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Independence National Historical Park

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act News Release

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Contract Awarded for Rehabilitation of Independence Hall Tower

Philadelphia – The National Park Service has awarded a \$4,394,000 contract under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Daniel J. Keating Company, a general contractor and construction management firm based in Narberth, PA.

This project will include repointing and replacing damaged brick masonry, installing or replacing wood shingle roofing and flashings, restoring and painting window sashes and frames and doors and frames of Independence Hall Tower. Carpentry repairs will include painting and caulking on all exposed wood decorative building elements over the full height of the tower. This project will also require installing new clock faces and bracing at all building elevations, refurbishing historic copper urns, replacing the supporting weathervane structure, providing borate fungicide treatment of interior structural elements, and replacing the tower's outdated lightning protection system. The purpose of this rehabilitation is to arrest and correct decay of the tower's exterior skin and structural framing. If not addressed, this decay could severely impact the historic integrity of the structure and compromise the condition of this World Heritage designated site. Work on this 14-month project will begin in July, 2010.

“This rehabilitation will help preserve Independence Hall for many more generations to come and will allow the National Park Service to improve visitor enjoyment for the millions of visitors to Independence National Historical Park each year. In addition to creating local jobs, this project is vital to support the tourism industry that is so important to the economic vitality of this Commonwealth and community,” said Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod.

Project planning, including architectural and engineering research, has been accomplished in close coordination with the City of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Historical Commission strongly supports the proposed rehabilitation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed earlier this year gave \$3 billion to the Department of the Interior. Of that amount, \$750 million in funding goes to the National Park Service.

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The ARRA funds are part of a stimulus package that is an important component of the President's plan to jumpstart the economy and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so the country can thrive in the 21st century. Under the ARRA, Interior is making an investment in conserving America's timeless treasures – our stunning natural landscapes, our monuments to liberty, the icons of our culture and heritage – while helping American families and their communities prosper again. Interior is also focusing on renewable energy projects, the needs of American Indians, employing youth and promoting community service.

“With its investments of Recovery Act funds, the Department of the Interior and its bureaus are putting people to work today to make improvements that will benefit the environment and the region for many years to come,” Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said.

Secretary Salazar has pledged unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Department’s economic recovery projects. The public will be able to follow the progress of each project on www.recovery.gov and on www.interior.gov/recovery. Secretary Salazar has appointed a Senior Advisor for Economic Recovery, [Chris Henderson](#), and an Interior Economic Recovery Task Force to work closely with Interior’s Inspector General and ensure the recovery program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility, and transparency set by President Obama.

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