THOUGHTS ON PUERTO RICAN CULTURE, PENNSYLVANIA LATINOS, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

by Arleen Pabón, PhD

Excerpt from a presentation given on November 5 in Philadelphia and on November 6 in Lancaster

Immigrants move from their place of origin to find more than a safe shelter; they dream of a better life. Nowadays, the general consensus is that immigration is a fundamental right, an intrinsic part of the pursuit of happiness concept. Pursuing happiness, by necessity, implies that - at some point or another - the newcomer must change - if not cultural allegiances - cultural identification processes. Latinos-cum-Puerto Ricans are no exception to the rule. In spite of the fact that they are American citizens by virtue of birth, they do have a cultural allegiance of their own. This cultural architectural fealty is to an island possessing an imposing fortified city considered part of the patrimony of humanity, a myriad of elegant Colonial palaces and houses and hundreds of quaint and charming vernacular architectural examples. Most Puerto Rican Latinos identify with dozens of old fashioned plazas surrounded by historic churches and casas alcaldeas that date to el tiempo de los españoles. Even that phrase "the time of the Spaniards" conjures images that are quite different from that of, say, Colonial Pennsylvania. When they move away from the island, they move into an alien architectural milieu, where buildings are different, newer, made of materials seldom - if ever - used in the island. To someone accustomed to admiring centuries old buildings and quasi-magical architectural typologies such as old convents and hospices, medieval fortifications that fought Sir Francis Drake, and Gothic churches where Ponce de León’s family worshipped, Venturi’s interpretation of Benjamin Franklin’s house must surely seem different. Thus, we face the first obstacle in our dialogue: cultural chauvinism.

In my opinion, the first task that must be undertaken is to educate all newcomers living in Pennsylvania about the historic importance that all architectural and urban artifacts - regardless of where they stand - have to all of us. To do this we must break the boundaries that tie us to particular locales. In our profession and out of pure necessity, we tend to miss the forest for the trees. We are so involved in saving this particular archaeological site from the Transportation people or this group of buildings from Mr. Terrible Person, that we might fail to express that Pennsylvania’s loss might very well be the loss of all America. At times, we have forgotten that we must constantly educate non-specialists about the importance of historic architecture, be it in Philadelphia, Lancaster, Chicago, or San Juan. We must keep the message alive: a historic architectural milieu is an embodiment of powerful issues that affects all of us everywhere. We would probably not be here if it were not for the Parthenon and the Roman Empire’s system of roads. It is a complex task; yet we must end cultural chauvinism of the kind fostered in many places, including the island.

I distinctly remember when I visited Florida’s San Agustín’s fort for the first time. I was with my sister, who at that time had lived in Florida for more than fifteen years. We were accompanied by local conservationists who had kindly planned the visit. As we approached the structure my sister remarked: "Oh! Look at the tiny, little fortress! How cute!" On the one hand, I was embarrassed, for I knew the importance the structure has for the locals. On the other, I could understand her. In her mind, she must have had visions of our fortresses; to her, this was truly a child’s toy. In my opinion, this anecdote sheds light upon the first goal of our mission: to educate newcomers about the historic importance of the places they inhabit, even if they look quite different from the cultural landmarks they are used to. Pennsylvania must

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On November 5 and 6, Preservation Pennsylvania cosponsored workshops in Philadelphia and Lancaster to bring together the Latino and historic preservation communities.

With funding from the National Park Service Cultural Resources Training Initiative and Mellon Bank, and in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and numerous local preservation and Latino organizations, the program generated a lively dialogue on issues of neighborhood and community revitalization.

A highlight of the workshops was a presentation by Arleen Pabón, former State Historic Preservation Officer for Puerto Rico. As we enter the holiday season - a time to reflect on the things in our lives that unite us - we offer you an excerpt from her powerful message of shared cultural heritage and the responsibility of each of us to cherish and preserve that heritage.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

National

Post Office Community Partnership Act,
H.R. 1231

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced legislation this past spring to address the ever-increasing closings of downtown post offices and their relocation to the suburbs. Preservationists support this legislation because of the importance of downtown post offices to many small communities and neighborhoods.

H.R. 1231 would require the U.S. Postal Service to consider specific criteria before renovating, relocating, closing, or consolidating a post office. These criteria include: the effect of the proposed action on the community served by the post office; the extent to which the facility is part of a downtown business area; community opposition to the proposed action; extent of long-term economic savings from the action; whether any reasonable alternatives have been explored. The legislation would also require the Postal Service to comply with local zoning or building codes.

