

York County History Center



PROJECT PARTNERS

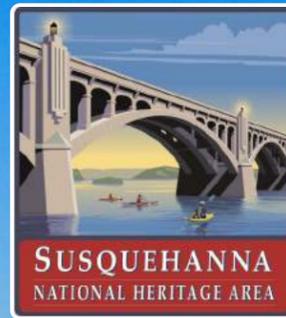


More Information:

Susquehanna National Heritage Area

www.SusquehannaHeritage.org

1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368 / 717-252-0229 / info@susquehannaheritage.org



**SUSQUEHANNA DISCOVERY CENTER
AT THE HISTORIC MIFFLIN HOUSE & FARM**

CONCEPT PLAN
June 2021



A PARTNERSHIP TO PRESERVE A HISTORIC SITE & LANDSCAPE

Susquehanna National Heritage Area (SNHA), Preservation Pennsylvania, The Conservation Fund, and other partners have collaborated since 2017 on a project to preserve the c.1800 Mifflin House farmstead in eastern York County, an Underground Railroad and Civil War historic site located near the Susquehanna River in Hellam Township and Wrightsville Borough.

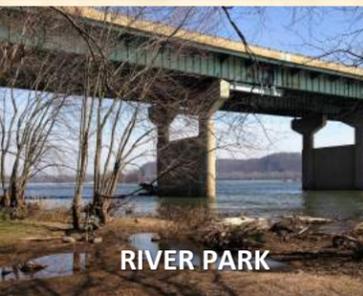
Kinsley Properties of York has been developing an industrial park around the site since the 1990's with the Blessing family, long-time owners of the farm. As industrial development moved farther east toward the historic farmstead in 2017, demolition of the house, barn, and outbuildings was proposed, leading to much community debate and legal challenges.



As an alternative to demolition and development, preservation partners propose acquisition and adaptive use of the buildings and site as a regional heritage center and visitor attraction, with a historic park, nature preserve, and interpretive trails connected to a river park. The project concept plan includes over 80 acres of Blessing/Kinsley property and adjacent public and semi-public lands, including riverfront parcels owned by SNHA.

In early 2019, the Blessings, Kinsley, and Hellam Township agreed to a two-year moratorium on demolition to allow project partners time to develop a viable preservation, reuse, and funding plan for the site. This plan is now in final development.

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A PLACE TO SHOWCASE AMERICA'S 55TH NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

After discussions and site tours, SNHA concluded that the Mifflin site provides a unique opportunity for the non-profit to lead the planning and development of a new regional visitor destination at the farm — a place for sharing and learning about our area's significant role in American history. To realize this vision, the concept plan includes 84 acres of Blessing/Kinsley and other land linked to the river. Key features include:

SUSQUEHANNA DISCOVERY CENTER — Adaptive use of the historic barn complex as the premier visitor welcome and interpretive center for America's 55th National Heritage Area, including exhibit galleries, SNHA headquarters, field offices for conservation partners, and income-producing business uses compatible with the site's historic character.

MIFFLIN HOUSE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITE — Restoration of the c.1800 Mifflin House as a place for learning about the key role our region and people played in the Underground Railroad story, with an interpretive trail to the river tracing the route taken by those seeking freedom in the early to mid-19th century.

HERITAGE PARK — Preservation of the Mifflin farm landscape as a historic park featuring the Civil War skirmish field where Union militia fought invading Confederates in June 1863, just before burning the covered bridge across the Susquehanna to stop their advance. This engagement set the stage for the Battle of Gettysburg three days later.

NATURAL LANDS PRESERVE, GREENWAY, & RIVER PARK — Conservation of scenic natural lands linking the Mifflin farmstead to the Susquehanna River through a greenway along U.S. Route 30 and a riverfront park with picnic areas, paddle craft launch/landing, fishing access, and river viewing areas.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	
Acquisition & Related Costs	\$5,500,000
Design & Construction (Buildings, Trails, Site Infrastructure)	\$9,150,000
Total:	\$14,650,000