STATES PROMOTE PRESERVATION THROUGH LEGISLATION

As Pennsylvania preservationists gear up to convince our own General Assembly of the need for state government support for historic resources, *Preserving Pennsylvania* offers a look at what a number of other states are doing to protect their historic properties.

*California:* In June of 1988, California voters passed Proposition 70. Also known as the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Bond Act, it calls for $776 million for a variety of environmental and preservation activities, including $11 million specifically for historic preservation.

Again this year, conservation and preservation advocates are supporting legislation—California Wildlife, Park Recreation, and Museum Bond Act of 1990 (AB 145)—that would earmark at least $15 million for preservation activities.

*Colorado:* 40 percent of state lottery revenues go to the Conservation Trust Funds which distribute money annually to counties, municipalities, and qualified special improvement districts based on a population formula. The statute establishing the Conservation Trust Funds allows the money to be used for "historic" among other purposes and some communities have elected to put funds toward historic preservation projects on public sites.

*Illinois:* The General Assembly has enacted a state income tax check-off as a way to contribute to historic preservation programs in the state. Taxpayers due refunds may elect to have $10 of the refund ($20 for a joint return) deposited in the state's historic preservation fund. The fund must receive

continued on page 7

LANCASTER FARM PRESERVED WITH DUAL EASEMENT

An overwhelming respect for the land and an appreciation of the historic importance of a pristine 18th-early 20th century farmstead led Mary Schantz to plan carefully for the preservation of her Lancaster County farm. In what is termed a "co-easement", the historic 78-acre Hibschman/Schantz Farm in rural Ephrata Township will be protected from development and alteration by Mrs. Schantz's gift, in her will, of easements on the farm buildings and the land to the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County and the Lancaster Farmland Trust.

The farm is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The imposing stone farmhouse, built in three phases between ca. 1750-60 and the early 19th century, contains superb original woodwork, much with its original painting or graining intact. The stone barn, considered one of the finest in Lancaster County, bears a 1790 datestone. Mrs. Schantz and her husband, the late Dr. Paul Schantz, purchased the farm in the early 1940s; they were only the third owners since the 18th century.

Planning for the easement, which involved assistance from the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, brought preservationists and conservationists together. At a reception given at the farm in early May, the two groups celebrated the easement and praised Mrs. Schantz for her foresight and her understanding of the importance of her property. "We hope this will be a model for other cooperative efforts between the preservation and conservation communities in Lancaster County," said Mary Wiley-Myers, executive director of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County.

"Mrs. Schantz's sense of stewardship for the land and the buildings is an example of how to protect these vanishing resources and still keep them active, agricultural complexes."

Also in this issue:

- Bookshelf ........................................ p. 6
- Calendar ........................................ p. 8
- In the News .................................... p. 4
- News of the Fund .............................. p. 3
- Pennsylvania Places ......................... p. 8
- State Program News .......................... p. 5
RAISES ISSUES FOR FUTURE OF STATE'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

More than just the steel mills of Pittsburgh brought preservationists to the 11th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation. Two hundred forty people from across the state met in Pittsburgh this spring to address the future of three centuries of Pennsylvania's diverse industrial heritage.

Opening with a view of Pittsburgh's industrial past along the shores of her converging rivers, the meeting presented a wide range of topics and individual perspectives on how we deal with industry's historic sites and structures. Highlighting sessions at the beginning and end of the conference were two moving audiovisual presentations on the community of Homestead and the significance of its places and people in the history of the Pittsburgh area; and Congressman John Murtha's keynote address underscored the importance of efforts in America's Industrial Heritage Project.

Pennsylvania is clearly, in the words of one conference attendee, at a "window of opportunity" in determining the future of these important resources. Next year's conference in Scranton, April 26-28, will focus on major preservation issues for the 1990s; the future of our industrial heritage will certainly be among our critical concerns as we move toward the 21st century.

OVER THE RIVER AND UNDER THE BRIDGE

The Tour That Terry Took

Bad things sort of follow me around. There's one person I see every year at the annual preservation conference, and I'm reluctant to speak to her because our conversations are always followed by disaster. This year was no exception.

When I agreed to lead a four-hour tour of the Mid-Mon Valley, I knew it would take the full time allotted, and the Fund's conference planner threatened me with my life if my tour ran over. So I was fidgety when the session before the tour lasted twenty minutes longer than scheduled, and the bus departed a full seventeen minutes late.

