



Preserving Pennsylvania

Volume 16

Number 2

The Newsletter of Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc.

Winter 2003

PENNSYLVANIA HONORS PRESERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2003 Historic Preservation Awards to be presented on May 22 in Harrisburg

On Thursday, May 22, 2003 in the elaborately decorated Tile Room of the historic Zembo in Harrisburg, sixteen organizations, municipalities, projects, and individuals will be recognized for their exemplary efforts to preserve historic buildings and sites that contribute to the rich heritage of Pennsylvania.

These annual awards, presented by Preservation Pennsylvania in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, celebrate outstanding preservation initiatives, construction and archaeology projects, and culminate in the presentation of the F. Otto Haas Award, the Commonwealth's highest preservation honor, for outstanding achievement in the field. This year there will also be two special awards: a President's Award presented by Preservation Pennsylvania's board president; and an Extraordinary Achievement Award recommended by the evaluation committee for the preservation and restoration work recently completed at Fallingwater.

For information on attending the awards luncheon, please see page 7.

F. OTTO HAAS AWARD Charles E. Peterson, FAIA

A founder of the modern preservation movement in the United States, Charles Peterson is still, at 96, one of its most ardent champions. The man who, as a young employee of the National Park Service, created the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1933, has most recently taken up the challenge of saving the U.S. Naval Home, which has been the subject of concern to preservationists since it was purchased by Toll Brothers in 1982 and which suffered a major fire earlier this year.

Born and educated in Minnesota, Peterson came to the National Park Service in 1929 as an architect and landscape architect. From his first restoration project in 1931 at the Moore House (where Cornwallis signed the British capitulation in Yorktown, Virginia), he understood the importance of documenting historic buildings. The Historic American Buildings Survey, which he launched two years later as a program of the Depression-era New Deal, has grown to become the largest collection of its type in the world.

Peterson came to Philadelphia in 1950 as Resident Architect of the Independence National Historical Park. From 1954 to 1962 he was Supervising Architect of Historic Structures for the National



Photo by J. Kyle Keener for The Philadelphia Inquirer, July 1994

Park Service's Eastern Office of Design and Construction; and in 1962 he opened an architectural restoration and historic preservation consulting practice which would take him in subsequent years to projects across the U.S. and abroad.

The list of his accomplishments, publications, and awards is extensive. They include: being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1962; being a founding member of the Association for Preservation Technology in 1968 and its president in 1969, and being a founding member of U.S. ICOMOS.

In his adopted city of Philadelphia, where he has lived for more than half a century, his impact has also been significant. He was a leader in the renaissance of Society Hill, restoring for his own use two houses built in 1831-2 by Stephen Girard. He was a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission from 1956-64 and served on the board of the Society Hill Neighborhood Association from 1957-68.

His activism on behalf of the Naval Home dates to the 1970s, when the federal government first proposed to sell the property. At the time, he urged the University of Pennsylvania to buy it. Although this did not happen, Peterson recently suggested this might still be an idea worth pursuing as a way to preserve this National Historic Landmark.

Charles Peterson's life-long quest on behalf of threatened historic landmarks is a magnificent legacy to our Commonwealth and to our nation.

The F. Otto Haas Award honors noted preservationist and philanthropist F. Otto Haas (1915-1994). The award recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of historic preservation.

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Preserving Pennsylvania is a quarterly publication of Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc., 257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101; 717-234-2310; fax 717-234-2522; PPA@preservationpa.org; www.preservationpa.org

This publication has been financed in part with funds from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Historical and Museum Commission, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute an endorsement or recommendation by them. Additional support is provided by membership dues and contributions. Portions of the newsletter that are not copyrighted or reprinted from other sources may be reprinted provided proper credit is given. ISSN 0888-7306

EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Fallingwater

Mill Run, Fayette County



Frank Lloyd Wright designed Fallingwater in 1935 for Pittsburgh department store owner Edgar J. Kaufmann, whose son entrusted the building to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 1963. The house, a National Historic Landmark and regarded as one of the great masterpieces of modern architecture, was opened to the public the following year.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD Historic York, Inc.

