

News release from
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FRENCH AND PICKERING CREEKS CONSERVATION TRUST TO RELOCATE; HISTORIC COVENTRY HOUSE WILL BE SOLD

Coventryville, Pa., May 26, 2009 – Thanks to a generous donation of leased office space by New Century Bank, French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust will relocate to 511 Kimberton Road, Phoenixville, as of June 1. The donated space, formerly the bank’s executive offices, is adjacent to New Century’s Kimberton branch office.

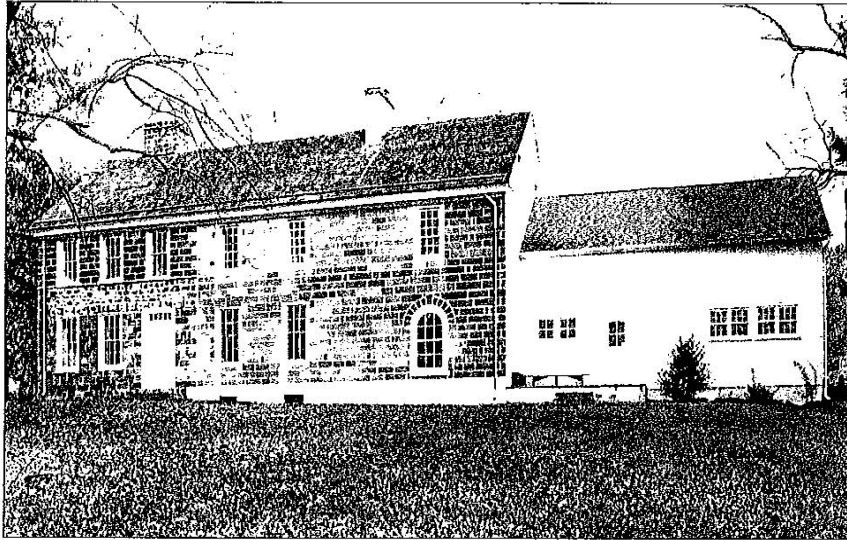
The Trust is preparing its Coventry House headquarters in Coventryville for sale. “We are looking for just the right buyer, and will definitely protect this historic structure with conservation, historic façade and building envelope easements,” said Cary F. Leptuck, board chair.

The reason for the move, according to Leptuck, is that “the Trust’s mission is to preserve and protect endangered land and natural resources in Northern Chester County. After performing a comprehensive financial analysis, the board of the Trust has determined that the best way to serve the mission, and the intent of our members and donors, is to reduce all non-mission expenses. Historic preservation is no longer part of the Trust’s mission, and the maintenance and operating costs on the property have diverted revenue that could be used to support our conservation work.” The property is not yet listed.

“We are very grateful to New Century Bank for this wonderful gift,” said Leptuck. “The new location has the advantage of furnished office and conference space, as well as convenience.”

About Coventry House

Coventry House, located at 3340 Conservation Lane, between Old Ridge Road and Coventryville Road in South Coventry Township, is considered one of the most important historic houses in northern Chester County. Samuel Nutt, Sr., built the original house in 1733 for his nephew, Samuel Nutt, Jr., who came from England to run Coventry Forge (now part of Warwick County Park) and marry the older man’s stepdaughter, Rebecca. The younger man died in 1738, leaving his wife to run the iron forge, their 300-acre plantation and house and raise their daughter. Rebecca married Robert Grace in 1740, whose close friend Benjamin Franklin was a frequent visitor. Rebecca’s daughter, Anna married Thomas Potts, heir to Pottsgrove Manor. Coventry House stayed in the Nutt family until 1840. Additions to Coventry House were made circa 1740-1760, 1802, and 1946.



South Elevation.

Purchased by French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust in 1976, the Coventry House Complex overlooks the historic village of Coventryville from 17.4 acres of lawn and meadow dotted with mature trees. The property contains several accessory buildings, including a historic stone carriage house, a barn, a garage with 2 apartments and two rental cottages.

Coventry House itself has been partially restored and retains original floors, plaster, woodwork, staircases, and fireplaces. The older stone portions of the house, constructed of Stockton Sandstone, consist of 2 and ½ stories and 4,200 square feet; the 1946 addition is frame and contains 1,172 square feet. Roofing is cedar shingle.

Coventry House is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

About New Century Bank

New Century Bank is a state-chartered, full-service bank headquartered in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. With assets of over \$274 million, New Century Bank provides a full range of banking services to small and medium-sized businesses, professionals, individuals and families through five banking offices in and around Chester County, Pennsylvania.

About the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc.

Land Preservation

Since its establishment in 1967, the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust has protected 8,650 acres in northern Chester County through purchases, conservation easements and public/private partnerships. It works with landowners, townships, the state and county to purchase and monitor conservation easements, create parkland and preserve environmentally sensitive land.

Trails

Trails provide public access to preserved land, recreational opportunities and beautiful views along northern Chester County's Exceptional Value waterways. With funding from the state and county, the Trust is engaged in the acquisition and development of the 10-mile French Creek Trail from Warwick County Park to the Kennedy Covered Bridge in East Vincent Township, a 2.7 mile extension from Elverson to St. Peters on the Boars Back Railroad right-of-way, and the planning of the 6-mile Pickering Trail, which will follow the creek in West Pikeland Township from the Mill at Anselma to the township border at Clover Mill Road.

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