

June 2006
Don Davis
Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center's New Home
Facilities and Resources for Genealogists

Our June meeting was held at the new Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center facility situated on the sixth floor loft of a former shirt factory at 125 N. 8th Street (entrance on 777 Appletree St.). The new Archives enjoys high, exposed ceilings and panoramic views of the city. The reception, display and meeting areas flow into workspace, inviting interaction and participation. An S-curved wall defines the storage space and offers glimpses of its contents.



The meeting was well attended by about 60 members. Chief Archivist Don Davis, who left his position later in summer, displayed and explained many of the collection that are of value to Genealogists.

The Archival collections are maintained in an environment for long term preservation with extra protection from ultraviolet light, fire, and theft. A special HVAC unit keeps storage space at 66 degrees and 40-45% humidity. Executive Director Nan Wallace, who has since left PJAC, took us for a tour of the Archive space and showed us their prize possession -- a proclamation from then President Abraham Lincoln to the Jewish community of Philadelphia.

Our meeting ended with members viewing examples of PJAC holdings while Don and Nan fielded questions from interested Genealogists.



