Pennsylvania Celebrates Preservation Achievements

F. OTTO HAAS AWARD
Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee

Since its dedication on October 4, 1906, the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building has undergone a number of changes including modifications to accommodate newer and more modern décor styles. Historic finishes were painted over, ornate ceilings were hidden by the installation of suspended ceilings, paneled and dry wall partitions were added to subdivide larger rooms and the remains of once glorious marble fireplaces were simply put out with the trash.

The General Assembly created the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee in 1982, as an independent Commonwealth Committee, with the purpose of implementing and directing programs to conserve and restore the Pennsylvania State Capitol and its contents. The Legislature provided for the establishment of a “Capitol Restoration Trust Fund,” independent of the Commonwealth General Fund, which may receive contributions from the private sector. The Committee consists of fourteen members from the legislature and state agencies and three private citizens appointed by the governor. Additionally there is an administrative staff of twelve including the executive director.

Since its inception, the Capitol Preservation Committee has methodically moved through the main Capitol building restoring nearly every space. To date, the Committee’s largest undertakings were restoring the entire rotunda and interior dome, the House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court Chambers, and all the fine arts of the building. One of the most visible exterior projects was the restoration of the bronze statue of the Mexican War Monument, the statuary bronze works in Capitol Park, and the George Grey Barnard marble statues at the Capitol’s main entrance and work on the Marion Tile Floor—the building’s largest piece of artwork. The Capitol Preservation Committee manages and maintains the historic furniture and clock collections, designed by Architect Joseph Huston, and still in use today.

In preparation for the Capitol’s Centennial Celebration in 2006, the Capitol Preservation Committee is dedicated to an agenda that educates Pennsylvanians about our rich heritage. Through this historic milestone all Pennsylvanians honor the progress of the past century while looking forward to the next century. The Committee plans to kick-off the Centennial with a special event on May 5, 2004—the 100th anniversary of the Capitol cornerstone ceremony.

The Pennsylvania Capitol Building serves as an icon of the State, representing history, government, and the richness of our “common wealth.” Preservation Pennsylvania is pleased to honor the Capitol Preservation Committee for their service as guardian of this historic treasure.

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.

Photo credit: Pennsylvania Senate

2004 Historic Preservation Awards to be presented on May 4 in Harrisburg

(see page 2 for details)

Majority Caucus Room and adjoining Speakers office and the dramatic restoration of the Majority Leader’s suite. In the summer of 2003, the Governor’s Grand Reception Room was completely restored including conservation of the ornate ceiling, bronze light fixtures, and the restoration of the quarter sawn oak wainscot and ornate carved fireplace mantels.

Ongoing maintenance projects include the conservation of the Mexican War Monument, the statuary bronze works in Capitol Park, and the George Grey Barnard marble statues at the Capitol’s main entrance and work on the Marion Tile Floor—the building’s largest piece of artwork. The Capitol Preservation Committee manages and maintains the historic furniture and clock collections, designed by Architect Joseph Huston, and still in use today.

In preparation for the Capitol’s Centennial Celebration in 2006, the Capitol Preservation Committee is dedicated to an agenda that educates Pennsylvanians about our rich heritage. Through this historic milestone all Pennsylvanians honor the progress of the past century while looking forward to the next century. The Committee plans to kick-off the Centennial with a special event on May 5, 2004—the 100th anniversary of the Capitol cornerstone ceremony.

The Pennsylvania Capitol Building serves as an icon of the State, representing history, government, and the richness of our “common wealth.” Preservation Pennsylvania is pleased to honor the Capitol Preservation Committee for their service as guardian of this historic treasure.

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.

Photo credit: Pennsylvania Senate
The 2004 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards will be presented on Tuesday, May 4, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. at The State Museum in Harrisburg. A reception at the Capitol will follow the awards ceremony. This National Historic Preservation Week celebration will honor seventeen organizations, municipalities, projects and individuals for their exemplary contributions to preserving Pennsylvania. The annual preservation awards are a Pennsylvania Preservation program, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The ceremony will feature a special Presidents’ Award presented by the President of Preservation Pennsylvania and the presentation of the Commonwealth’s highest preservation honor for outstanding achievement, the F. Otto Haas Award.

President’s Award

A. Roy Smith

Since 2002, Roy Smith has served on Preservation Pennsylvania’s Board of Directors and in that short time he has become an invaluable part of the organization. Roy’s wide range of interests and expertise and the time he gives to the organization have contributed immeasurably to the growing strength and voice of Preservation Pennsylvania.