Pennsylvania cosponsors of the bill include: Thomas M. Foglietta, Robert A. Borski, Chaka Fattah, and Mike Doyle.

Preservation Pennsylvania joins the National Trust for Historic Preservation in urging our members and colleagues to write to your representative and ask him/her to cosponsor the Blumenauer legislation. Letters should be addressed to your representative, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) Reauthorization

Congress approved a short term extension of ISTE A just prior to adjournment for 1997. The debate over the future of federal transportation policy will resume when Congress reconvenes at the end of January.

The above report was prepared with information provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation Department of Law and Public Policy.

State

Downtown Location Law, H.B. 969

This proposed legislation would encourage state agencies to locate facilities in downtown areas. Citing the loss of over 4,000,000 acres of farmland to development in the last forty years, the flight of residents from urban centers with the resulting decline of central business districts and the links to crime, unemployment, shrinking tax bases and decaying infrastructure, the proposed legislation would “...encourage agencies of the Commonwealth to be leaders in the movement to end urban flight and sprawl and serve as examples of the feasibility of returning to downtown areas.”

The text of the bill goes on to enumerate guidelines for state agencies which include: giving primary consideration to the restoration and/or reuse of existing structures within the downtown; denying requests to locate outside a downtown unless the agency can document that no reasonable alternative exists; and coordinating the location of state facilities with existing public/private organizations committed to community development, downtown revitalization and historic preservation.

The bill was introduced by Representatives Argall, Herman, Sather, Leh, Itkin, Schroder, Staback, Belardi, Battisto, Cawley, C. Williams, Reber, Stern, Rooney, Sturla, Travaglio, Carone, Masland, Raymond, Geist, Van Horn, Curry, E.Z. Taylor, L.I. Cohen, Hennessey, Youngblood, Fargo, Benninghoff, Ramos, Boscola, Statler, McGeehan, Steelman, Manderino, McNaughton, Petrone, Ross, Fichter, Walko and Browne.

Preservation Pennsylvania encourages our members and colleagues to send letters of support for H.B. 969 to your local representatives and to The Honorable John M. Perzel, 110 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020.

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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.
In October, at the National Trust annual conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a National Trust Honor Award for the book Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania was presented to Tom Hylton, author of the book, and Preservation Pennsylvania, which sponsored its publication. Since the release of Save Our Land, Save Our Towns in 1995, the book has been a catalyst for new energy and initiatives on behalf of Pennsylvania communities, including the formation of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a statewide alliance of groups and individuals. Since its distribution to members of the State House and Senate, a bicameral, bipartisan task force on land use and sprawl has been organized and mobilized toward potential legislation.

"Pennsylvania is now recognized as a leader nationally in the debate about how we plan for healthy communities, in large measure because of Save Our Land, Save Our Towns," said Mary Werner DeNadai, advisor and past president of Preservation Pennsylvania. "Thanks to the vision and energy of many people, including Henry Jordan, who worked closely with Tom Hylton and Preservation Pennsylvania to bring the book to publication, Save Our Land, Save Our Towns is helping Pennsylvanians to define their vision of what they will be as they move into the new century."

PHILADELPHIA INTERVENTION FUND RECEIVES 3-YEAR GRANT

Established in 1988 with funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Preservation Pennsylvania’s Philadelphia Intervention Fund recently received approval for another three-year cycle of grants. The Pew Charitable Trusts will provide funding to Preservation Pennsylvania, which in turn will make grants to Philadelphia nonprofit organizations and public agencies to address emergencies and crisis situations affecting historic properties.

The program has no specific deadlines. Requests will be considered as they are received. Grants usually range from $1,000 to $20,000. For application materials contact Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-234-2310.

During the next three years, funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts will also support an annual workshop on topics related to preventing or alleviating preservation crises. On March 21, 1998, the first of these workshops will be held in Philadelphia and will address preventive maintenance for older and historic buildings. Registration and specific program information will be available in early 1998.

PUBLIC POLICY PROJECT UNDERTAKES ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES

Through a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Preservation Pennsylvania and our partners in the public policy pilot project are moving forward with three economic impact analyses. Information generated by these studies will be used to support the case for controlling sprawl, for stimulating reinvestment in existing communities and for furthering historic preservation efforts.

