Woodville Plantation was built around 1775 by General John Neville, patriarch of one of southwestern Pennsylvania’s iconic families. The one-and-one-half-story frame house and its two-and-a-half acres are all that remain of a vibrant, 270-acre estate that served as a residence until the early 1970s. Woodville’s historic importance is underscored by the fact that it is one of less than 200 National Historic Landmarks (NHL) in Pennsylvania, and one of only 2,500 NHL sites in the United States.

The estate is owned by the Neville House Associates (NHA), whose mission is to maintain and preserve the house, and to accurately interpret the period 1780–1820 through the lives of Woodville’s owners: the Nevilles, the Cowans, and the Wrenshalls.

The plantation became a focal point of the 1794 Whiskey Rebellion when angry farmers protesting the tax on whiskey gathered there but were rebuffed by its determined owner and his servants.

Last year, Woodville was repainted, the exterior porches were rebuilt, and the historic and unique window glass throughout the house was stabilized and preserved thanks to grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation (PHLF). Additionally, landscaping improvements along the Route 50 side of the property have enhanced the historic beauty of the site.

In addition to its loyal volunteers, Woodville also receives support from PHLF and the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Pennsylvania. The Fourth Sub-Legion of the United States, known as Wayne’s Legion, also operates at the site. This talented group of living history re-enactors educates the public by recreating the camp life of the United States Army during the last decade of the 18th century.

Woodville hosts a number of events during the year such as “A Day with the Nevilles,” where visitors to the plantation interact with costumed interpreters as they spend a typical weekend afternoon at the estate. Woodville is also available for rentals and offers a unique setting for small receptions, showers, lawn parties, corporate meetings, or any important event or celebration.

Woodville Plantation is located at 1375 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017. It is open year-round for guided tours on Sundays, 1–4 p.m. The cost to visit is $5 per adult, $3 for children (6 through 12); under 6 is free. The grounds are also open year-round for free self-guided tours Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Special tours can be arranged for groups of 20 or more. For additional information, including rentals and NHA membership, visit http://woodvilleplantation.org/ or contact nevillehouseassociates@gmail.com or (412) 221-0348.

The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To learn more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, Educator, at rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org or (412) 454-6359.