In spite of the delayed start, everything ran well until we reached the Donora-Webster Bridge. I noticed that our driver slowed down as we approached the bridge, as if he had a sixth sense about something. He drove under the height restriction bar with his head out the window, but we had no trouble passing underneath it. It was when we got to the east side of the river that we ran into trouble. We couldn't fit under the height restriction bar on this side.

At this point, I was in the middle of my narration about Webster, an 1840s boat-building town, now home to the world's longest red light; and I really didn't appreciate the interruption as tour participants anxiously watched the ceiling of the bus, some even pointing and yelling various gloomy predictions as the bar pressed down visibly into the fiberglass roof. We came to a stop, firmly wedged under the bar. I got off the bus, having no idea what we should do next.

Until this moment, participants had taken few photos; and many had claimed to have left their cameras behind. Yet the minute we stopped and were clearly in a one-of-a-kind pickle, out came dozens of cameras and participants poured out of the bus to click away. While they enjoyed the unplanned stop, I continued to assess the situation.

There was no room to turn the bus around. I thought about backing up, but the ramp was so high we'd never be able to guarantee that other cars wouldn't come crashing into us. I thought about letting the air out of the tires. The bus driver got out, scratched his head, got back in, got back out. I attempted to wave traffic on, and the people in cars behind us seemed quite patient, considering we were lengthening their stay at the world's longest red light.

The solution to our dilemma arrived as a brave, anonymous volunteer climbed onto the bus, then onto the restriction bar. With a winch attached to the cables holding the bar, he managed to raise the restriction bar enough for the bus to escape.

We returned to Pittsburgh, only slightly more than an hour late. Having made my apologies to Susan for our tardiness, I sat down in the lobby of the Westin William Penn to ponder next year's conference in Scranton and what possible disaster it might hold for me. I've already decided to stay away from the rumored tour of a coal mine.

Terry Noccia is Main Street manager in Charleroi.

BELLEVUE BENEFIT LAUNCHES RETURN OF PHILADELPHIA LANDMARK

Amid words of praise for the efforts of owner Richard I. Rubin and preservation architect Hyman Myers, the landmark Bellevue Stratford celebrated the grand opening of Cunard's new Hotel Atop the Bellevue on March 31 and April 1. The gala Friday evening and Saturday event, benefitting the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, drew preservationists and Philadelphia society to dine, dance, and discover the refurbished splendor of this Center City architectural treasure.

The 1904 French Renaissance-style hotel has had to overcome problems that began in...
FUND ELECTS HENRY JORDAN PRESIDENT, NAMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania’s annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Dr. Henry Jordan was elected to serve as the organization’s president. He succeeds Hyman Myers, who held the post for the past two years.

Dr. Jordan brings a long-standing commitment to preservation to his new role as Fund president. From 1973–77 he served as a director for Historic Yellow Springs Foundation (Chester County) and as its president in 1974 and 1975. As a director of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust from 1982 to 1989, he played a major role in the stabilization and restoration of an 18th century grist mill, the Mill at Anselma.

Nationally, Dr. Jordan is a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and is currently involved in planning for the upcoming Trust conference in Philadelphia.

Other changes to the Fund’s board of directors include the election of Harley N. Trice II of Pittsburgh as vice-president; the naming of new board members John A. Bonya of Indiana, Richard S. Gurin of Easton, Frances Holland of Pittsburgh, Miles S. Katzen of Philadelphia, and Arden Rodale of Emmaus; and the departure from the board of John Tuten and Joseph Bittenbender.

HAAS AWARD GIVEN TO FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PA

The recipient of this year’s Haas Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation is the First National Bank of Pennsylvania for preserving and restoring the Ross Pier Wright House in Erie. The fine Victorian Italianate house was threatened with demolition until the First National Bank became involved. Through their efforts the building has been beautifully restored for bank corporate offices. Patricia Sands, who worked on the restoration as a consultant to the bank, accepted the award at the annual conference banquet in Pittsburgh on April 28.

The Haas Award recognizes outstanding preservation efforts by organized groups and is presented by the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania at the annual historic preservation conference. Nominations for next year’s award, in the form of a letter outlining the nominated effort and including any pertinent supporting materials, should be submitted to the Fund by March 1, 1990.

Wright House, Erie

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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The U.S. House of Representatives Interior Committee has recommended the following appropriations for historic preservation for fiscal year 1990: $48 million to be distributed among the states and $7.5 million for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This $55.5 million recommendation is a substantial increase over the approved $30.5 million for FY 89 and $28.25 million for FY 88. In addition, the committee has recommended $1.89 million for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and $100,000 for U.S. ICOMOS. This recommendation now goes to the House budget committee.