The first study will determine the costs of sprawl in Pennsylvania and will be conducted in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. A study of the economic impact of outdoor and heritage tourism is being conducted in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; consultants selected to undertake this study are D.K. Shifflet and Associates of McLean, Virginia. The third study will focus on the economic impact of historic preservation programs, including the rehabilitation tax credits, the Main Street Program, and the effects of historic designation; this study is being done in partnership with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

The Public Policy Pilot Project is a joint effort of Preservation Pennsylvania, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

PRESERVATION PA IS ON THE WEB

Access to information on Preservation Pennsylvania and our programs is now available on the internet through our own web page: www.preservationpa.org

Sheila Campbell, communications and special projects coordinator, has designed our new website which includes information on funding programs, advocacy alerts, and other ongoing projects. We welcome your feedback on the site so that we can correct any errors or omissions, and to help us make the site useful to our members and preservation colleagues.

Both the new website and staff access to the internet are made possible through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of our public policy project with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania.

We look forward to hearing from you at our new e-mail addresses. General inquiries should be directed to: PPA@preservationpa.org
To e-mail specific staff:
Caroline Boyce, Executive Director CBoyce@preservationpa.org
Susan Shearer, Assistant Executive Director SShearer@preservationpa.org
Sheila Campbell, Communications & Special Projects Coordinator and Web Master SSheila@preservationpa.org


Armstrong Cork Company Complex (listed in 1994) The Pittsburgh site, located in the Strip District, is now slated for redevelopment into a mixed use complex of retail shops and apartments. The historic factory buildings, designed by noted Pittsburgh architect Frederick J. Osterling, were constructed in 1901-02 and have been vacant for almost two decades. Developers for the site are Landmark America of Portland, Maine, whose plans call for use of preservation tax credits in the rehabilitation of the historic complex.

Enola Low Grade Railroad Line (listed in 1996) The Public Utility Commission (PUC) rendered a decision that will transfer ownership and control of the 23-mile historic rail line across southern Lancaster County from Conrail to seven local townships rather than to the preservation group that has worked to create a cohesive recreational trail that would preserve the historic rail line and its significant stone arched bridges. The townships have indicated they will demolish at least seven bridges along the route. Friends of the Susquehanna Scenic Trail plan to appeal the decision.

Jackson Koehler Eagle Brewery (listed in 1997) A fire in early November poses a renewed threat to the future of this Erie landmark, which has been vacant and deteriorating since 1978. With this latest assault on the building, neighbors have called for its demolition or, at the very least, that it be secured. City of Erie officials continue to hope for a resolution that would see the property rehabilitated.

King of Prussia Inn (listed in 1993) With a $270 million PennDOT project scheduled to begin in 1998, efforts continue to raise the $1.2 million needed to move the 1719 inn from its location on a traffic island in the middle of Route 202. The King of Prussia Chamber of Commerce and the King of Prussia Historical Society have raised $650,000 to date and are working with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia on relocation and restoration of the inn as a living museum and community center.

Knowlton (listed in 1993) The Northeast Philadelphia estate, with buildings designed in 1879 by architect Frank Furness, has been sold after five years on the market. The house and outbuildings will become the headquarters for Catering by Conroy, which has pledged to preserve both the historic structures and the surrounding open space.

Markle Building (listed in 1997) In a stunning turnaround from last summer's talk of demolition, Hazleton's tallest building was purchased in September by a group who plans to rehabilitate it for a mix of business and possibly residential use.

Lancaster County (listed in 1994) has been named one of the world's one hundred most endangered sites. On September 5, 1997, the World Monuments Watch, a program of the New York based nonprofit World Monuments Fund (WMF), announced Lancaster County's inclusion on the list based on its importance as one of America's most strongly defined cultural landscapes which is threatened by rapid suburbanization and with the continued loss of the agricultural heritage of the plain sect communities. Also included on this year's list is Fort Apache in Arizona and the historic center of Prague in the Czech Republic. Inclusion on the list makes the sponsor of the application eligible to apply for grants of up to $100,000 to address the threat. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County is working with other local groups to develop a grant proposal to submit to WMF.

PSFS Building (listed in 1994) Philadelphia's growing tourist and convention business has spurred plans to convert the former Philadelphia Savings Fund Society (PSFS) Building into a 590-room luxury Loews Hotel. Slated to open in 1999, the hotel will be developed using the historic preservation tax incentives.

Steamship Niagara (listed in 1994) Scraping of the century-old freighter began in late November. Dr. William Garvey, spokesman for the Steamship Niagara Museum, Inc. cited costs of restoration and lack of a source of funding for the project as obstacles to preserving the steamship as a museum. Built in Michigan and launched in 1897, the Niagara spent more than two decades in Erie during its years of operation.

