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-- W. G. W.
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PHILADELPHIA — Grumblethorpe, the 214-year-old mansion of Revolutionary War fame in near-by Germantown, will be open to the public next Saturday for the first time since its restoration at the cost of $70,000.

The opening will highlight the last day of the eleventh annual Germantown Week, which this year commemorates the 275th anniversary of the founding of historic Germantown.

Second only to Philadelphia itself in its concentration of historic sites, Germantown was founded in 1683 by Francis D. Pastorius, one of the first colonists in America to call for the abolition of slavery.

In 1951, Germantown observed the 300th anniversary of the birth of Pastorius, who was sent to Philadelphia from Germany by six Germans who had bought 5,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania.

Pastorius selected the spot for the settlement after following an old Indian trail from the Delaware River. Today, the trail is known as Germantown Avenue, the backbone of a community settled by twelve persons in October, 1683.

The avenue is flanked by beautiful houses rich in American tradition. They represent some of the best examples of early American architecture.

Next Wednesday at the Vernon Fair in Vernon Park, a public green in the heart of the shopping center, more than half-a-hundred Germantown organizations will set up selling and educational booths, designed to recreate an old-time market.

Outdoor Tea Garden

At the fair, luncheon will be served by women from eighteen churches and an outdoor tea garden will be managed by members of the Germantown Women's Club. Teenagers will operate a "fun spot" to raise funds f r support of the Schools Community Council and, for the first time, the Germantown Horticultural Society will handle the plants and seedlings booth, with old-fashioned flowers and herbs shown in a Pennsylvania Dutch wayside stand.

Throughout the week, which is sponsored by the Germantown Community Council, there will be an industrial exhibit in the Free Library, Vernon Park. The Vernon Art Exhibit of the work of eighty professional artists of greater Germantown will be held in Vernon Mansion.

A regular feature of the week is next Saturday's tour of a dozen historic mansions and other sites, many of which are open only this one day each year. Some of the houses were a quarter-century old when General Washington and the Continentals nearly drubbed the British in the Battle of Germantown in 1777. Tickets cost $1.50 for the tour, which may be made between the hours of 1 P. M. and 5:30 P. M.

This year the spotlight falls on Grumblethorpe, which was built by Johannes Wistar, a Philadelphia merchant, as his summer home in 1744. Now owned by the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, the house figured prominently in the Battle of Germantown.

A parade, preceding the tour, will carry costumed officials in a nineteenth-century Quaker-style vehicle, found in Grumblethorpe's barn and restored for $1,000.

—W. G. W.

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