A recent ruling by the Commonwealth Court has upheld the Philadelphia Historical Commission’s power to protect historic building interiors. In a major victory for preservation, the court upheld the commission’s designation of the former Boyd Theater at 19th and Chestnut Streets. Former owner SamEric Corp., Inc. fought the designation. They planned to demolish the 1928 Art Deco building—the last of its kind in the city—and replace it with a number of smaller theaters. The court ruling goes beyond protecting the Boyd; it validates procedures to protect important historic structures enacted in the 1984 Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance. Current owners United Artists are appealing the Commonwealth Court decision to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Three Pennsylvania preservation efforts received grants recently from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With funds from the Trust’s Preservation Services Fund, Preservation Techniques, Inc. (Philadelphia) will defray costs associated with the organization’s lecture series on maintenance, retrofitting and restoration of historic buildings; the Pennsylvania Downtown Center will conduct market analysis workshops in three communities involved in downtown revitalization; and the Elfreth’s Alley Association, Inc. (Philadelphia) will pay legal fees associated with the production of legal documents protecting interiors of three residences in the Elfreth’s Alley National Historic Landmark district. For more information on applying for future Preservation Services Fund grants contact: Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Cliveden, 6401 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

Cedar Park Neighbors (CPN), a West Philadelphia community organization, has turned an 85-year-old abandoned firehouse into a farmers market that has become a catalyst for new economic life in the area. Spin-off from the market has brought new jobs and new businesses into the neighborhood. According to a report in the most recent issue of Cascade, the newsletter of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, the success was due to the many partners involved, including the City of Philadelphia, Provident National Bank, the PA Department of Agriculture, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation/Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development, CIGNA, and LISC.

Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museums, Inc. in Easton has acquired a significant collection of iron and steel industry engineering drawings from the Pennsylvania Engineering Corporation (Pecor) of New Castle, PA. The collection, dating from 1885 to 1962, contains drawings of Bessemer converters, open hearth furnaces, blast furnaces, ladles, ladle cars, basic oxygen furnaces, shears, and blowing engines.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Mobile Museum is gearing up for summer with its new exhibit “Dream Highways: Pennsylvania’s Transportation Story”, chronicling the history of transportation in the Commonwealth from early Indian paths to twentieth century super highways. Developed with funding from Mellon Bank and assistance from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to all 67 counties over the next two years. For specific dates and locations, contact the State Museum, 717-787-4978.

Philadelphia Charles E. Peterson has been named a US/ICOMOS Fellow for outstanding achievements in international preservation and notable long-term contributions to the advancement of preservation standards and programs. Peterson’s career as an architectural historian, restorationist and planner has spanned sixty years. In the international arena, he helped establish US/ICOMOS (U.S. Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites) and was a founding member of the International Centre for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICROM) in Rome, as well as a founder and past president of the Association for Preservation Technology.

Martha Leigh Wolf, formerly historic preservation specialist at the Brandywine Conservancy, is now executive director of the John Bartram Association in Philadelphia. The Association, which was established in 1893, oversees the preservation and restoration of Bartram’s Garden, the oldest surviving botanical garden in the United States.

Roland Woodward, executive director of the Chester County Historical Society, has been elected president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations. Founded in 1906, the Federation continues to promote the preservation and use of historic buildings and sites in the state.
ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Each spring at the annual conference, the Bureau for Historic Preservation honors the previous year's significant historic preservation achievements. This year's awards were presented at a banquet on April 28 at the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh.

Tom and Bob Mistick, brothers and partners in Tom Mistick & Sons, Pittsburgh, were recognized as "Preservationists of the Year" for their farsighted commitment to historic preservation and uniform-quality urban housing. The brothers established Tom Mistick & Sons in 1975 with the aim of applying their family's construction expertise to the rehabilitation of blighted inner-city neighborhoods. Since the early 1980s, they have rehabilitated hundreds of low-income rowhouse and apartment units within historic districts in Pittsburgh's Manchester and North Side neighborhoods. Beyond their extensive development projects, the Misticks have worked as general contractors on a dozen rehabilitation projects involving architecturally and historically significant buildings in the city of Pittsburgh, including Penn Station, the Eberhardt & Ober Brewery, the Latimer and Park Place Schools, and the Phipps Conservatory.