Walnut Street Bridge (listed in 1996) The eastern span of the Harrisburg landmark, damaged in the winter of 1996, reopened to pedestrian traffic from the Harrisburg shore to City Island earlier this year. The future of the western span, which connects City Island and the west shore of the Susquehanna River, is still under study by PennDOT. In June the 108-year-old bridge was honored with a plaque from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) designating it as a Pennsylvania Engineering Landmark.

**Nominations to Pennsylvania at Risk 1998 are now being accepted**

Contact Susan Shearer at phone: 717-234-2310 fax: 717-234-2522 e-mail: SShearer@preservationpa.org

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### PRESERVATION RESOURCES

- **Preservation Directories** provide owners of historic buildings with information on craftspeople or other professionals experienced in working with older buildings. A number of local preservation organizations publish directories of professionals in their area or offer telephone assistance in locating these resources. While the responsibility for obtaining references on the quality of the work of listed professionals must rest with the person doing the hiring, these directories are an excellent starting place for a preservation project. Local organizations offering published directories include:

  - **Allentown Preservation League** (Lehigh Valley Area), 610-435-1964
  - **Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County**, 717-291-5861
  - **Historic York**, 717-843-0320

- **The Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation** has created the Pennsylvania AmeriCorps Team CIVIC: Cultural Institutions and Volunteers Invigorating Communities. The program matches participants with the needs of cultural institutions in Pennsylvania. Applications will be accepted through summer 1998. For more information, contact Erin Powers, PO Box 565, Hollidaysburg PA 16648, phone: 814-696-9380; e-mail: epowers@allegheny.org

- **The National Trust for Historic Preservation** announces the creation of a new grant program for historic interiors. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors offers grants from $5,000 to $25,000 to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, for-profit businesses and individuals. Eligible activities include obtaining consultant services, sponsoring workshops/conferences and producing print/video communications. Bricks and mortar construction and property acquisition are not eligible for funding. For more information and grant applications contact Bob Bais at 202-588-6197. Application deadline is February 1.
Between October 1, 1996 and September 30, 1997, the following Pennsylvania properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places and to the listing of National Historic Landmarks. Listing as either a National Historic Landmark or in the National Register provides recognition of the historic significance of a property and mandates a review of any effect on the property from projects using federal funds or having other federal involvement.

For more information on these and other state and federal preservation programs contact: Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026; 717-783-8946.

**National Historic Landmark**

F. Julius LeMoyne House, Washington, Washington County

Julius LeMoyne was an abolitionist who joined the Washington Anti-Slavery Society in 1834. The house, which was built by LeMoyne’s father in 1812, became a center for anti-slavery activity and a safe station on the Underground Railroad during the mid-19th century. Noted restoration architect Charles Morse Stotz published the house in *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania* (1936; republished in 1966 and 1995). Today, the LeMoyne House is home to the Washington County Historical Society.

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Allegheny County**

James Scott House, Pittsburgh

Kaufmann’s Department Store Warehouse, Pittsburgh

Lehner Grain-and-Cider Mill and House, Verona

Oakdale Public School, Oakdale

Reymers’ Candy Factory, Pittsburgh

**Beaver County**

Beaver Historic District, Beaver

**Bedford County**

Grand View Point Hotel (Ship of the Alleghenies), Juniata Township

**Berks County**

Livingood/Stryker Hospital, Reading

Reading Hardware, Reading

**Blair County**

Jacob Isett House and Store, Tyrone Township

**Bucks County**

Buckingham Friends Meeting, Buckingham Township

Pen Ryn (information added to Andalusia listing), Bensalem Township

**Chester County**

Fairville Historic District, Pennsburg Township

Greenwood Farm, Tredyffrin Township

**Delaware County**

Stonehaven, Chester Heights

**Erie County**

Boston Store, Erie

Lovell Manufacturing Company, Erie

Villa Maria Academy, Erie

**Fayette County**

Josiah Frost House, U.S. Route 40 (National Road), Menallen Township

**Lackawanna County**

Roger Williams Public School No. 10, Scranton

**Lancaster County**

Peter and Catherine Reyer Farmhouse, Ephrata Township

Samuel N. Mumma Tobacco Warehouse, Landisville

**Lucerne County**

West End Wheelmen’s Club, Wilkes-Barre

**Mercer County**

Jonas J. Pierce House, Sharpsville

Wendell August Forge, Grove City

**Monroe County**

Pocono Manor Historic District, Pocono and Tobyhanna Townships and Mt. Pocono Borough

