“It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.”

William J. Murtagh – Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America
MISSION STATEMENT
Preservation Pennsylvania – through creative partnerships, targeted educational and advocacy programs, advisory assistance, and special projects – assists Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future.

ABOUT US
Preservation Pennsylvania is the commonwealth’s only statewide, private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant properties.

The organization was created in 1982 as the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania to operate a revolving fund that would assist in the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. Since its incorporation, the organization has evolved and now organizes the Statewide Conference on Heritage, hosts the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards, and publishes an annual list of endangered properties in Pennsylvania At Risk in addition to managing a revolving fund and intervention fund. Preservation Pennsylvania also participates in educational programs and advocacy initiatives, conducts special projects, and offers on-site assistance to people throughout the commonwealth.
Ten years ago, I said goodbye to many wonderful friends and colleagues in York when I left Historic York, Inc. to become the executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania. Twenty-four years in York went by in the blink of an eye, yet the warm feelings I have about my time there are very strong.

I’m so pleased that we have chosen York as the location for our Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards event this year. It feels like coming home to be back at the Yorktowne Hotel, a place that was the site of many conferences, dinners, celebrations and weekly Rotary meetings for me during my time in York.

It is also bittersweet, as it feels a bit strange to be having an event in York that won’t include Louis Appell as one of our guests. He was a founding board member of Preservation Pennsylvania and a very generous supporter of our work. In fact, we celebrated his receipt of the F. Otto Haas Award in 1998 at the Yorktowne Hotel. He was always very pleased when we chose York as the site for an event, conference or meeting.

During my time in York and at Preservation Pennsylvania, Mr. Appell was a valued advisor, never hesitating to share insight, give advice, or tell me I was wrong if that is what he believed. I will especially remember my last visit to see him in York when he drove me through the city to show me the wonderful work that he and Josh Hankey had undertaken in Royal Square and beyond. His excitement was infectious, and it was a delightful experience.

Mr. Appell has been described as “a great convener – of resources, people and talent.” I like to believe that he would be delighted to see all the bright and talented people who gathered in York to celebrate excellence in historic preservation. Especially this year, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. This legislation was a call to slow down the drive to rebuild, to challenge the assumption that new was better than old, and to identify and protect the places that tell the important stories of our shared heritage ... all ideals that Mr. Appell believed as well.

As a movement, preservationists have accomplished a lot since 1966. These annual awards are intended to pay tribute to remarkable people and projects and allow us the opportunity to share their stories to inspire future efforts.

Here’s to the next 50 years!

Mindy G. Crawford

The future executive director, around the time of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.
This year, we recognize the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office for many decades of exceptional service and for its early leadership role in the development and forward momentum of the national preservation movement.

When President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law in 1966, it established historic preservation as a national priority. In a counter-reaction to demolition for urban renewal projects and loss of open space for suburban expansion, the NHPA called for an effort to identify and preserve the architectural, archaeological and landscape assets of our nation’s heritage. In addition to establishing the National Register of Historic Places to identify these resources, the NHPA created the mechanism for each state to have an agency dedicated to their preservation and protection.

Prior to this landmark legislation, Dr. S. K. Stevens, director of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, had been a tireless advocate for the protection and interpretation of our nation’s threatened historic resources. He sought to broaden the determination of “historic” from patriotic-minded memorialization to recognition of the contributions of the working people who built the state’s great industries and the ethnic cultures they reflected. Stevens worked with the National Park Service during the development of the NHPA and was appointed by the White House as the first chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), another agency created by the landmark legislation.

His vision has carried across five decades of education and outreach, as the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has expanded and evolved its role, today serving as a national exemplar.

While the ACHP narrowly defines the SHPO role as mostly administrative duties connected with National Register review, maintaining historic property data, and federal agency 106 review, Pennsylvania’s SHPO performs these duties and many more, striving to promote and impart the positive benefits of historic preservation and to support preservation efforts at the local level.

Community outreach programs – such as flooding mitigation, farmland preservation assistance, probability mapping for archaeological sites, historic bridge marketing, to name a few – also help inform the public conversations that are preliminary to developing the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan.

Pennsylvania’s SHPO performs these duties and more in a state that is arguably one of the most historic in the country.
On September 11, 1777, the Battle of Brandywine raged across Chester and Delaware Counties, one of the earliest and largest combat actions of the Revolutionary War.

The battlefield extends through 15 municipalities in two counties where people still live and work. It includes colonial-era buildings and historic resources, yet is remarkable for its 50 square miles of rolling landscape with fields, farms, roads, villages, rivers, streams and woodlands.

The Brandywine Battlefield Task Force formed in 1993 as a volunteer group of municipal, state and federal representatives along with nonprofit organizations with the purpose of supporting the battlefield’s preservation. Since then, it has made significant efforts to better understand the battle and to preserve remaining battlefield landscapes, threatened by encroaching suburban development.

A preservation plan completed in 2013 identified and recommended 13 battlefield landscapes worthy of further planning efforts, several of which were recently completed. Together, these plans examine the battlefield’s physical and cultural geography and outline strategies for planning, land conservation, historic resource protection, public access, interpretation, education and tourism. The plans will be used by local municipalities as well as regional partnerships to preserve and enhance this cultural landscape as a living resource.