Founded in 1975 in response to the threatened demolition of the Billmeyer House in York City, Historic York, Inc. is the voice for historic preservation in York City and County. In the 28 years since its inception, the organization has not only been a strong advocate for the preservation of historic buildings, it has been an active participant in making preservation projects happen.

The organization has played an instrumental role in the preservation of numerous individual properties throughout the county including the Cookes House, Cross Mill, Codorus Ironmaster's House, Haines Shoe House (*Pennsylvania At Risk 1994*),



Mission

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.

Engineering studies completed in the 1990s concluded that the bold cantilevers, for which the building is so famous, were seriously overstressed. Under the direction of the engineering firm of Robert Silman Associates, a team of specialists undertook a multi-faceted approach using state-of-the-art technologies, introducing new technologies, and searching for applicable technologies from other fields to strengthen and preserve the building without changing its outward appearance.

In addition, the three-year preservation effort included restoring and repairing corroded steel sash windows and doors, conserving all interior built-in and free-standing Frank Lloyd Wright designed furniture and woodwork, cleaning and repointing the exterior stone walls, waterproofing and roofing of all terraces and flat roofs to properly shed water.

For the innovative and sensitive approach to the restoration and preservation of this premier architectural landmark, Fallingwater is the recipient of a special "Extraordinary Achievement Award".

Hanover Junction Railroad Station, and, most recently, the Farquhar Park Bandstand. They have also been a key player in preservation efforts for the Camp Security Revolutionary War site (*Pennsylvania At Risk 2000*).

Over the years the organization has assisted thousands of people with renovation questions from suggesting historic paint colors to guiding property owners through the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit Program. Their architectural warehouse is a resource for salvaged architectural elements that can be reused in renovation projects. They have prepared numerous National Register nominations and produce a popular resource guide to local preservation-related products and services. They hold easements on sixty-two properties around the county and protective covenants on past projects to ensure their continued preservation.

This summer, they will play host to preservationists from across the nation as the National Trust for Historic Preservation holds its prestigious Preservation Leadership Training in York, June 14-21.

Through their sustained and quality services, programs, publications, and commitment to their community and its heritage, Historic York has earned the respect not only of their local constituents but of preservationists from across the Commonwealth and beyond.

INITIATIVE AWARDS

Community Involvement Award **Scout Troop #22** **Irvine, Warren County**



Sponsored by the Irvine Presbyterian Church, Scout Troop #22 has contributed to the preservation and restoration of this historic church, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest continuously used church in Warren County.

Dr. William Irvine had the church built in 1838 on a ten acre wooded site as a wedding gift for his wife Sarah Duncan Irvine, who sadly passed away before the building could be completed. The first service conducted in the “Little Stone Church”, as it is known locally, was her funeral. Since then, the church has served as both a spiritual and cultural center for the community.

The scout troop and its adult leadership, with the help of local businesses and other local residents, have worked diligently in recent years on projects to preserve and restore this community icon. Projects have included conservation and restoration of tombstones in the Irvine Family cemetery plot. Soil erosion on the property has been reduced by regrading a bank and creating a wall of fieldstone interspersed with native plantings from the Irvine home site.

Members of this troop were also the first in the nation to achieve the new “archaeology badge” by participating in the Mercyhurst College dig at the Irvine estate site where an ancient Indian tribe had a settlement.

Each spring and fall, the whole troop camps out over night on the property and takes part in raking and cleaning the church grounds, and individual scouts have taken responsibility for numerous other specific projects to maintain and enhance this historic property.

Community Involvement Award **YMCA of York & York County**



Representative project of SMB Properties Scattered Sites. Before (left) and after rehabilitation (right)

Recognizing the poor quality of affordable housing around their headquarters in York City, the YMCA purchased and, under the direction of project architect Richard Bono, rehabilitated nine buildings to help meet this need. The SMB Properties Scattered Sites Project maintained the existing commercial first floor space at eight of the properties while carefully rehabilitating the upper floor apartments. Because the properties were located in the York Historic District, the project qualified for the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit Program.