Roy’s commitment to historic preservation began during his career as an engineer with DuPont when he lived and worked in Wilmington, Delaware in the 1970s and 1980s. When he retired in 1992, Roy and his wife Pam moved to West Chester where he immediately became active in local preservation efforts. As a strong advocate for historic preservation in his community, Roy first came to Preservation Pennsylvania with a nomination to our annual Pennsylvania At Risk list in 2002. His nomination of West Chester’s downtown historic district, which was threatened by plans for a new county government complex, led directly to a change in design that maintains the historic character of the community.

When he joined Preservation Pennsylvania’s Board of Directors, Roy brought his substantial organizational and financial management skills to the organization and now serves as a hands-on Treasurer. He has been instrumental in linking our advocacy efforts more closely to those of Preservation Action, the national historic preservation advocacy organization, on whose board he also serves. For his leadership, his support of Preservation Pennsylvania and its mission, Roy is the recipient of this year’s special “President’s Award”.

Mission Statement

Preservation Pennsylvania through creative partnerships, targeted educational programs 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.

Mission Statement

Preservation Pennsylvania through creative partnerships, targeted educational programs 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.

Initiative Awards

Community Involvement Award

Ridgway Heritage Council Elk County

Thanks to its rich lumbering heritage, late nineteenth century Ridgway had one of the highest per capita millionaire populations in the United States. By 1927, however, the once stately and busy Main Street was a dingy, depressing place with empty storefronts and dwindling businesses leaving only a faded memory of that grander time.

Two residents and business owners, Dale Lauricella and Tim Leather formed the Ridgway Heritage Council (RHC) in 1997, with the goal of using historic preservation as an economic development tool for revitalizing their community. With the advice and assistance of Elk County planner Dan Freedberg and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the RHC garnered financial support from the Borough of Ridgway and the Stackpole-Hall Foundation to provide matching facade improvement grants for Main Street improvements. To date over 95% of the property owners on Main Street have participated in the program.

Downtown revitalization brought pride, enthusiasm and excitement back to the residents of this small borough and they renewed their interest in the historical development and former residents in purchasing and restoring the grand homes of Ridgway’s neighborhoods. In 2003 the Ridgway Historic District, including over seven hundred contributing buildings, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The successful revitalization of Ridgway stands as an example to all Pennsylvania communities that historic preservation is an important part of securing a viable economic future.

Initiative Awards

Government Award

Tredyffrin Township

Chester County

The Tredyffrin Township Historical Resources Survey is a municipal survey documentation program that utilizes a digital application of linked data, geographical information system (GIS) mapping and imagery as well as printed documents. The survey, funded in part by a Historic Preservation grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), documented over 350 historical resources providing a usable preservation planning tool for a suburban township currently under intense development and redevelopment (in the form of “teardowns”) pressure.

A team of professionals, led by architect Dominique Hawkins of the Preservation Design Partners, worked with Tredyffrin Township’s local Board of Historical Architectural Review (HARB) and township officials to accurately record buildings previously surveyed and complete documentation of newly identified resources primarily dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Project products included an inventory database, and print and digital versions of each resource survey form with at least two black and white photographic images. The inventory database was directly linked to the Township’s GIS, a creative combination of historic resource layers, including building footprints, that graphically indicate individual historic resources from past and current survey and map data.

Information gathered and recorded by this survey can be easily updated, shared and adapted to view potential trends, made available to the public through web sites and used in the >>
The 1719 Christ Church Burial Ground is the final resting place for many prominent individuals, including Benjamin Franklin and his family. In 1997, the Christ Church Preservation Trust began to develop a strategy to preserve the burial ground. The goal of this archaeology project, designed as an “alternate mitigation” strategy, was to synthesize information found in Pennsylvania archaeological site surveys and research reports, both on file at the Bureau for Historic Preservation, in order to gain a better understanding of the prehistory of the Upper Juniata River basin. The archaeological firm of GAI Consultants took on this data collection and synthesis and produced a document that will help direct research in this subsite for years to come.

GAI reviewed data from over 375 archaeological sites in the study area as well as 177 projectile points from eight different collections housed at The State Museum in Harrisburg. They further collected geographic samples from fifteen lithic raw materials sources to gain information about stone type identification and studied over 100 cultural resource management reports. Data in the final report details population fluctuations over the last 11,000 years of prehistory in this understudied region. GAI’s Upper Juniata subsite study establishes a high standard for archaeological data synthesis and provides a template for similar projects in other parts of Pennsylvania.

The Howe-Childs Gateway House, located in Pittsburgh’s Mexican War Streets Historic District and renamed the Inn, was rehabilitated for use as part of the Inn. This significant house is now an important part of the revitalization of one of Pittsburgh’s oldest neighborhoods.