As the "Preservation Initiative of the Year," Scranton's Architectural Heritage Association was honored for the organization's efforts to halt a planned shopping mall that would destroy a significant portion of Scranton's historic downtown. AHA challenged the City of Scranton's impact findings as presented in its case report on the UDAG-assisted mall, proposed for the Lackawanna Avenue Historic District. They published an official response to the city's assessment and heightened public awareness of economically viable alternatives. AHA's efforts over the past year pushed the issue into the national preservation spotlight, raising the level of municipal accountability for long-range preservation planning, and sensitized the public to the importance of the city's architectural heritage.

Bob and Tom Mistick receive "Preservationist of the Year" award from Brent Glass, executive director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

This year's construction awards were made to:


Commercial Building: Union Trust Building (Two Mellon Bank Center), Pittsburgh, for the $32 million certified historic rehab of this early 20th century flamboyant gothic revival building in downtown Pittsburgh. Owner: DeBartolo Historic Associates, Pittsburgh. Architect: Burt Hill Ko-
Bellevue (continued from page 2)
the mid-1970s when Legionnaires' disease closed the hotel. It reopened in 1979 but continued to have financial difficulties. The Richard I. Rubin Company, which has owned the Bellevue since 1978, has now re-done the hotel as a mixed-use project, with offices and shops on the lower floors and a smaller, exclusive hotel above. The Rubin Company was honored, at the gala, with an award from the Preservation Fund and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia for their commitment to historic preservation and their restoration of several important Philadelphia landmarks.

The Bellevue holds a very special place in both the social life and architectural heritage of Philadelphia. We wish her well as she takes her renewed place among the city's great buildings.

State News (continued from page 5)
veys, multiple property nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, planning-protection-publication activities, and archeological surveys. With the current emphasis on the state's industrial heritage, applications for industrial surveys are strongly encouraged.

Application materials are available from the BHP at the address/phone on page 5. Completed applications must be post-marked no later than August 1, 1989. Grant awards, contingent on federal funds, will be announced in early December. The implementation period for the grants will be March 1, 1990 to February 28, 1991.

The Association for Preservation Technology's recent APT Bulletin (volume XXI, no. 1, 1989) contains a lengthy article on the restoration of the Highway Tabernacle Church in Philadelphia. The church was severely damaged by fire in 1986, and subsequent inspection revealed structural instability created during an 1884 expansion. Engineer Andrew Osborn and architect Brian Newsom detail the history of construction (1865), later renovations (1884, 1924, and 1964), and recent efforts to restore the building. For a copy, contact: APT, Box 8178, Fredericksburg, VA 22404; 703-373-1621.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) announces the publication of a new, comprehensive edition of the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled for release this summer, the 1988 edition lists more than 50,000 designated districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects officially recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as worthy of preservation. National Register designation offers protection from federally-sponsored activities and makes properties eligible for tax benefits. The cost of the 1988 National Register of Historic Places is $89.95, plus $3 for postage and handling. AASLH is also offering a subscription to the next three annual editions for $240, plus $9 for postage and handling. Contact: AASLH, 172 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201.

Preserving Family Lands, A Landowner's Introduction to Tax Issues and Other Considerations, by Stephen J. Small offers concise, easily understandable information on estate tax problems for property owners. The 48-page pamphlet discusses in detail the possible advantages of donating a conservation easement, giving a remainder interest, making a testamentary gift, or making lifetime gifts to other family members, as well as other options in planning for the disposition of land as part of an estate. The pamphlet is $5.00 (reduced rate for bulk orders) and is available from: Preserving Family Lands, P.O. Box 2242, Boston, MA 02107.

GRANTS AWARDED
FOR PREDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP) announced recently that $56,292 in grants have been awarded to seven Pennsylvania preservation projects. These grants to National Register-listed historic properties will be used to prepare documents to assist in preservation efforts.

The Athenaeum, Philadelphia — $10,000 for an engineering study
Boat House Row, Philadelphia — $10,000 for an engineering study and historic structures report
Glen Foerd on the Delaware, Philadelphia — $10,000 for an historic structures report
Mansion Row, Philadelphia — $10,000 for an architectural and financial feasibility study
Academy Theater, Meadville — $5,695 for a feasibility study
B.F. Jones Memorial Library, Aliquippa — $5,702 for an historic structures report
Senator Walter Lowrie (Shaw) House, Butler — $4,895 for an historic structures report

For further information on applying for funding for predevelopment projects, contact the BHP at the address/phone number on page 5.
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Individual $15
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*Includes special membership benefits. For information contact the Preservation Fund.

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State Legislation (continued from page 1)

support of at least $100,000 each year for the check-off option to continue on the tax form.

