

Preserving Pennsylvania

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Lancaster County Name to National Trust Endangered List

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is taking center stage in the national debate over sprawl. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a leader in the crusade against sprawl, has named the county in its 1999 listing of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, released in mid-June. The county, which is a model for the use of urban growth boundaries and a national model in effective farmland preservation efforts, continues to watch its defining character erode to the relentless push of house and commercial development onto the rural landscape. Meanwhile, its city and towns build momentum to counter these forces and reclaim their historic roles as the center of community life

Heritage 21 Alliance Promoted Amendments to "Growing Greener" Legislation

Governor Ridge has introduced his "Growing Greener" legislation (HB 1200 and SB 800). This legislation would redirect existing funds to environmental programs including restoration and protection of watersheds, preservation of farmland and open space, and abandoned mine reclamation.

While preservationists and others in the heritage community feel this is a start, we do not feel that the Governor has gone far enough

Legislative Report

Legislative updates in this issue include:

- Historic Home & Neighborhood Preservation Act (HB 948)
- Historic Homesite Local Regulation & Tax Assessment Act (HB 949)
- Downtown Location Law (HB 728)
- Discover Pennsylvania's Downtowns (S 240)
- 'Smart Growth' Package (HB 13, 14, & 15)
- Free Exercise of Religion Act (HB 1689)
- Federal Historic Homeownership Assistance Act (HR 1172 & S 664)

- Federal Religious Liberty Protection Act (HR 1691)

Preservation PA at Work

Pennsylvania at Risk: Update on Threatened Properties

- Brandywine Battlefield
- Danville, Montour County
- Enola Low Grade, Lancaster County
- Leap the Dips, Altoona
- Penn Square, Reading
- Star Barn, Dauphin County
- Victoria Theater, Shamokin

Advisory Council Issues Revised Section 106 Regulations

Effective June 17, 1999, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation issued new regulations that significantly modify the Section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. The Section 106 process is the Federal Government's regulatory process that helps protect historic properties from harm due to Federal actions such as highways, flood control projects, and other projects using Federal dollars or requiring Federal permits. It requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and provide the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The process is administered in each state by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). In Pennsylvania this process is handled through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in the Bureau for Historic Preservation's Division of Archaeology and Protection.

The following is based on a summary of the revised process prepared by the Advisory Council

In The News

Programs

- Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS!) announces two new funding programs
- Pennsylvania Treasure Hunt builds database

Places

- The Historic Dalton House Looking for New Owner
- Allegheny Ridge State Heritage Park Expands
- Bethlehem's South Side Sees Ray of Hope
- Historic Harrisburg Association Presents 1999 Awards

People

- Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia appoints a new President

Publications

- Teaching with Historic Places uses properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places to enliven history, social studies, geography, civics and other subjects. The program offers a variety of products and activities, including a series of classroom-ready lesson plans now available for free on the web at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp> or contact the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1894 C Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20240; 202-343-9536.

