

PRESS RELEASE

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Wagner-Ritter House & Garden reopens for visitor season

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. --The Wagner-Ritter House & Garden has reopened for the spring and summer visitor season. Opening hours are 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., seven days a week.

From the 1860s through the early 1990s, the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden was occupied by three generations of the same immigrant family. Today, the house and adjoining visitor center tells their story, illustrating what domestic life was like for an immigrant family working in the steel mills of Johnstown. The Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) first opened the house museum to the public as part of flood commemoration events on May 31, 2006.

Furnishings original to the house have been used to recreate the house's turn-of-the-century appearance. Original paint colors and wallpaper were reproduced and applied. Decorative wood elements, including moldings, wainscoting, and interior doors have been conserved and restored.

With the help of the Johnstown Garden Club, a typical 19th-century Pennsylvania German raised bed garden has been planted. Several outbuildings, including a barn, privy, and a bake oven shelter have been recreated based on historic and archeological evidence.

The Wagner-Ritter House & Garden is part of the combination ticket to all JAHA museums, which include the Johnstown Flood Museum and Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center. Ticket prices are still \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for students, and are good for admission to all three museums anytime over a 30-day period. Hours for the Johnstown Flood Museum and Heritage Discovery Center are 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily, with extended opening hours of 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Wagner-Ritter House & Garden is open from 11:00 a.m.-

4:00 p.m., seven days a week during the visitor season; during November and December, it is open weekends only, and is closed January-March.

For more information about the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden and all JAHA museums and programs, visit www.jaha.org.

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown's unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. JAHA owns and operates the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, and produces the AmeriServ FolkFest, a 3-day free music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; events commemorating the 1889 Johnstown flood; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit www.jaha.org or call 888-222-1889.