Maine: In a recently enacted bill to "Promote Orderly Economic Growth and Natural Resource Conservation", historic and archeological sites are listed among physical resources considered important to communities as they react to development pressures. Maine preservationists are taking this opportunity to promote the preservation ethic and advise community leaders on physical environmental issues related to growth management.

Four Maine cultural institutions have also joined together to propose a "Cultural Initiative" to the governor and legislature. The initiative asks for a $2.3 million annual investment in state cultural activities including historic preservation.

New York: The Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1986 provides a program of state-funded assistance for state, municipal, and not-for-profit historic preservation projects, municipal projects, and urban cultural park projects.

Rhode Island: In 1988, a special legislative commission issued the report of a two-year study on the preservation of the state's historic buildings and properties. Among the commission's recommendations were state income tax credits and local property tax credits to individual home owners who restore their historic houses. In response to the report, the state legislature has enacted a tax break for owners of historic houses, allowing communities to reduce property tax liability by up to 20 percent for five years for owners who incur "substantial" maintenance or rehabilitation costs.

Washington: State enabling legislation permits local jurisdictions to make special assessment adjustments for historic properties. Tacoma has taken advantage of this option to offer owners of historic properties a deduction of the full cost of rehabilitation work from the property's assessment for tax purposes. The cost of rehab must be at least 25 percent of the value of the building and work must be approved by the city's Landmark Preservation Commission.

Wisconsin: Legislation has been enacted that allows a state income tax credit of 25 percent of rehab expenditures on privately-owned historic houses. To qualify for the credit, buildings must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, in the state register or must contribute to a historic district; rehab work must be approved by the state historic preservation office.

Pennsylvanians interested in influencing similar efforts here should contact CITI-Fund Makes Grant (continued from page 3) the church for their own use and for leased office space. Both the church and school-house are located in Philadelphia's Old City National Register Historic District. The schoolhouse is the only remaining educational building of the period left in Old City.

The Philadelphia Intervention Fund was established in 1998 with a grant to the Preservation Fund from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The Intervention Fund provides money to deal with preservation crisis situations in Philadelphia County. For more information and application materials contact the Preservation Fund.

ZENS PRESERVING PENNSYLVANIA'S PAST, c/o PA Federation of Museums & Historical Organizations, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026; 717-787-3253.

In the News (continued from page 4)

In 1990, the American Institute of Architects celebrates 100 years since the formation of its Committee on Historic Resources with a national symposium on the role of the architect in historic preservation. For more information contact: Bruce Kriwisky, AIA, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; 202-626-7452.

NEW ADDITION

To The Fund Family

The Preservation Fund gained a new mascot: and very adept label-picker this spring when our executive director adopted a Newfoundland puppy. Delta visits the office on occasion and is always eager to help!
Pennsylvania Places

This summer, as France prepares to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, Pennsylvanians can look to our own legacy of French settlement.

Among the places known for their role in the history of French interests in this part of the New World, is the site of a settlement in northeastern Pennsylvania that served as a haven for refugees from the turbulence of the Revolution during the last decade of the 18th century. Azilum, a grand dream that at its height would become only a small village, was ostensibly planned as a place of refuge for Marie Antoinette. Historians dispute whether this plan for the French queen was real or simply a ruse used by speculators to entice settlers to purchase land.

Historical forces both here and in France worked against the success of the community. Large numbers of French entering the United States in a short space of time caused a backlash against the new emigres and historical accounts indicate that settlers had difficulty adapting to life in remote, rural Pennsylvania. In France, the volatile political climate in the early years of the 19th century brought many French back to their native land. The dream of Azilum faded into virtual oblivion and its buildings into ruin. Place names such as Laporte, Hoyme's Ferry, and Dushore are scant reminders of Azilum settlers and their descendants.

Today, the site of French Azilum, located eight miles east of Towanda in Bradford County, is interpreted for the visitors by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Although none of the original buildings remain, recent excavations have revealed foundations and cellars of some of the houses and outbuildings; a number of reconstructed buildings are used to interpret the lives of the French in Azilum; and the 1826 Laperotte house, built by the son of an original settler, is open for tours. For more information contact: French Azilum, R.D. 2, Box 266, Towanda 18848; or phone 717-265-3376.

1989


Sept. 4-9 Association for Preservation Technology annual conference, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: APT, P.O. Box 8178, Fredericksburg, VA 22404; 703-373-1621.

Sept. 8-10 Mountain Craft Days, Somerset. Contact: Somerset Historical Center, R.D. 2, Box 238, Somerset 15501; 814-445-6077.


1990

Oct. 3-7 Lancaster's Central Market celebrates 100th anniversary. Contact: Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County; 717-291-5861.