The overall project totaling over \$4.2 million created 31 apartments and 8 commercial spaces in nine mid-to-late nineteenth century buildings located on West Market and West King Streets. The commitment of the YMCA to the revitalization of the City of York and to the creation of quality affordable housing have already begun to have an effect on the neighborhood in new investment in neighboring buildings and new retail shops and businesses.

Government Award **Borough of Hollidaysburg** **Blair County**



The Hollidaysburg Canal Basin Park Project was identified in 1989 as a key interpretive component in the development of the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area. The site is along the path of the former Mainline Canal and houses part of the lock system of this early 19th century transportation system.

The Borough spent the next twelve years bringing the project to fruition. Ac-

quisition and design monies were obtained from a variety of sources. The Borough effectively built community and legislative support for the project and involved a wide range of local organizations in its successful completion.

Today, the Canal Basin Park is not only a local resource but it is a model trailhead along the 320-mile Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway. The park is heavily used by local residents. Area schools, the National Park Service, and other groups use the park for educational programs.

This creative and complex project exemplifies the vision and perseverance of the Borough of Hollidaysburg. Owned and operated by the Borough, the Canal Basin Park is a vital component of the region’s heritage tourism infrastructure and a valuable asset for community enjoyment.

Education Award
**Pittsburgh History &
Landmarks Foundation**
Allegheny County

Since 1987 Mercy Hospital has partnered in a mentoring program with Miller African-Centered Academy, located in the heart of Pittsburgh's Hill District, in which hospital employees meet once each month during the school year with third through fifth-grade students.

In 2001-2002 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, well known for its creative and effective educational programs, was asked to work with the hospital and the academy to develop and implement an after-school enrichment program that would culminate in obtaining a Historic Plaque for the 1905 school.



During the nine-months of the program, students were introduced to the language of architecture as they documented their school building with photographs, measured drawings, and oral history interviews. They built a 3-dimensional cardboard model of the school, and wrote and performed a play to bolster their application for the plaque.

Their successful efforts resulted in the awarding of the plaque during Preservation Week in 2002. Prominently displayed on the corner of the school, the plaque is a daily reminder to the students that hard work can bring results, that adults listen to them when they present valid arguments in favor of something, and that their school is a significant architectural landmark.

Stewardship Award
Central Pennsylvania College
Summerdale, Cumberland County



Henszey's Bridge is a wrought iron bowstring arch, also known as a tied arch, built in 1869 by the Continental Bridge Company of Philadelphia. The 92 feet long and nine feet high structure was the invention of Joseph G. Henszey, a Philadelphia hardware merchant.

The bridge has had three lives, beginning in the Slatington, Lehigh County, where it carried Main Street over Trout Creek. In 1900 it was moved to the opposite corner of Lehigh County to carry King's Road over Ontelaunee Creek near the village of Wanamakers. In 2000, the Commonwealth offered the bridge for sale with the stipulation that it be moved.

Central Pennsylvania College president Todd Milano purchased the bridge for \$22

and undertook the complex process of moving the span from Lehigh County to the college campus, located near Harrisburg on the west side of the Susquehanna River. Relocation and restoration costs came to approximately \$250,000.

Statistics indicate that over half the historic bridges identified by statewide surveys have disappeared over the last twenty years. The relocation and preservation of Henszey's Bridge has ensured the future of this landmark structure. The bridge now stands as the visual focal point of the campus. It has also become a symbol of the institution's commitment to excellence and the value placed on the stewardship of our shared heritage.

ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT AWARD

Paul Nevin and Safe Harbor Petroglyph Recording Project
Susquehanna River, Lancaster County



Although recognized as early as the 1930s, this collection of six rock art sites had never been fully documented until amateur archaeologist Paul Nevin, in as-

sociation with the Society for Pennsylvania Archeology, Inc., organized and supervised a project to identify and document these 273 petroglyphs attributed to the pre-historic occupants of the Susquehanna River Valley. Located precariously in the center of Susquehanna River, this important site is threatened by forces of erosion from the river and by occasional vandalism.

