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Germantown White House Opens July 11

The newly updated and refurbished Germantown White House, part of Independence National Historical Park, officially reopens to the public on Saturday, July 11th. Since closing in February 2008, the Germantown White House (formerly known as the Deshler-Morris House) has undergone substantial renovation and the installation of new exhibits designed to teach visitors about Washington's household, including four enslaved Africans.

President Washington came to this house in Germantown in 1793 seeking a refuge from the yellow fever epidemic and returned with his family and household in the summer of 1794. The house hosted cabinet meetings and family gatherings. The Germantown White House became part of Independence National Historical Park in 1948. During the 1970s, the house was restored to its 1790s appearance. The site was also enhanced thanks to the donation of the neighboring Brinhurst House to the National Park Service by the Germantown Savings Bank. This 18-month project has included an extensive restoration, a geothermal heating/cooling system and new interactive exhibits. Exhibit themes are Germantown History, the 1777 Battle of Germantown, President Washington's Refuge and Retreat, and the Morris Family legacy. Interactive exhibits will appeal to all ages and interests and provide a glimpse into President Washington's private life while introducing his extended household. The renovation marks a significant investment in the future of historic Germantown.

A public grand Re-Opening Ceremony will take place on July 10, from 5:30 pm to 8 pm at 5507 Germantown Avenue, the Impacting Your World Christian Center on Market Square. The Germantown White House will be open to the public, free of charge, Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 4 pm. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/demo.

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