The Howe-Childs Gateway House, once known as Willow Cottage, is one of Pittsburgh’s earliest frame cottages of Gothic Revival houses. Built just prior to the Civil War, the house was once part of a larger estate. In 1899, the owners applied for a demolition permit, but it was denied. The house was preserved as an economic use for the property. That request was denied by the Historic Review Commission, a decision appealed by the owners through the legal system until it reached the State Supreme Court. In 1996 the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the City’s decision at the demolition permit. Meanwhile, this significant house was vacant and deteriorating causing it to be listed on Preservation Pennsylvania’s At-Risk List in 1996.

Chatham College, whose campus adjoins the house property, acquired the house for use as a college visitor’s center. Landmarks Design Associates were retained to direct the restoration and reuse. The house was structurally stabilized, exterior drainage improvements were made and interior space planning was completed. The exterior of the house was restored to its c. 1870 appearance when it was expanded from one story to two. Paint research to determine historic colors, restoration of the extensive ornamental woodwork and appropriate landscaping revived significant features and the house is once again beautiful and functional. The Howe-Childs Gateway House is one of the many Pittsburgh houses restored by Chatham College who choose to demonstrate their commitment to the community through historic preservation.

Architects Cape & Stewardson designed “The Quad” on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in 1895 and completion of the two-block residential complex took over sixty years. In 1988 a master plan for renovation and rehabilitation of the residence halls was developed. The plan was designed to provide a campus environment while ensuring the integrity of the historic buildings and the architectural character of the neighborhood. The project was phased so that major construction
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Hamwood, Pittsburgh

The rehabilitation of the 1911 Homewood Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the first of a series of projects to protect the library’s image and promote and standardize its services across the eighteen branches. The Homewood facility was the last of eight branch libraries in Pittsburgh funded by Andrew Carnegie. The project was directed by Pfaffmann + Associates and was designed to preserve the exterior integrity of the building while creating more appealing, functional, and user-friendly interior spaces. Interior rehabilitation removed non-contributing additions, made sensitive ADA accessibility alterations, installed more appropriate general and task-based lighting, redesigning the children’s reading room and renovated the lower level auditorium.

Building 10, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia

The 1903 Building 10, constructed in the Renaissance Revival style, is one of the oldest extant fabrication buildings in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Historic District. The Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) has been instrumental in the adaptive reuse of buildings in the now defunct Navy Yard. The intent is to develop an urban mixed-use campus, taking advantage of location, building stock, available land and city amenities.

With grants from the federal Department of Commerce, Susan Maxman & Partners Architects, along with a team of specialists, worked with PIDC and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to design an office use for Building 10. This included the removal of the later and less significant Building 74 which restored the original alternating building/open space configuration and positioned it on the Romanesque arcade on Building 10’s west elevation and improved access.

Throughout the rehabilitation, the industrial character of the building was retained, salvaged historic or recycled materials were used where possible, energy recovery units were installed and almost all occupied space has access to natural light. The completed project makes a dramatic difference at the corner of the Navy Yard and it has stimulated interest in other nearby buildings from private developers.

Special Historic Property

Howard Tunnel, York County

The Howard Tunnel, built in 1841, is one of Pennsylvania’s earliest railroad tunnels and the only one constructed in the state. The tunnel is still in use for passenger rail service and is an important part of the York County Heritage Rail Trail, a recreational feature used annually by over 25,000 people.

With little or no maintenance since 1866, the tunnel had fallen into disrepair and become hazardous. The York County Heritage Trail Authority and the York County Department of Parks and Recreation worked together to secure funding for the rehabilitation of the Howard Tunnel. The project was financed primarily with a Pennsylvania Keystone Preservation grant and TEA-21 Enhancement funds through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. C.S. Davidson, a civil engineering firm from York, was chosen to oversee the project and they work in partnership with Historic York to ensure the historic preservation of the Howard Tunnel.

Replacing missing brick from the interior of the tunnel, replacing masonry, replacing missing stones and improving drainage were among the completed rehabilitation elements. The historic Howard Tunnel is now safe for transportation use as it continues to play a key role in York County.