**Philadelphia**

St. Joseph’s House for Homeless Industrial Boys, Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia

terminal Commerce Building, N. Broad Street, Philadelphia

**Pike County**

Shohola Glen Hotel, Shohola Township (part of Historic and Architectural Resources of the Upper Delaware Valley, New York and Pennsylvania Multiple Property Submission)

**Somerset County**

Matthew Hair Farm, Jenner Township

Uptown Somerset Historic District Boundary Increase, Somerset Borough

**Washington County**

Historic Resources of the National Road in Pennsylvania:

Beallsville Historic District, Beallsville

Centerville Historic District, Centerville

Scenery Hill Historic District, North Bethlehem Township

James Thorne Farm, North Strabane Township

Molly Fleming House, California

**York County**

Clear Spring Mill, Franklin Township

Glen Rock Historic District, Glen Rock

Hanover Historic District (encompassing approximately 885 acres), Hanover

The F. Julius LeMoyne House, Washington, has been designated a National Historic Landmark for its association with abolitionist Francis Julius LeMoyne (1798-1879).

LeMoyne represents the conventional mainstream of anti-slavery activity among the white middle class during the period prior to the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

around the commonwealth

- Dick Clark returned to the former WFTIL Studio at 46th and Market Street in Philadelphia on August 5 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of TV’s legendary American Bandstand and to help unveil a Pennsylvania state marker proclaiming the building’s historic status as one of the first structures in the nation to be built for use as a television studio. The studio, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, is the new home to the West Philadelphia Enterprise Center, a development center for minority entrepreneurs and their start-up businesses.

- Saved from the wrecking ball in 1990 by the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation (B.A.R.C.), Brownsville’s historic Flatiron Building has been renovated and reopened as an interpretative and visitor center. With the assistance of the Mon Valley Initiative, which provided technical assistance and initial stabilization funding, with broad community support, and with the tireless efforts of project coordinator and chairperson Norma Ryan, the project was completed in a series of phases over the past seven years. In addition to exhibits on the history of Brownsville and the area, the building houses a cafe, a bookstore, and a number of other businesses.

- The Garman Opera House, built in 1891 in downtown Bellefonte, Centre County, has been returned to its former glory and place as a community entertainment venue. After lying vacant for fifteen years, the former home to vaudeville and movies has been restored and now offers live theater productions thanks to the efforts of David and Barbara Harry. For information on the schedule of productions at the Centre Playhouse in Residence at the Garman Opera House, contact 814-355-7884.

- The proposed insertion of a three-car garage into the main facade of a significant 1888 residence in the Rittenhouse Filer Historic District in Center City Philadelphia will be the subject of oral arguments before Judge Stephen E. Levin on February 24, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom N in the Wanamaker Building. Despite widespread community opposition, the Philadelphia Historical Commission voted in favor of the garage at a meeting this past summer. The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, in cooperation with the Center City Residents Association, appealed the decision and filed a petition with the Court of Common Pleas to stop the project. The building, located at 247 S. 17th Street, was designed by architect Frank Miles Day. According to the Alliance, “If allowed to stand, the decision to insert the garage opening will not only destroy the facade of this important building, but will undermine the integrity of the Rittenhouse Filer District and threaten the cause of historic district designation throughout Philadelphia.” For updated information on this and other preservation issues in the greater Philadelphia area, visit the Alliance’s website at www.libertynet.org/-historic

- The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs has launched its New Initiatives for the 21st Century. Following a June 1997 summary of board leaders and state officials, the PSAB convened the 21st Century Committee comprised of leaders from boroughs, state government, and the private sector in mid-October to begin to create a vision for Pennsylvania boroughs to take them into the 21st century. Subcommittees will focus on the following areas: community/facilities; recreation; transportation; housing; community/economic development; and historic preservation. Preservation Pennsylvania, the Bureau for Historic Preservation, and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center are represented on the Committee.

- Preservation Pittsburgh, the city’s nonprofit preservation advocacy organization, has relocated its offices and has hired its first staff. Carole Cohen is the organization’s project coordinator and Linda Plozman is development director. The new headquarters is located at: 357 N. Craig St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213; phone 412-687-4661; fax 412-682-2151.

people

Mary Werner DeNadai, advisor to and past president of Preservation Pennsylvania, has been named to the board of trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A former advisor to the Trust from Pennsylvania, DeNadai is also past chairman of the board of Preservation Action.