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The projects were funded at the federal level through grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The work of the task force has been led by Chester and Delaware Counties, demonstrating how county leadership, vision and coordination can assist local planning. But the most critical component has come through local involvement both from residents, with their knowledge of the local history and landscape, and volunteer municipal governments through planning, growth management, and community enhancement. While the Brandywine Battlefield is a National Historic Landmark, this approach and type of collaboration can be undertaken anywhere.

In this Preservation50 celebration year, we honor the City of Lancaster for its long and exemplary history of preservation practice at the local level. Its first local historic district was established in 1967 when the City Council adopted a Historic District Ordinance. This district, overseen by a Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB), has gradually been expanded and now encompasses approximately 1,000 properties.

To complement the HARB district, a Heritage Conservation District was established in 1999 (approximately 14,000 properties). In 2001, a three-square-mile area of the city of Lancaster was designated as a National Register Historic District, creating one of the largest urban National Register districts in the United States (approximately 13,400 contributing resources). Lancaster boasts 60 individually-listed National Register properties and a designated National Historic Landmark (Fulton Opera House). By 2009, Lancaster’s preservation successes and heritage outreach efforts resulted in its national recognition as a Preserve America Community.

As a Certified Local Government, the City of Lancaster has been awarded CLG grants from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission for the past 27 years. Their special project to develop an “Architectural Heritage” section on the city’s website received a Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Award from Preservation Pennsylvania/PHMC in 2005. This past fiscal year, Lancaster used a portion of its CLG grant to produce a six-minute video for classroom use at a local trade school highlighting the city’s historic buildings and historic preservation ethic. The video is also available on the city’s website and Facebook page.

Preservation success on this scale requires commitment at every level -- highly professional and experienced planning staff, a dedicated Historical Architectural Review Board willing to deny a proposal that doesn’t fit the long-term vision for the city, and support from the highest levels of city government: the mayor and the Lancaster City Council. When faced with a difficult choice between economic development or preservation, the City Council has opted to protect the historic district and encourage development through more compatible design or relocation.

Lancaster doesn’t just practice preservation -- they live it as a local community, united in a vision that will preserve their unique identity into the future.
Nathan Clark, Historic Quaker Bridge Foundation, and Brian Yedinak, Assistant District Executive for Design, PennDOT District 1

The one-lane Quaker Bridge was built in 1884 by the Cleveland Bridge & Iron Company. It was listed on the National Register in 1988. In 2005, PennDOT constructed a new bridge upstream after determining that it could not be rehabilitated for vehicular use.

Local resident Nathan Clark tried, but failed, to find a new location for the historic bridge. As demolition day neared, he joined forces with the Mercer County Historical Society and other local residents to form the Historic Quaker Bridge Foundation. Efforts shifted to saving the bridge in place and creating a park around it.

Their unprecedented vision had no clearly defined PennDOT procedures to overcome the many obstacles in place, such as contractual requirements to demolish the old bridge, complicated easement and ownership issues, property occupant objections, the need for a Highway Occupancy Permit, and liability insurance. Despite the mind-boggling bureaucratic tangle, Nate carried on.

Brian Yedinak, currently the Assistant District Executive for Design at PennDOT, was under no obligation to help Nate navigate these obstacles, but on the day the contractors were on site with cutting torches, he was able to suspend demolition to give Nate more time. Brian proved helpful in unraveling some of the tangle, even suggesting Federal Highway Administration demolition offset funds intended for preservation of historic bridges.

Finally, it seemed the only hurdle to saving the Quaker Bridge was a survey to subdivide the property, but the work was so complicated and expensive that it threatened to completely deplete the foundation’s funds. It would be four long years before a solution appeared.

Mitigation funds from a bridge project in another county were directed to the foundation for purchase of the larger 6.8-acre Quaker Bridge parcel and creation of a larger park. In addition, Brian was able to utilize PennDOT’s survey unit to perform the subdivision without direct cost to the foundation. The foundation purchased the land in 2015 and is waiting to receive the Department of Environmental Protection permit allowing the bridge to remain in place, while PennDOT has begun filing the necessary papers vacating its right-of-way on the property.

Over the course of 10 years, Nate, Brian and a cadre of supporters navigated numerous obstacles and demonstrated the power of perseverance. They saved this historic bridge for others to enjoy and created a precedent for future bridge preservation in Pennsylvania.

Rupert Elementary School opened to students in 1928 as a two-story collegiate gothic-style building with 10 classrooms. Additions in 1952 and 1973 attempted to keep pace with suburban development. Four temporary modular classrooms were used for more than 20 years. In the 1980s, original windows were replaced with smaller windows and infill that reduced natural light by two-thirds.

Over the next 15 years, while other district schools were consolidated or demolished, the fate of the Rupert Elementary School remained uncertain. Cynics doubted it was possible to save the building, and demolition seemed likely due to overcrowding, failing building systems, water infiltration at the roof and windows, and 2011 tropical storm damage that closed the ground floor to students.

The happy ending in 2015 saw rededication of the restored school, expanded with a new addition, Certified LEED Gold, to serve 400 students — all accomplished at a lower cost than replacing the school.

Archival photos guided restoration and reconstruction of building components. Brick parapets and crenellations were carefully disassembled and rebuilt in place. More than 80 percent of the building required repointing, carefully utilizing appropriate mortar and following with a low-strength masonry cleaning that removed staining from original clinker brick and stone ornamentation.

The profile, color and style of the original 1920s window assemblies were expressed using double pane, low-E glass that improves energy efficiency while also daylighting more than 90 percent of the educational spaces. Interior finishes such as flooring, ceilings and original built-in cabinetry were restored.

LEED Gold Certification was achieved using a high-efficiency “chilled beam” four-pipe heating and air conditioning system that also reduced the need for bulky ductwork. This ensured that the original high ceilings and windows were maintained, and reduced energy usage by more than 25 percent. The exterior envelope’s insulation was increased to meet modern standards, acoustical materials were incorporated to increase sound comprehension, and plumbing fixtures were replaced throughout the building, reducing water usage by more than 40 percent. With all systems being modernized, the building was designed to hide these components within the historic envelope of the building.
While municipalities retain responsibility for preserving local properties, the county is now better equipped to offer model language to those that want to implement a historic preservation ordinance, recommend criteria for evaluating a property’s historic significance, and to provide enhanced technical assistance and support.

York County Planning Commission York County Commissioners, York County Planning Commission

County of York, York County Heritage Preservation Plan YORK COUNTY

HONORING

Carol Bear Heckman and Darrin Heckman

CAROL BEAR HECKMAN

Almost 40 years ago, she inaugurated the Governor Wolf Historical Society’s Christmas House Tour, now a beloved seasonal tradition that introduces local residents to the history of five homes each year. She spent one summer walking every street in the Borough of Bath (founded in 1737), documenting each structure and compiling a spreadsheet with data on over 400 buildings. She was a member of the Bath Historical Committee, spoke to Bath Council, toured the town with representatives from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, and proposed a historic district at a town meeting. In 1998, the Bath Historic District was formed, along with a CLG and HARB. Carol, a founding HARB member, still sits on the HARB today.

When she met Darrin Heckman in 1998, he became a partner in more ways than one. His talents as a project engineer accelerated the grassroots efforts in Bath. Together, they researched, drew maps, collected information and photos from residents, and together wrote the book Images of America: Bath and Its Neighbors. They rescued the 1813 stone Joseph Steckel House from demolition for a parking lot. Darrin did the land development plans, attended the meetings with zoning, planning and council, and the subdivision. Difficulties connecting to the storm sewer resulted in a state-of-the-art brick paver infiltration parking lot to be shared by the church and the Joseph Steckel House.

The Heckmans are active in many areas of Bath’s community life, from the farmers market to the chamber of commerce, and their preservation advocacy efforts have already won them several local awards. In addition to the Daniel Steckel House and the Joseph Steckel House, Carol and Darrin have purchased four other historic buildings on Chestnut Street in Bath and are busy restoring them. Contributing to downtown revitalization efforts, this dynamic duo have been instrumental in opening five new businesses on Chestnut Street in Historic Bath.

Carol Bear Heckman started with the purchase of an old house, like any history and architecture enthusiast might. But she took it to the next level when she researched the 1804 Daniel Steckel House, carefully drew its floor plans, and submitted the nomination that led to National Register listing a few years later.

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After a nomadic existence, the first permanent home for the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) combines a circa 1924 former bank building with sleek new construction in Harrisburg’s up-and-coming Midtown neighborhood.

By 2011, Midtown was making a comeback built on a mix of old and new, from the Broad Street Market, one of America’s oldest farmers markets, to the Midtown Scholar Bookstore, housed in an adapted 1920s movie theater. Since 2005, locally-owned GreenWorks Development has built “Education Row,” a commingling of schools ranging from preschool to Harrisburg Area Community College. Precisely between the campus and the market stands the Keystone Trust Company building.

Old renovations were slowly peeled away to determine how to proceed, and solutions were devised, guided by the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation, to deal with old building techniques, such as the barrel vault slab. Restoration of the original ceiling was balanced with working within the confined space for sprinklers, HVAC, and electrical work.

Today, the building has transformed into a 2,475-square-foot gallery and event space with fully-restored 27-foot gold leaf ceilings, giant windows, bank vault gallery space, and a working original clock.

The design and scale of the modern addition was guided by the landmark structure. The striations on the exterior of the new building echo the vertical columns on the bank. In the new main gallery, polished concrete floors recall the marble floors of the historic bank. The new construction features 19-foot ceilings and a nearly 4,000-square-foot main gallery that will accommodate work by national and international artists, while the bank building gallery will feature regional and state artists.

In the preservation field, many of us have had the experience of walking into a formerly glorious building that has been remuddled, diminishing its original splendors. The elegant John H. Briggs mansion was built in 1863 by an attorney who was a direct descendant of John Harris, Jr., the founder of Harrisburg. Its ornate brownstone façade was built to impress. Briggs and his family occupied the house for approximately 50 years. But the next 50 years, it served as a private school. Most recently, its spacious rooms had been reconfigured for use as offices for government-related entities. Put up for sale in 2014, the property languished on the market for more than a year, waiting for a potential buyer who could see past the institutional layers. Eventually, it was purchased by a development company about to embark on a new venture transforming a downtown Harrisburg building into luxury apartments.

The project entailed extensive historical research and survey of existing conditions to identify remaining character-defining architectural details, such as masonry, woodwork, doors and door hardware, plaster wall assemblies, and antique hardwood flooring. Stripping away decades of accretions revealed some hidden treasures. The challenge then became to highlight these distinctive historic details in an adaptive floor plan for a residential layout and selecting new, complementary finishes and furnishings with appeal to a luxury clientele with sophisticated tastes.

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As the development company seeks its next project, Harrisburg residents can celebrate the return of this elegant mansion to residential use.
The Synagogue for the Beth Sholom Congregation is the only synagogue designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and was one of his last buildings (completed in 1959). Providing accessibility to the National Historic Landmark building was a challenge due to the building’s complex geometry and discontinuous floor levels connected only by stairs. This project, confined to a relatively small portion of the structure, devised a solution that respected the integrity of Wright’s vision.

Low-impact modifications were made to the exterior of the building to create an ADA-compliant entrance. On the interior, an existing stairway was removed to become the shaftway for an ADA-compliant elevator. Changes made in the lower lobby connected the new street entrance with the new elevator, and also provided a coat room and storage closet, upgraded the restroom and added an accessible drinking fountain. Connecting the main sanctuary to the elevator access was achieved by creating split floor levels and two elevator stops. By raising the floor level of an existing, rarely used office, an elevator landing was created at the same level of the sanctuary. Due to the raised floor, the existing reinforced concrete ceiling was removed and a new reinforced concrete ceiling installed. Built-in original furniture and light fixtures were sensitively raised accordingly. The existing steps from the sanctuary to the Rabbi’s offices were infilled and the opening widened and raised to the level of the sanctuary. A new door was fabricated matching the original finish and Wright detailing.

Basement-level alterations included a new steel stair, addition of an elevator mechanical room, steel supports for the new corridor to the Sisterhood Chapel above, a steel landing and stair for the elevator, and associated modifications to electrical runs and ductwork. Original finishes were matched in all occupied areas of disturbance, including painted concrete floors, sanded cement plaster walls, carpeting, and flush walnut doors. Wright-designed light fixtures were refurbished and reused. Original job-applied textured acoustical ceiling finishes were reproduced using custom-made tools to replicate the historical finish pattern.

The Forum Auditorium set behind the Pennsylvania State Capitol is the Forum Building, home to the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra since the building opened in 1931, and host to most of the city’s large performances and special events. The breathtaking space features a full-height wall mural depicting the “progress of mankind” and a ceiling mural depicting the night sky with more than a thousand stars shown in their proper positions. In the ceiling’s center, the primary HVAC air diffuser is cleverly disguised by a sunburst design. Like many state-owned properties, necessary maintenance is typically deferred until funding is appropriated – often subsequent to additional deterioration. The interior repairs and renovations accomplished within the scope of this project addressed a number of pressing needs, plus stabilization until future work can be done.

Original seats found in the basement inspired use of cast iron ornamented end panels, wood arms/backs and moss green mohair fabric upholstery. Subdued LED aisle lighting was concealed under the end panel armrests, replacing runway strip lighting. The condition of each canvas section of the wall and ceiling murals was documented and in-situ repairs/restorations were made to the most damaged areas. Repairs to re-adhere detached canvas sections and seal seams, followed by careful in-painting, were critical to ensure the safety of occupants.

A special Axminster carpet “keystone and diamond” pattern was commissioned from the same company that produced the original. A corresponding Axminster carpet was devised for the auditorium stairs and aisles. Some areas were left uncarpeted to improve acoustics. Historic cast bronze railings were repaired, cleaned and reinstalled.

All aesthetic and material considerations were reviewed by the Capitol Preservation Committee, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra and other stakeholders. Orchestra-level seating is now removable, allowing configuration for special events. Additional improvements ranged from new signage to fundamental repairs such as leaking roof drains. Although not as noteworthy as the seats or murals, addressing these critical maintenance issues was equally, if not more important, to the long term stewardship of this commonwealth landmark.
Reading School District, Southern and Southwest Middle Schools, Northeast and Northwest Middle Schools

BERKS COUNTY

HONORING
Reading School District, Kautter & Kelley Architects, Barton Associates

The Reading School District (RSD) is the fourth largest school district in the state and also the lowest funded. The majority of its student population (93%) is economically disadvantaged. This award celebrates both the decision and the work to preserve four historic middle schools — Southern (1924), Southwest (1929), Northeast (1922) and Northwest (1935). In 2011, a detailed District Wide Facility Study evaluated numerous site conditions — from building envelope and overall structure to light quality, mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems and more. Information provided by the study ultimately led to two concurrent projects with a combined value of $33M focused on renovations to four middle schools and the high school located within densely populated urban sites in the city of Reading.

The primary goals of the renovation projects were to address deferred maintenance, preserve and restore the building envelope, make corridors, exit access and stairs safe and code compliant, and repair and replace HVAC mechanical system components as well as fire alarm and electrical systems associated with security and safe egress. The constructed scope of work incorporated: exterior masonry restoration, roofing, window and door replacement, stair tower renovations, security, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing renovations. The single largest scope item associated with the projects was masonry restoration; $6M of the total project budget for S/SW and $4.4M for NE/NW. While some work unavoidably took place during the school year, the renovations and repairs were sequenced to allow for continued occupancy during construction.

A neighborhood school building is an important community landmark, and each of these four buildings will be a source of pride. If an apple is a symbol of respect for a teacher, then the RSD deserves a bushel for these preservation projects.
In October 2015, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens completed a three-month rehabilitation and restoration of its South Conservatory. Using original drawings and historic photographs, the South Conservatory has been restored to a level of grandeur unseen for over half a century. Phipps’ vast steel and glass Victorian greenhouse has been inviting visitors to explore the beauty and mystery of plants since 1893. Set in one of Pittsburgh’s largest green spaces, Schenley Park, Phipps Conservatory stands as a cultural and architectural centerpiece of the city’s Oakland neighborhood.

Phipps was presented as a gift to the City of Pittsburgh from philanthropist Henry W. Phipps, who wished to “erect something that [would] prove a source of instruction as well as pleasure to the people.” Designed by Lord & Burnham, a New York-based greenhouse manufacturer, the glasshouse consists of nine display rooms that opened to the public on December 7, 1893.

A second Phipps gift led to the opening of the South Conservatory in 1896. During renovation, interpretive panels explained the efforts, which included a pane-by-pane replacement of the room’s annealed glass with stronger, modern safety glass, as well as the painstaking replacement of the ribbed structure to undo a simplified, historically inaccurate 1960s redesign and return it to the more ornate design of the 1890s. On the roof, decorative crests, signature features of Victorian glasshouse style that had been missing for many decades, were replaced.

The grand unveiling of the newly-restored South Conservatory coincided with the opening of the popular Fall Flower Show and Garden Railroad, the latter of which is located exclusively in the South Conservatory. Some groups were comprised of three generations of Phipps’ visitors, with grandparent explaining to their grandchildren that they had visited with their own grandparents decades ago. As one of the few remaining glasshouse conservatories in the U.S. still producing full-scale seasonal flower shows year-round, Phipps continues a tradition more than 120 years strong, and its historic glass rooms remain the platform for this important work.
While the mission of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area (SGHA) is “connecting people to the river and its history,” its headquarters offered limited outreach opportunities. The semi-restored 18th-century mansion was on a site with steep grades, limited parking, and unsafe vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns. The swampy waterfront eastern property edge was considered unusable “no man’s land.”

After much study, SGHA launched a multi-phased project that included creation of a pedestrian access pathway system from the historic building traversing steeply sloped terrain, a road crossing, boardwalk connections over wetlands to the new waterside pavilion and access to new floating docks, canoe/kayak landing areas, waterside nature plant gardens and historical/interpretive educational displays. Utilizing existing low fieldstone walls and constructing new ones for retaining purposes in conjunction with 1:20 pathway grades, the design gracefully accomplishes the elevation change without the need for pervasive railing systems and harmonizes with existing grades and contours of the lawn area north of the historic 18th-century manor house.

These enhancements have exponentially expanded SGHA’s program offerings and level of public engagement — all of which are totally accessible. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk.

Displayed in mansion galleries are artifacts discovered on site during the restoration plus “Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection.” The “Stories of the Susquehanna” Heritage Lecture Series now sells out, and the annual “River Experience” draws hundreds of attendees.

The John and Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage has become the regional educational venue of choice where SGHA works with local partners and organizations to help advance heritage tourism and conservation initiatives in a very dynamic, engaging and inclusive manner. The Center is now the “home base” for providing tours, information, maps and guides such as: African-American Heritage Tours, River Towns Architectural History Tours, or Lower Susquehanna River Water Trail Map. With total access to the waterfront and a new waterside pavilion, SGHA now hosts the Susquehanna Heritage Flatwater Challenge and Pennsylvania Canoe and Kayak Association Championship Race.
The Harris-Cameron Mansion was built in 1766 by John Harris Jr., son of the area’s first settler, and founder of Harrisburg in 1785. Use was residential other than a brief tenure as the Pennsylvania Female College. In 1863, it became home to Simon Cameron, a college trustee, U.S. Senator, Secretary of War in 1861, Ambassador to Russia in 1862, and significant national political figure.

Cameron renovated the mansion to the Italianate style, adding a two-story wing at the rear with a solarium, butler’s walkway and alcove. Walls were removed to create a grand parlor decorated with French pier mirrors, ornate ceiling, and stained glass windows purchased in Germany for a new alcove between two Italian marble fireplaces. In 1929, Cameron’s grandson added the northwest alcove with a chrome-tiled bathroom. Cameron’s descendants presented the house to the Historical Society of Dauphin County (HSDC) in 1941, and the site became a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

The HSDC undertook a Conservation Assessment in 2009 that outlined the need for serious repairs to the mansion’s exterior. They pursued a multi-phased restoration project that allowed time for fundraising. With funds received from a Dauphin County grant, a Keystone Grant, plus contributions from local foundations, restoration began with the front porch and replacement of the back solarium roof in 2013.

In 2014, additional funding from local foundations and a Keystone Grant allowed the majority of the exterior restoration to be accomplished, including repair and painting of the mansion roof, restoration of the cornice, soffit, upper level windows and dormers. Smaller repairs included the restoration of the front porch roof, new doors at the side entrance and basement, and drainage repairs to the back entrance and basement window wells.

Work completed in 2015 included restoration of the shutters, the rear and side porches, and repair and painting of all remaining woodwork. Significant grounds improvements took place, including resetting the brownstone entrance steps.

Through the generosity of the community, local funders, and the Keystone Grant program, the Historical Society was able to complete the entire restoration in time for the mansion’s 250th anniversary in 2016.

Noted theater architect William H. Lee designed Bryn Mawr’s theater, which opened in 1926 as a vital element of the downtown commercial district. By the 1950s, the splendor of its ornate plasterwork, dramatic sky-lit atrium and dazzling marquee had begun to fade. The skylight and arcade were hidden behind ceiling tiles, drapes covered decorative plaster walls, and the marquee was replaced.

In 1978, the single-screen auditorium was divided. The theater continued to decline in profitability and physical condition through the 1990s, until its chain owner’s 2001 bankruptcy. Almost leased to a fitness franchise, the property was purchased in 2004 by the Bryn Mawr Film Institute (BMFI), a nonprofit founded by civic leaders who hoped to keep the local landmark as a functioning theater.

BMFI chose to complete its planned $10 million, 10-year renovation incrementally as funds became available. Phase one included upgrading projection and sound equipment, refurbishment of the concessions lobby, enclosure of the arcade entrance, as well as offices and conversion of a vacant storefront into a new café.

Phase two involved restoration of the grand entrance arcade and expansion into the previously unoccupied second floor, including a multimedia classroom, offices and an elevator. Funded in part with a Pennsylvania Keystone Grant, the original skylight over the arcade was rebuilt and the original plasterwork restored to reproduce missing elements and recreate the historic finishes; both were highlighted with energy-efficient LED lighting to create a dramatic nighttime entry. This phase also included renovations to the roof, HVAC and electrical.

The third and final phase upgraded 30-year-old seating and made the crucial conversion to all-digital projection systems combined with reel-to-reel 35mm projection. A new addition houses two more theaters, doubling total viewing capacity and contributing to economic viability.

Today, more than 4,500 adults and children participate annually in nearly 30 different programs, such as summer-long filmmaking workshops for high school students and “Open Screen Mondays” for local filmmakers. The Bryn Mawr Film Institute has provided the community with an economic engine and a crucial generator of social capital, preventing the decline facing many historic downtown corridors today.
The Friends Housing Cooperative (FHC) opened its doors in 1952 as the nation’s first integrated, urban rehabilitation self-help public housing project, a unique experiment at a time of large-scale redevelopment and segregated low-income housing. It created affordable housing for a diverse community through the rehabilitation of an entire city block of dilapidated 19th-century brick duplex houses, renovated to become a campus of multi-unit apartments and communal open space. Created between 1952–1958, FHC is the only rehabilitation housing project designed by modernist architect Oscar Stonorov.

FHC’s origins date to 1943, when the Friends Neighborhood Guild, a Quaker-founded settlement house established in 1879, decided to team up with the American Friends Service Committee for a project that would allow stakeholders to put in “sweat equity” toward homeownership. A key component would be that the project should reflect the changing demographics of the area, and thus was born the country’s first intentionally integrated housing cooperative.

By the late 2000s, FHC was struggling. Taking their toll were gentrification pressures, three decades of turbulent financial times, and a series of unsuccessful property managers who failed to address deteriorating building conditions. In 2007, a newly elected cooperative board started addressing finance and maintenance issues. Re-elected in 2009, the board embarked on a systematic capital improvements campaign, including masonry repairs, replacement of inappropriate windows with historically appropriate units, and building systems upgrades. In 2012, a new board and energized cooperative members were awarded a design grant from the Community Design Collaborative for a comprehensive master plan, offering cost-effective solutions that preserve the character of the community and emphasize sustainability. The document became the blueprint for a phased capital improvements campaign, coupled with advocacy efforts that culminated in a 2015 listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The FHC board has embarked on a path of sustainable stewardship, combining physical repair with strong advocacy to preserve this unique housing model that is of critical relevance today.

“Our places matter” is the warm welcome on the home page. “Along with the natural landscape, it’s the built environment that shapes our collective regional identity and sense of place.” As the countywide preservation organization, its mission is to promote, preserve and enhance the distinctive character of greater Erie through community-based planning, design and historic preservation. The group led the charge for an updated Erie County Historic Resource Survey that took place from 2014-15 and represents one of the largest single architectural surveys in Pennsylvania history. The immense project included the survey of 31,470 properties and 25 potential or existing historic districts in all 38 municipalities in Erie County, including the cities of Erie and Corry. The project identified, documented and mapped all historic resources and historic districts that are individually listed on, determined to be eligible for, or appear to be eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the major goals of the project was to share the results with the general public and engage them in an appreciation for Erie County’s history and a crowd-sourcing effort that would allow them to share their own stories and photographs of treasured places. The website www.eriebuildings.info, a repository for the survey findings, does just that. It also serves as an education tool, presenting information about the architectural styles of residential and commercial buildings, as well as churches and barns.

The inventory process, the two public presentations, and the new website helped spark conversations throughout the county around neighborhood preservation and economic development, and the project was a springboard for initiating work on an Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan. The next phase of the project will use the inventory data to produce a comprehensive historic preservation plan for Erie County that can assist in the protection and adaptive reuse of the many architectural assets of Greater Erie.
Have you heard about the PA SHPO’s groovy Open Houses for the next statewide preservation plan? They will be a gas!

PA SHPO and partner Preservation PA are totally jazzed about getting out and talking with Pennsylvanians to make some community connections.

Check out www.pahistoricpreservation.com and search for "Community Connections" to get a list of locations near you!

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 by joining the PA SHPO and Preservation PA at an Open House and taking our quick survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PA_community_connections.

We need to hear from you and your community to make this the best plan yet!
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AWARD

The Community Initiative Award from the State Historic Preservation Office is intended to recognize efforts that are building on traditional preservation strategies and developing innovative tactics to build communities with a preservation ethic. Inspired by this year’s 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission is looking back at past successes but focusing on the future. It sees this as an opportunity to broaden our understanding of community, and promote new ideas that will influence the next phase of the preservation movement.

Bradford Revitalization Team

(consisting of City of Bradford Office of Economic & Community Development; the Downtown Bradford Revitalization Corporation; the City of Bradford Main Street Program; and the McKean County Economic Development Office)

Bradford, located in a remarkably beautiful part of the state, grew into a city during the late 19th century Pennsylvania oil boom. It’s perhaps best known as home to the world-famous Zippo Lighter Company. Today, while the city has seen massive economic and demographic change like so many Rust Belt towns, its recognition and use of the intrinsic value of its built environment sets an example for all.

An early adopter of preservation tools, Bradford passed a preservation ordinance in 1971, became a Certified Local Government in 1999, and a year later listed a large historic district in the National Register. It’s also a designated Main Street and Elm Street community.

The organizations that make up the Bradford Revitalization Team partner on community and economic development projects – often preservation-based – in a way that capitalizes on the strengths and capacity of each, depending upon the project at hand.

Great examples are the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant-supported rehabilitation of the Old City Hall, an updated building inventory in 2014, successful upper-level residential development in key downtown buildings and, most recently, regional workshops aimed at highlighting the symbiotic relationship between preservation and economic development.

A primary reason for the success of this collaborative seems to be that it developed organically over time and did not depend on federal, state or county sanctification to move itself forward. Bradford has capitalized on local talent yet makes full use of outside assistance when it makes sense.

On an as-needed basis, the Bradford Revitalization Team collaborates with partners not directly affiliated with the city, such as the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, Preservation Pennsylvania, DCED, the PASHPO and others.

But what makes the Bradford Revitalization Team so effective is its long-term commitment to the local citizens and the community’s history. It also doesn’t hurt to have a fearless approach to community development, as long as what’s being tried makes sense within a local context. They’ve taken some chances, and they’re poised for success.
East Liberty Development, Inc.
PITTSBURGH, ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Started in 1979, East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) is a not-for-profit community development corporation (CDC) in Pittsburgh dedicated to fostering economic development and community revitalization as a force for positive change. It has spearheaded the rapid revitalization of what was once one of the most economically-challenged and crime-ridden historic neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. What sets it apart from most CDCs is that ELDI learned that successful economic recovery – and prosperity – had to include a preservation-based design ethic.

ELDI is not a traditional historic preservation advocacy organization yet represents a model of progressive preservation-based development combining economic, planning and legal tools. Its foundational premise is that retention of historic neighborhood character is integral to successful and sustainable revitalization. ELDI and its partners support mixed-use preservation and new construction development, affordable and market-rate housing, and rehabilitating neighborhood landmarks. Noteworthy accomplishments include:

- Nominating the East Liberty Historic District to the National Register, providing property owners, nonprofit and the city access to additional economic and legal tools;
- Assisting with the redevelopment of the East Liberty YMCA, Highland and Wallace buildings using historic tax credits;
- Successfully utilizing Pennsylvania's Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship law to facilitate the adaptive reuse of the 1890/1909 Saints Peter and Paul Church and Rectory.

It is important to note that East Liberty is still very much a work in progress. The community and ELDI are tackling significant social issues and confronting the difficulties of managing change in rapidly-developing historic neighborhoods, principally gentrification. Ensuring that affordable housing and local businesses are part of an ongoing process is a challenge, and ELDI is taking it seriously.

Preservation is a critical tool for integrating affordable housing, new development, and redevelopment in historic communities. ELDI's work has made historic preservation a central part of a conversation where it is often sidelined as irrelevant, or worse, seen as encouraging gentrification. Those in need of affordable housing deserve to reap the benefits of an institutionalized preservation design ethic as much as their new, wealthier neighbors, and ELDI is working to make sure that happens.

Hidden City Philadelphia
PHILADELPHIA, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

The talented team at Hidden City Philadelphia, which includes staff and a broad cross-section of Philadelphia contributors, spends each day researching and exploring Philadelphia’s forgotten, abandoned and often under-appreciated places and spaces. Over the past 11 years, Hidden City has become a well-respected champion of the city's historic resources through its unique reporting style in a daily online magazine, engaging tours, and art-meets-historic-place Hidden City Festivals.

Hidden City started in 2005 as a project for Peregrine Arts and explored the marriage of art with architecture for site-specific, creative-based historic interpretation. In 2010, Peregrine Arts became Hidden City Philadelphia, and their emphasis shifted from curating art for historic places to building engagement and stewardship that changes the way people relate to their neighborhoods and their city.

Hidden City is a tremendous resource for urban planning and history that extends beyond historic preservation. Their work – whether a post in the online magazine, an advocacy alert that goes viral on social media, or a tour of an abandoned property – brings critical attention to issues, trends and opportunities in Philadelphia's planning, placemaking and preservation networks. They believe that Philadelphia's dormant and under-appreciated places can become locations of increased cultural, educational, commercial and civic activity and contribute substantially to the development of community and the health of Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

Together with its contributors, readers and event-goers, Hidden City has created a community that cares about and celebrates Philadelphia. Their model and their role as preservation and history advocates set them apart and serve as an inspiration.
CONGRATULATIONS
on another great year
of preserving
our heritage!

from
Janet S. Klein

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TRIBUTE TO
Louis J. Appell, Jr.

