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2014 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Recipients to be honored at luncheon in Huntingdon, PA, on Sept 26

Harrisburg – This year’s Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards exemplify some of the core values of historic preservation, such as a community pulling together to save a building from demolition or the rehabilitation of an aging school that has revitalized its urban neighborhood. “Partnerships, cooperation, and taking the long-term view are themes that run through many of this year’s projects,” said Mindy Crawford, Executive Director of Preservation Pennsylvania, the statewide historic preservation nonprofit. “Whether at the local, state or federal level, this year’s award recipients demonstrate how people working together can make a real difference.”

Preservation Pennsylvania will be presenting the 2014 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards on Friday, September 26, 2014 at the Ballroom, Ellis Hall, Juniata College, 1700 Moore Street, Huntingdon, beginning at 11:30 AM. Tickets to the event and sponsorship opportunities are available at Preservation Pennsylvania’s website: www.preservationpa.org

Since 1979, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards have honored individuals and organizations that exhibited excellence in the field of historic preservation. Preservation Pennsylvania presents the F. Otto Haas Award annually to individuals and organizations in recognition of outstanding contributions and

consistent achievement above the standards of the profession. Other 2014 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards include: the Henry A. Jordan Award; Chairman's Award; Ralph Modjeski Award for Excellence in Transportation Design, Preservation and Archaeology; Sustainability in Preservation Award; Preservation Planning, Initiative; Construction; Grassroots Advocacy; and Leadership in State Government and State Issues Awards.

Recipients of 2014 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards. (Photographs available upon request.)

F. OTTO HAAS AWARD

for outstanding individual achievements
in the field of historic preservation

Paul M. Heberling, (Huntingdon)

For Pennsylvania-native Paul Heberling, archaeology isn't just a job – it's a passion he enjoys sharing with others. His arrival at Juniata College 57 years ago led to the creation of the Department of Anthropology and the launch of summer field schools at archaeological sites throughout the Juniata Valley. In an effort to remedy the lack of professional attention given to the Juniata Valley and central Pennsylvania, Paul performed extensive archaeological survey work, recording many of the local sites now in the State Museum's PASS files. Later he became deeply involved with a long-term archaeological study at Greenwood Furnace State Park, a highly successful charcoal ironworks from 1832 to 1904. He directed college field schools at the site, then a series of public archaeology projects utilizing volunteers. In the 1980s he founded Heberling Associates, a cultural resource management firm. He is generous with his time, serving on the boards of Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, working at the region's historical society and with other civic organizations. Through his professional life, his field work, his speaking engagements and his tireless advocacy for historic preservation, he has inspired imaginations and encouraged appreciation of our shared history.

HENRY A. JORDAN AWARD

for outstanding historic preservation efforts at the local/regional level

The Honorable Salvatore J. Panto, Jr. (Northampton)

Sal Panto has been a preservation advocate for more than 30 years. As mayor of Easton, he has brought fiscal stability to the city, and his economic development focus on the city's historic assets has created hundreds of jobs and generated investments of more than \$400 million. He is recognized for making Easton's historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods safer and cleaner. His proudest accomplishments are his housing rehabilitation program and the revitalization of many small downtown businesses.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

for demonstrated leadership in historic preservation

The Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka (Allegheny)

In 1937, Croatian immigrant and artist Maxo Vanka was commissioned to paint 22 murals at the St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church, the first Croatian Catholic parish in the United States. In addition to religious iconography, the artist explores themes of faith, redemption, social justice and the brutality of war. He considered the work to be his gift to his adopted country. Since 1991 the Society has raised \$450,000 to restore, clean and light the deteriorating art and has completed eight murals to date.

SPECIAL FOCUS AWARDS

RALPH MODJESKI AWARD

for excellence in transportation design, preservation and archaeology

The Great Allegheny Passage (Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette, Somerset)

Point State Park in Pittsburgh was the site of a great celebration in June 2013, as the last mile of the Great Allegheny Passage was opened and its Western Terminus marker dedicated after more than 35 years of work. The last nine miles of the trail may have been the most challenging, requiring negotiations with 18 different owners over six years, as well as construction of three new bridges, a tunnel and a wall at a final budget of \$13m. The completed 150-mile long trail connects with the C&O Canal Trail to create a transportation and recreation route of natural and historic wonders that stretches from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

SUSTAINABILITY IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Ambler Boiler House, Ambler (Montgomery County)

Ambler was once home to Keasbey & Mattison, the world's largest manufacturer of asbestos. The power-generating boiler house built in 1887 was vacated in the 1970s. As the building deteriorated, plans for redevelopment were complicated by the need for remediation of hazardous materials. Ambler BH Development Partners, LP and the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County collaborated to purchase the property with a combination of federal, state and county redevelopment funds that target Brownfield and Transit Oriented Development projects. Working with the Department of Environmental Protection, a *Remedial Investigation and Cleanup Plan* was completed in 2011. The building was ultimately transformed into Class "A" office space with a green design focus, including roofing materials that reduce solar heat gain, high efficiency lighting and high-performance windows, recycled materials with low VOC emissions, and environmentally sensitive cleaning methods. The building is next to a SEPTA commuter rail station and Ambler's Main Street, provides preferred parking for fuel-efficient vehicles, and has onsite bicycle storage. The completed project was recognized by the United States Green Building Council with Platinum level LEED certification.