Linda V. Ellsworth has been named to the board of advisors for the Northeast Region of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Ellsworth serves on the board of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. From 1987-1990 she was director of the Trust’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Office.

Linda McAd has left her post as director of resource protection for the Heritage Conservancy in Doylestown to become executive director of the Delaware and Raritan Greenway in New Jersey.

Ramona Riscoe, executive director of the Philadelphia Multicultural Affairs Congress (MAC) for the past four years and coordinator of the Pennsylvania Heritage Tourism Program’s pilot project in Philadelphia, has resigned her position to establish her own marketing/consulting business in Philadelphia.

Tanya Hall is the new executive director of MAC which is a division of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Carol Wickiser, executive director of the Lehigh County Historical Society since 1979, died August 26. Active at the state and national levels as well as in her local community, Wickiser served as president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations (PFMHO) in the 1980’s and was chair of the Council of the American Association for State and Local History. The PFMHO has established an endowment in her honor; the interest will be used to make an annual award to an entering professional for continuing education purposes. To contribute to the endowment, contact the PFMHO, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026; 717-787-3253.
YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE VOICE FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S HERITAGE

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Keystone Society members contribute a minimum of $2,500 annually to Preservation Pennsylvania

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Thomas Rippon

Pennsylvania Heritage Club members contribute $1,000 annually to Preservation Pennsylvania

For information on becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Heritage Club or the Keystone Society, contact Preservation Pennsylvania

Arleen Pabón...continued from page 1 educate the Puerto Rican Latinos about the historic importance of the buildings and districts they inhabit, perhaps by chance. Pennsylvania must convince all newcomers that its architectural heritage is a gift to each and every single person in the world. We must capture their attention in order to gain their commitment.

It took my sister time to realize that buildings built in this century could possess the same kind of magic that the centuries-old fortresses of her native land. For non-specialists it takes time to adapt, to realize that all cultures - no matter whose product they are - must be honored and cherished. It might take many dialogues like this one for people to understand that - like the air we breathe and the water we drink - cultural expressions and artifacts belong to all of us, for they too enrich our individual life, as well as the planet's. It is not a matter of size or age, it is simply a matter of love for our brothers and sisters, be that they lived centuries ago or at the present time. Human culture, in all its varieties and fashions, is what truly unites us all, what makes us different from the animals around us; what ties continents, as well as souls. Once we understand this, people will be prepared to do as my sister has done: join a group that fought to save the old Sears building in downtown Miami or be a part of the good-bye celebrations of the old bridge over the Tamiami River. She has not forgotten her childhood fortresses, she has simply widened her cultural heritage. This must be our second goal: to convince Latinos to invest emotionally into their new historic environment, to make them realize that - in the final analysis - it is all one culture: the culture of humanity.

1998 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Presented by Preservation Pennsylvania & Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Award categories include:
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Construction and Archaeology Project Awards

For more information and application materials contact:
Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-234-2310 or Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 717-783-8946

NOMINATIONS DUE JANUARY 30, 1998
CALENDAR

1998


March 15-20    Tour to the Netherlands for planners and preservationists led by Adams County planner Richard Schmoyer. For information call 717-259-6551.


March 29-April 1 National Society of Fund Raising Executives 1998 International Conference on Fund Raising, Philadelphia. Contact: NSFRE, 800-666-FUND.

April 19-21    Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations annual conference, Johnstown. Contact: PFMHO, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg 17108-1026; 717-787-3253.

April 25-28    Rally III for America's Real Places, Ramada Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: National Center for Heritage Development, 202-885-8910 or nchd@al.net

May 1      Path of Progress National Heritage Route Discovery Fair. Fayette County Fairgrounds, US Route 119, six miles south of Connellsville. Contact: Allegheny Ridge Corporation, 814-696-9380 or www.allegheny.org


May 17-20    National Town Meeting on Main Street, Pittsburgh. Conference sponsored by the National Main Street Center, National Trust for Historic Preservation. Contact: NMSC, 202-588-6219/588-6050.

Correction: The last issue of Preserving Pennsylvania reported that the new executive director of Preservation Action, Susan West Montgomery, replaced Nellie Longsworth. Longsworth, who is president of Preservation Action, will continue in her position through the end of March, 1998, after which she will remain with the organization in a part-time capacity as lobbying consultant and strategist.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 3-5, 1998

Historic Preservation & Heritage Partnerships Conference Williamsport

Sessions on preservation legal issues, building codes, historic district ordinances, signage to historic sites and in historic areas, funding for preservation and heritage programs, preservation in rural areas, and much more.


For more information, contact: