of the Amity Township Heritage Society are evaluating sites in Albany and Union townships and Wernersville to rebuild the Jones house, which stood in Amity for more than 200 years.

Last month Paul Miller, president of the society, made a public plea for land on which to relocate the home, torn down in 2005 to make way for a CVS/pharmacy and strip mall along Route 422 in Douglassville. Stones from the house have been stored in an Amity park since the demolition.

The society faced an end-of-June deadline to find a location for the house or lose a \$60,000 state grant for its reconstruction.

Because the society has three potential sites, the state has extended the deadline to early next year to finalize relocation plans, Miller said. Still, the society wants to quickly determine which site is best, he said. Miller said he could not provide specifics about the potential locations beyond saying that the Jones house will remain in Berks County.

The public plea for land generated responses from 18 landowners willing to donate land - some up to 20 acres, Miller said.

"We were very appreciative for what people were willing to give," he said.

The society seeks at least a half-acre near a major road, Miller said. The organization plans to turn the house into a museum and education center about the county's Colonial history.

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 now Douglassville.

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Reading Eagle: Ryan McFadden
The Peter Jones homestead as it stood along Route 422 in Douglassville in September 2005.

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