Preservation Pennsylvania

Thanks its 2003-2004 Major Donors

Keystone Society ($1,000 & Above)
Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.
Freddie Bittenbender
Caroline E. Boyce
Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Felley
Ann & Davis Greene
Carole Haas Gravagno
John & Chara Haas
Thomas B. Harten
Dr. & Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Janet S. Klein
M. Hannah Leavitt
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Lewis
Ann M. Laccoura, Esq.
Eleanor Morris
Caroline S. Nunnar
Ema G. Shearer
Susan K. Shearer
A. Roy & Pamela Smith
Lynda Waggoner
Margeal B. Wallis
Arthur F. Ziegler, Jr.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

MS & T Bank
John Milner Associates, Inc.
Pennrose Properties, Inc.
Plattmann & Associates, PC
A. Roy and Pamela Smith
Margaret B. Wallis

YeS! I WANT TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE VIOICE FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S HERITAGE

MEMBERSHIP/DONOR CATEGORIES

Living Legacy Society
Preservation Society
Heritage Society
Historic Pennsylvania

Basic Membership
Business Professional
Household/Family
Individual

Payment Options:

Please charge my credit card
I agree to the terms of use
I would like to designate the following

Please mail your membership application along with your donation or credit card information.

Please call us to discuss including Preservation PA as a beneficiary under your will.

Thank you for your support.

Government, Corporate, Organizational & Foundation Support ($1,000 & Above)
Kinsley Family Foundation
John Milner Architects
National Park Service
PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
PA Historical & Museum Commission
Susquehanna Platinum Company
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Westsylvania Heritage Corp.

2004 Awards Program Sponsors

Keystone Awards Sponsors ($2,500)
John C. and Chara C. Haas Susquehanna Platinum Co.
Patron Awards Sponsors ($1,000)
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.
John Milner Architects, Inc.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

2003-2004 Awards Program Sponsors

Dr. & Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
John Milner Architects
Lynda Waggoner
Margeal B. Wallis
Artur F. Ziegler, Jr.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

John C. and Chara C. Haas
Susquehanna Platinum Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.
John Milner Architects, Inc.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
John Milner Architects, Inc.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

Freddie Bittenbender
Caroline E. Boyce
Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Felley
Ann & Davis Greene
Carole Haas Gravagno
John & Chara Haas
Thomas B. Harten
Dr. & Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Janet S. Klein
M. Hannah Leavitt
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Lewis
Ann M. Laccoura, Esq.
Eleanor Morris
Caroline S. Nunnar
Ema G. Shearer
Susan K. Shearer
A. Roy & Pamela Smith
Lynda Waggoner
Margeal B. Wallis
Arthur F. Ziegler, Jr.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

MS & T Bank
John Milner Associates, Inc.
Pennrose Properties, Inc.
Plattmann & Associates, PC
A. Roy and Pamela Smith
Margaret B. Wallis

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE VIOICE FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S HERITAGE

MEMBERSHIP/DONOR CATEGORIES

Living Legacy Society
Preservation Society
Heritage Society
Historic Pennsylvania

Basic Membership
Business Professional
Household/Family
Individual

Payment Options:

Please charge my credit card
I agree to the terms of use
I would like to designate the following

Please mail your membership application along with your donation or credit card information.

Please call us to discuss including Preservation PA as a beneficiary under your will.

Thank you for your support.

Government, Corporate, Organizational & Foundation Support ($1,000 & Above)
Kinsley Family Foundation
John Milner Architects
National Park Service
PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
PA Historical & Museum Commission
Susquehanna Platinum Company
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Westsylvania Heritage Corp.

2004 Awards Program Sponsors

Keystone Awards Sponsors ($2,500)
John C. and Chara C. Haas Susquehanna Platinum Co.
Patron Awards Sponsors ($1,000)
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.
John Milner Architects, Inc.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

Freddie Bittenbender
Caroline E. Boyce
Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Felley
Ann & Davis Greene
Carole Haas Gravagno
John & Chara Haas
Thomas B. Harten
Dr. & Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Janet S. Klein
M. Hannah Leavitt
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Lewis
Ann M. Laccoura, Esq.
Eleanor Morris
Caroline S. Nunnar
Ema G. Shearer
Susan K. Shearer
A. Roy & Pamela Smith
Lynda Waggoner
Margeal B. Wallis
Artur F. Ziegler, Jr.

Contributing Awards Sponsors ($500)

MS & T Bank
John Milner Associates, Inc.
Pennrose Properties, Inc.
Plattmann & Associates, PC
A. Roy and Pamela Smith
Margaret B. Wallis

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE VIOICE FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S HERITAGE

MEMBERSHIP/DONOR CATEGORIES

Living Legacy Society
Preservation Society
Heritage Society
Historic Pennsylvania

Basic Membership
Business Professional
Household/Family
Individual

Payment Options:

Please charge my credit card
I agree to the terms of use
I would like to designate the following

Please mail your membership application along with your donation or credit card information.

Please call us to discuss including Preservation PA as a beneficiary under your will.

Thank you for your support.