Various figures and designs are represented in the petroglyphs including human figures, animals, and geometric designs. Recording included mapping each site, documenting the location of each petroglyph, and measuring, sketching and photographing each petroglyph. Charts, maps, and other information detailing the findings from the site are now housed at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and in local repositories, forming a significant body of information for future researchers.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARDS

Single Family Residential/House Museums

John Bartram House Philadelphia County

Built in the 1690s with additions through the early 19th century, the Bartram House was the home of John (1699-1777) and William (1739-1823) Bartram, colonial botanists, naturalists, and plant explorers. The house (a National Historic Landmark) and the surrounding 44 acres have been owned by the City of Philadelphia since 1891 and are managed and interpreted for the public as Historic Bartram's Garden by the John Bartram Association in partnership with the Fairmount Park Commission.



Following a year-long comprehensive conservation study of the building, extensive exterior conservation work, under the direction of Dale H. Frens, AIA, was undertaken in 2001-02 to address root causes of ongoing moisture problems and other long-term preservation issues. The most notable aspect of the project was a state-of-the-art approach to isolate foundation walls from water-holding soil by diverting water away from the base of the building, sealing the exterior face of the foundation walls, and installing an underground perimeter drainage system. This project serves as a model to other historic properties on how to approach long-standing conservation problems.

Public/Institutional Buildings

Old Court House Shippensburg, Cumberland County

Built in 1735, this two and a half story stone structure hosted the initial Cumberland County Court sessions in 1750-51. At the time it was known as Widow Piper's Tavern. The building was later used as a private residence and in 1928 was purchased and given to the Civic Club of Shippensburg.

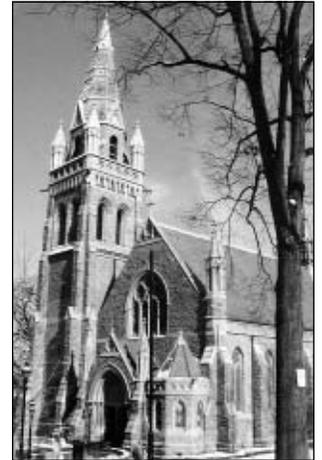


Renovations were undertaken by the Civic Club in the 1930s, 1960s, and 1970s. By 2002, bowing of the Queen Street wall was putting pressure on window frames creating fissures allowing rainwater to infiltrate the building. A project to address the root causes of the problems - funded entirely with private money - was undertaken by the Club.

Geotechnical engineering investigation was conducted to assess subsurface conditions and their relevance to the building's problems prior to complete disassembling of the wall. After a new foundation was installed, the wall was rebuilt using historically appropriate mortar and incorporating hidden metal bars grouted into the stone wall to strengthen it against both natural forces such as sinkholes and heavy truck traffic. Interior work included replastering and painting and upgrading of heating and electrical systems.

Packer Memorial Church, Lehigh University Bethlehem, Northampton County

Packer Memorial Church, built between 1883 and 1885, was designed by noted 19th century architect Addison Hutton in the Gothic Revival style. Constructed of locally quarried gray quartzite stone with light tan sandstone accents, and a red slate roof, the structure is punctuated by an imposing 185 feet high tower. Original stained glass windows are attributed to the Tiffany Studio, and there are a large number of 1910 replacement windows in the Gothic Revival style.



In 1992 the University commissioned a major study of the exterior and structural condition of the building. Existing conditions were documented and analyzed, moisture mapping was done to identify problems, and petrographic analysis was performed on the stone. Special studies of the roof and stained glass were also done.

Under the direction of John Harry, preservation and restoration of the Church exterior included complete repointing of the building to correct the most significant problem of water trapped within the walls. Both the quartzite stone and the cement mortar used in earlier repointings did not allow trapped water to escape, resulting in significant water-related damage to the more porous sandstone. In some walls, the water concentration was so great that removal of the cement pointing allowed moisture to flow in streams out of the joints for weeks.

Other work included selective roof repairs and replacement of flashings, gutters and downspouts. Discolored plexiglass sheets, installed to protect the stained glass but which had caused damage from trapped heat and moisture, were removed and the windows restored and repaired to allow for thermal expansion.

This three-year project is notable in that it was accomplished without losing any of the extant building fabric and that monitoring mechanisms are now in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the techniques used and to forestall future problems.

College Hall, Temple University Philadelphia

Temple University, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services, recently completed the renovation of College Hall into a classroom and administration building for the Beasley School of Law.