We’d like to take this opportunity to say farewell to Louis J. Appell, Jr., who passed away in June. Mr. Appell was a longtime champion of preservation in Central Pennsylvania and York County especially. He was a founding member of Preservation Pennsylvania, a generous and longtime supporter of our organization, and chairman of our board of advisors. His wisdom and encouragement will be missed.

Louis J. Appell, Jr., pictured here (at right) with fellow preservation hero Henry A. Jordan
WELCOME

Awards Program

2016 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards
Preservation50: Celebrating the Past, Planning the Future
ORDER OF THE AFTERNOON

11:00 – 11:30
GATHERING

11:30 – 12:15
LUNCHEON BUFFET

12:15 – 12:30
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
Peter Benton
Chairman, Preservation Pennsylvania

12:30 – 1:55
2016 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS PRESENTATION
(Please see next page for additional details)

1:55 – 2:00
CLOSING REMARKS
Peter Benton
Chairman, Preservation Pennsylvania

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS!
PROGRAM

COMPÈRE
Mindy Gulden Crawford
Executive Director, Preservation Pennsylvania

PRESERVATION PENNSYLVANIA INITIATIVE AWARDS
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARDS
GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AWARD
SUSTAINABILITY IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD
PRESERVATION PLANNING AWARD
Presented by Peter Benton
Chairman, Preservation Pennsylvania

RALPH MODJESKI AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION DESIGN, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OR ARCHAEOLOGY
SPONSORED BY MODJESKI AND MASTERS
Presented by Michael F. Britt
Senior Vice President, Modjeski and Masters

PHMC, SHPO COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AWARDS
Presented by James Vaughan
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CHAIRMAN’S AWARD
SPONSORED BY A. ROY SMITH
Presented by Peter Benton
Chairman, Preservation Pennsylvania

HENRY A. JORDAN AWARD
SPONSORED BY MRS. HENRY A. JORDAN
Presented by A. Roy Smith
2013 Recipient F. Otto Haas Award

F. OTTO HAAS AWARD
SPONSORED BY THOMAS B. HAGEN
Presented by A. Roy Smith
2013 Recipient F. Otto Haas Award
Many thanks to these individuals who contributed in honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Autumn Rose Anderson
Carl Anderson, III
Carl Anderson, IV
In memory of Louis J. Appell, Jr.
Keith Appleby
Kevin Appleby
Barton Associates
Peter Benton
Carol Bostian
Daniel T. Campbell, Architect
Julia Chain and Charles Stodter
William Chain
Mindy and Rodney Crawford
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Jane Dorchester
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Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC
John Milner Architects, Inc.
Modjeski and Masters
Murphy & Dittenhafer
In memory of William J. Murtagh, son of Pennsylvania and first Keeper of the National Register
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, State Historic Preservation Office
Bobbie Salvaterra
Jane Sheffield, Allegheny Ridge Corporation
A. Roy Smith
Sabra Smith
Paul Steinke
Mary Lee L. Stotler
Dean Stodter
Strada Architecture
Strosser Architecture
Susquehanna Art Museum
Vartan Group
York County Planning Commission
Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
Philip Zimmerman
PRESERVATION50 ANNIVERSARY

“In 2016, we’re honoring the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office, National Register of Historic Places, and the Section 106 review process.

It was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on October 15, 1966. With the NHPA, the country officially recognized the value of historic preservation and created the federal framework supporting the preservation and protection of irreplaceable buildings, landscapes and archaeology in communities across the United States.

Part of the mandate of the NHPA requires the federal government to carefully consider any potential project or action's changes that could impact historic sites or resources, and asks the government to reuse historic places before we build new ones whenever possible.

The law requires the identification and documentation — with photographs, drawings or reports — of cultural resources near the proposed project to provide a record for future generations to evaluate potential change or damage.

The law also provides the public the opportunity to express opinions about the project’s positive or negative consequences for special places in the community. This is your opportunity to be heard! As we look to the future of historic preservation, we hope to see this movement become a logical option, like recycling, or buying local.

We challenge you to get involved and let your voice be heard. Recommend our new publication on saving historic windows to a neighbor rehabbing their old house. Visit Preservation Pennsylvania’s website and follow the link to the survey for the new Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Attend your local historical commission meetings. Register with ProjectPATH and weigh in on PennDOT projects in your region. Get Facebook updates about a preservation crisis in your community. Use your voice. Be an advocate. Carry the spirit of the NHPA forward! Here’s to the future of historic preservation — each one of us!

“The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people ... the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.”

— National Historic Preservation Act, 1966
• **THE FRANKLIN COUNTY JAIL** (Franklin County, pictured above) was the first Pennsylvania building added to the National Register of Historic Places (in 1970) by a non-government entity, establishing its historical pedigree to help prevent demolition for an urban renewal project.

• The first Pennsylvania historic district added to the National Register of Historic Places was **PLYMOUTH MEETING HISTORIC DISTRICT** (Montgomery County), in 1971. Listed because of development pressures, this area continues to be threatened with increasingly dense development, and nearby areas have been listed on the Pennsylvania At Risk list.

• **THE SKIPPACK BRIDGE** (Montgomery County) was an early Pennsylvania National Register nomination that came from the Skippack Historical Society to recognize – not a building with patriotic connections or high architectural style – but a bridge dating to 1792 that was considered an important community landmark.

• Listing the nearly 25 square miles of **OLEY VALLEY** on the National Register (1983) was a radical idea at the time and led to the concept of a Rural Historic District, honoring “a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings, structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.” (NPS 1989)
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