PRESERVATION PLANNING

Eagles Mere Historic District, Eagles Mere (Sullivan)

In 1996, the Eagles Mere Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places, listing more than 300 buildings that exemplified the area's history as a resort community, where city families would come to enjoy the healthful benefits of clean air and mountain water. When gas drilling and its polluting side effects threatened the area, the Protect Eagles Mere Alliance (PEMA) was founded. Recognizing the potential of the National Register to provide some protection from federally funded or permitted projects, PEMA spearheaded the expansion of the district boundaries and approximately 98% of Eagles Mere Lake's 435-acre watershed has been added, including the lake plus 500 densely forested acres with a network of historic trails.

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AWARD

Cresson Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Cresson (Cambria)

The Pennsylvania State Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Cresson (Cresson San) became a national model for treating tuberculosis patients. Approximately 40,000 adults and children were treated during its 51 years of operation from 1913 to 1964. Later, it became a residential facility for the mentally challenged and served as a state correctional institution until 2013. With its closure, members of the community and those associated with the site created a grassroots effort to document, celebrate and memorialize the stories of the Cresson San. This was accomplished by the establishment of a website to tell the stories of patients and workers; reunions and a centennial celebration of the site's opening; and installation of a state historic roadside marker near the entrance to the former Sanatorium.

LEADERSHIP IN STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATES ISSUES AWARD

Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition (Dauphin)

The Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition is comprised of local, regional and statewide environmental, conservation and recreation collectively building awareness and educating the public and elected leaders about the critical need for conservation and preservation funding that will conserve and protect land, water, wildlife habitat and historic places, and ensure well-managed parks and recreational areas throughout the state. The Coalition has developed a strong grassroots network to educate and inform citizens about the value of conservation and preservation funding in Pennsylvania. Thanks to the work of the Coalition, many important funding sources were protected in annual budget discussions, and the state awarded more than \$28 million in Marcellus Legacy Fund grants to support recreation and critical land and water protection efforts throughout the Commonwealth. With Andrew Heath at the helm, the Growing Greener Coalition has gained a reputation for its ability to work collaboratively with elected officials of

both parties to achieve its goals, and become a real leader in state government and state issues.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARDS

RESIDENTIAL

Nugent Home for Baptists, Philadelphia (Philadelphia)

The Nugent Home for Baptists was established in 1895 by textile magnate George Nugent to house elderly Baptist ministers and missionaries. It was rehabilitated in the 1980s and operated as a personal care home until 2002. It stood vacant for years, deteriorating rapidly as a result of vandalism and resulting water infiltration. After a potential demolition was averted, the site was purchased by Nolen Properties. Using federal rehabilitation tax credits, they created 21 apartments yet preserved the character defining features of the property, such as its wide hallways, front porch, carved wood central staircase, and front parlors with tall bay windows. The building's Roman brick facing was stabilized, its 16 chimneys were re-pointed, stolen copper cornices and columns were replicated, and damaged interior woodwork was restored. In order to make the project financially feasible, a new building with 36 additional units was constructed behind the historic home.

Ruth L. Bennett Home for Women and Girls & the Wilson Memorial Nursery, Chester (Delaware)

The Ruth L. Bennett Improvement Club was founded in 1914 by Ruth L. Bennett, a beloved African American woman from the Chester community who is a continuing source of pride and inspiration. She was the wife of the pastor at the nearby Calvary Baptist Church, where, years later Martin Luther King, Jr., taught Sunday school and visited his mentor, Pastor J. Pious Barbour. Ms. Bennett opened the home in 1918 with a mission to provide a safe haven for women and their children and, in 1929, constructed the adjacent childcare center known as the Wilson Memorial Nursery. Over decades, the condition of the buildings declined. However, their history and proximity to the Commodore Barry Bridge resulted in their rehabilitation as part of mitigation connected with construction of two access ramps. PennDOT funded the structural repairs and upgrades to the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems of these buildings in 2013. The main building will now serve as the administrative office for the Ruth L. Bennett Improvement Club and the nursery will operate as a childcare center. Now comprehensively rehabilitated, these two buildings will again serve the community's youth and aging populations.

COMMERCIAL

The Lincoln Ballroom at the Union League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia (Philadelphia)

The Union League of Philadelphia building has graced Broad Street since it was built in 1865. When the Lincoln Ballroom was dedicated in 1913 with President William Howard Taft in attendance, the room lacked the ornately coffered ceiling

envisioned in architect Horace Trumbauer's design. More than a century after it was built, a recent project finally installed the ceiling based on the original blue prints, and improved flooring, lighting, acoustics and window dressings. Thirty-foot high plaster walls painted to look like wood were restored, and the French crystal chandelier installed in 1911 was cleaned and complimented by four new custom chandeliers.

PUBLIC & INSTITUTIONAL

Amanda E. Stout Elementary School & Benners Court, Reading (Berks)

This Reading school building, built in 1934, was named for Amanda E. Stout, who served as the first woman superintendent and was an educator in the district for over 50 years. The project included restoration of masonry, terrazzo, plaster moldings, light fixtures, wood doors and an unusual tile fountain. Classroom windows were returned to their original proportions to allow plentiful ventilation and natural daylight. Two new buildings comprise Benner Court and include a multi-level courtyard, parking improvements, an elevated play deck with outdoor play space and roof garden to reduce storm water runoff. Upon completion of the project, the elementary school is able to accommodate 1,250 students, an increase of 500. The project achieved verified energy reduction, incorporated sustainable strategies eligible for LEED Gold certification, and was recognized for its environmental sustainability by USGBC Central PA Chapter.

Schmucker Hall, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg (Adams)

Though constructed in 1832 to serve as a dormitory and classroom building, Schmucker Hall would take on symbolism as a place of reconciliation for former soldiers from the Union and Confederacy who returned to Seminary Ridge to honor fallen comrades. For the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation, the Seminary and the Adams County Historical Society joined together to renovate the historic building for use as a museum. The project utilized federal rehabilitation investment tax credits, and included site improvements, accessibility upgrades, structural stabilization, replacement of the roof, and reconstruction of lost elements including the east entry stairs, 1914 Peace Portico.

The Philadelphia Zoo (KidZooU), Philadelphia (Philadelphia)

The Pachyderm House at the heart of the Philadelphia Zoo was recently renovated to become home to the Hamilton Family Children's Zoo and Faris Family Education Center, commonly known together as KidZooU. The Paul Cret designed building, opened in 1941, once housed elephants, rhinoceroses, tapirs and hippopotamuses. The rehabilitation made every effort to restore the building to its original appearance, from restoration of two decorative medallions on the exterior, paint colors based on paint analysis, restoration of the historic elephant door, and new shutters matching those found in old photographs. By adaptively reusing the Pachyderm House, the Zoo has demonstrated to the public the environmental and

cultural importance of preserving this historic building. This LEED Gold project illustrates that green building strategies help save our environment and protect animals.

INITIATIVE AWARDS

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Kemmerer Park Carriage House, Jim Thorpe (Carbon)

The picturesque Kemmerer Park Carriage House is all that remains of the Mahlon and Annie Kemmerer mansion, built in 1879. When water infiltration led to major deterioration the decision was made to demolish the building. With the leadership of the Mauch Chunk Museum & Cultural Center, headed by John Drury, volunteers assisted with all aspects of saving the building, including research, fundraising, grant writing, and the hands-on work of rehabilitation. Now an apartment on a part of the first floor will provide income for Kemmerer Memorial Park, a museum/library will occupy a portion of the main floor, and the upper floor will likely provide a meeting place for local non-profit organizations.

Rittenhouse Square Centennial Restoration Project, Philadelphia (Philadelphia)

In 1913, architect Paul Cret designed Rittenhouse Square using features prominent in French landscape design. A century later, these character-defining features, including limestone balustrades and urns, flowerbeds, and sculpture, had deteriorated. For the centennial, the Friends of Rittenhouse Square worked in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation to complete a substantial preservation project to return the Square to its original grandeur through conservation and in-kind replacement.

COMMUNICATIONS

Perkasie Historical Society Walking Tour Mobile Device & Website, Perkasie (Bucks)

Working in collaboration with local students from Bucks County Community College and Penridge High School, the Perkasie Historical Society developed their Perkhistry App as a tool for teaching history, and encouraging the community to discover the area's historic resources at their convenience. Whether accessed via a mobile device or a home computer, the new tour allows visitors to see historic and current photos of a variety of local historic sites and read or listen to information about them. The project has strengthened relationships among local schools, government and businesses, and has improved the visibility of the Perkasie Historical Society, which has gained membership and volunteers. Participation of new, younger members has spurred interest in preservation of other buildings such as the Perkasie Railroad Station. This is a powerful demonstration of how developing an interest in local history can help build the preservation movement.

EDUCATION

Little Antietam Creek, Inc., Waynesboro (Franklin)

“Research and education through history” describes the approach that Little Antietam Creek, Inc. (LACI) takes as they inspire and educate people of all ages in the process of historical and archaeological research. Participants are given the opportunity to work alongside LACI researchers to discover more about the people who populated the Cumberland Valley from prehistory until the present.

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