Constructed in 1893, College Hall was the first building of what was to become Temple University. It and the adjoining Grace Baptist Temple were designed by Thomas P. Lonsdale in the Romanesque Revival style. College Hall was originally used



as a classroom building, and later included a basketball court and movie theater. Numerous modifications were made to the interior over the years to accommodate new and changing uses until the building was closed in 1986.

The ten-year rehabilitation of the building, which began in 1992, was accomplished in two phases. Voith and Mactavish Architects secured the envelope of the building by replacing the deteriorated roof structure, replacing windows, and cleaning and repointing the masonry. In the second phase of the project, SRK Architects designed the reuse of the interior spaces for administrative offices, a large lecture hall and additional classrooms. Renovation of College Hall has stimulated the exterior rehabilitation of the Baptist Temple. The two buildings now contribute, once again, to the proud heritage of the University and its North Philadelphia neighborhood.

Industrial Building
York Gas Works
York, York County

The \$2 million rehabilitation of the York Gas Works in conjunction with the development of the former Eyster Weiser smokestack tract has dramatically changed the face of one of York's bleakest abandoned industrial sites.



Using the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit program, Barton Associates, a York-based engineering firm, rehabilitated the former industrial complex for their offices. Architect for the project was Richard Mula of Lancaster.

The York Gas Works complex, located in the center of the York Historic District, was constructed in the late 19th and early 20th century. It continued to be used by the utility, which merged with Columbia Gas in 1969, until 1998 when a new distribution facility opened outside the city. The abandoned site was subsequently designated a Keystone Opportunity Zone, offering tax relief for reinvesting in this section of the city. The rehabilitation of York Gas Works into high-end office space serves as an example of sensitive rehabilitation and a catalyst for rehabilitation of other industrial buildings in the city.

Commercial Building
The Bost Building
Homestead, Allegheny County

During the 1892 labor strike, which pitted Carnegie Steel Company against the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, the Bost Building served as local headquarters for the union and as the base for American and British newspaper correspondents report-



ing the event. It is one of the best surviving structures associated with this important event.

In 1990, the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation (SIHC) identified the building from a series in Harper's Weekly Magazine containing reports on the strike. The building was abandoned and on the verge of collapse. Seeing the potential and realizing the value of rehabilitating a structure so significant in the history of the community and the nation, SIHC raised funds to purchase the building. Under the direction of Richard Schmitz with the architectural firm of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, SIHC rehabilitated the property for use as their offices and to house the main visitors center for the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

Special Historic Property
David Stroup Fountain
Bloomsburg, Columbia County

First erected in Bloomsburg's Market Square in 1892, the David Stroup Fountain offers an amazing story of persistence and preservation..

Mr. Stroup, a local candy merchant, died in 1884 and bequeathed money to the local water works which suggested the fountain to the town and offered to provide the water free of charge. The town council used the \$2,000 bequest to purchase the two-tiered, 18 feet tall iron fountain from the J.L. Mott Iron Works in New York City.



For 60 years the fountain operated continuously, but by the 1950s it had begun to deteriorate and major sections and elements began to be removed. In 1966, a "beautification" plan for the square replaced the fountain with a flagstone plaza. The fountain was taken to a local museum; but after a 1972 flood devastated the museum, the fountain was disassembled and stored in the Town Maintenance Facility.

Ten years passed until the community, under the leadership of local resident Bill Brobst, began the long process of restoring the fountain to its former glory. With support of local citizens, civic groups and businesses, the fountain was partially restored and returned to operation in 1984. But the dream of a full restoration continued.

Through a Transportation Enhancements grant from PennDOT and with architectural direction from the firm of Becker, Morgan, Moore, Olds and Richter, Inc., the process of a full restoration began in the 1990s. Amazingly, the original patterns of the J.L. Mott company were discovered at the Alabama firm of Robinson Iron, and the fountain was trucked to Alabama for restoration. The 1966 plaza and basin were completely removed, and, in the culmination of a 20-year project, the square and the fountain are now restored to prominence as the most recognized feature of the community's built environment.

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2003 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 22, 2003

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