

Preserving Pennsylvania

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In this Issue:

- Legislative Report
- Preservation PA at Work
- State Program News
- Preservation Awards 2000
- In the News
- Calender

State Homeowner Tax Credit Passes House; Focus Turns to Senate

Pennsylvania is poised to join the growing list of states with legislation that encourages the rehabilitation of historic homes through tax incentives. Sponsored by Rep. Thomas Tangretti (D-Westmoreland) and Rep. David Argall (R-Schuylkill), the Historic Home & Neighborhood Preservation Bill (HB948) and Historic Homesite Local Regulation & Tax Assessment Act (HB949) passed the House of Representatives this spring by a 196-0 vote. The bills now move to the state senate for consideration.....

National Trust Joins Preservation PA In Naming Downtown Pittsburgh to Endangered List Valley Forge and Historic Schools Also Make National List

One Monday, June 26, Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and David Taylor, president of Preservation Pennsylvania, met in downtown Pittsburgh to announce the 2000 National Trust list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places".

The downtown area of Pittsburgh known as "Fifth and Forbes", which was featured in Preservation Pennsylvania's 1999 endangered list, is included because a proposed large-scale commercial development threatens a multi-block are of the historic structures and neighborhood businesses.....

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)
- Municipalities Planning Code Amendments (HB14, SB300)
- Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA)
- Religious Land Use & Institutionalized Persons Act (HR 1691)

Preservation Plan Takes Shape at Annual Conference

The 2000 Historic Preservation and Heritage Partnerships Conference in Reading this past April focused on developing priorities for implementing the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Plan, completed in December 1999. Two plenary sessions and three "pivotal issue" discussion sessions - based on three critical issues identified in the Preservation plan - were dedicated to advancing the implementation of the plan.

In each of the three "pivotal issues" sessions, facilitator Elizabeth Waters led animated group discussions that culminated in consensus on four top priorities, outlined below, to achieve the goals of the plan.....

Preservation Awards 2000

The annual awards for excellence in historic preservation were presented by Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on April 12, 2000 at the Lincoln Plaza Hotel in Reading.

F. Otto Haas Award: Pennsylvania's Highest preservation honor was presented to Thomas Hylton

Initiative awards were presented in the categories of community involvement, education, government, communications, and stewardship.

Construction awards were issued in the categories of public/institutional, commercial/industrial, single family residential, neighborhood revitalization, and archaeology.

In The News

Places

- Union Canal Tunnel reopens

People

- Jane L.S. Davidson Honored in Washington
- Sam Friedman becomes Main Street Manager in Hatboro

Publications

- *Pennsylvania Architecture: The Historic American Buildings Survey with catalog entries 1933-1990*. By Deborah Stephens Burns and Richard J. Webster, with Candace Reed Stern. Available from the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, PO Box 11466, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1466; 800-747-7790.
- *The First 300: The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion*. Lower Merion Historical Society. To order call 800-782-3833, ISBN 0-7881-8500-4.
- *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*. Edited by Arnold R. Alanen and Robert A. Melnick. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- *Standards and Practices for Historic Site Administration*. Published by the Tri-State Coalition of Historic Places. Order 1616 Walnut Street, Suite 2110, Philadelphia 19103; 215-546-1146, ext. 13.

- National Trust announces two new publications:
How to Organize a Preservation Development Charrette (order #2138)
Board Development for Non-profit Preservation Organizations (order # 2140)

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