



2 May 2015

FRIENDS OF THE WILLIAM GREEN FARMHOUSE
27 Federal City Road at Violet Cox Drive, Ewing, NJ 08638
www.williamgreenhouse.org

The William Green House is one of the oldest European settlements in Ewing Township and is listed on the National Register. An early house to which the current house was attached stood on the site circa 1700, and its roofline is preserved within the building. The surviving core of the existing house was built circa 1722- 30 and enlarged circa 1775 and again about 1830. The house is remarkable architecturally for its earliest brick section, one of the northernmost and earliest examples of patterned brick architecture in New Jersey, which is characterized by glazed headers in Flemish bond exterior walls.

The farmhouse is also significant because of the prominence of the Green family. Enoch Green was a chaplain in the Revolutionary Army and served with Washington at Ft. Washington in fall 1776 before dying of camp fever. His brother, William Green III, was a member of the Hunterdon militia unit that fought at the Battle of Trenton. Historic documents state that at various times during the American War, the Light Horse of Washington's Army billeted on the Green plantation.

The Friends of the William Green Farmhouse were founded in 2000 to restore and preserve this National Register building, becoming a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation in 2004. The Friends have worked with TCNJ since 2000 to find funding for the stabilization and restoration of this historic landmark. In 2007 TCNJ paid for the stabilization of this historic treasure to preserve it until funds could be raised. Last fall, the College approved teaching an archeological field methods class that will culminate in a dig at the William Green House in April and May 2015. The course, led by TCNJ anthropology professor George Leader, is a unique educational opportunity. Professor Leader hopes that the dig will produce evidence to corroborate written records that some of George Washington's troops were billeted at the William Green House during the Revolutionary War

Yet in March 2015, the Friends were informed by TCNJ that the College "cannot endorse a fund raising effort or commit to any proposed future use" of the Green House. The College previously rejected the possibility of leasing the building to another party. This devastating news, after 15 years of partnership, marks a crossroads for the restoration of this significant piece of New Jersey history. TCNJ's decision not to support the Friends' fundraising campaign to restore and maintain the farmhouse is a major threat. The Friends believe that public owners of historic buildings have a responsibility under State and National Register law for the preservation of the farmhouse. The William Green Farmhouse is an extraordinary piece of history, one of the most significant resources on a college campus in the Mid-Atlantic region, whose survival over 300 years gives TCNJ an opportunity to inspire and teach its students. We encourage The College of New Jersey to reverse its decision and to work with the Friends and other possible partners to ensure the future of this key historic site, entrusted to their care with the expectation of the Green family that it would be maintained.

Contacts: Anne McArthur, President, Friends of the William Green Farmhouse
E-mail: peteandanne@verizon.net Phone: 609-510-9120

Bill O'Neal, Vice President
E-mail: info@billoneal.com Phone: 609-599-1843