NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECEIVES PRESERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

This year the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission presented its Preservationist of the Year award to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service, represented by three of its most outstanding individuals: Penelope Batcheler, architect for Independence National Historical Park; Hobert Cawood, recently retired Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park; and James Coleman, Director, Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service. This award recognized their contribution to the National Park Service’s leadership role in preserving and managing America’s cultural patrimony and their particular contribution in helping to preserve Pennsylvania’s rich history.

In addition to managing National Park property such as Independence National Historical Park, the Mid-Atlantic Region is responsible for overseeing the federal historic preservation program in a region that is estimated to contain 50% of the nation’s historic resources. Pennsylvania has long benefited from the expertise and knowledge provided by the National Park Service as demonstrated by the meticulous restoration and careful maintenance of Pennsylvania’s former State House (Independence Hall) as well as funding and coordinating a series of innovative “Partnership Park” projects that focus on Pennsylvania’s rich industrial heritage (Delaware and Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor).

The award recognizes the particular contribution of Penny Batcheler for her expertise in the restoration of many of the historic buildings in Independence Park; of Hobie Cawood for his 20 years of expert oversight of “America’s most historic square mile”; and of Jim Coleman whose quiet leadership of the Regional Office has expanded the contribution of the Park Service and his staff far beyond the boundaries of the properties and parks that the NPS maintains. These three individuals richly deserve this award.

The Preservation Initiative Award for 1991 was presented to the West Overton Museum in Westmoreland County. This award was given in recognition of the Museum’s success in developing and implementing a comprehensive program to document and stabilize the village of

HOUSE PROPOSAL INCLUDES MILLIONS FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A $300 million bond issue was passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on April 9, 1991 by a vote of 107-94. House Bill 274 calls for a referendum to approve the sale of bonds for the following: $25 million for the preservation of historical sites and museums, $50 million for the acquisition of public lands of recreational, scenic, and historic value, $75 million for economic development and $100 million for affordable housing, the bill is now being studied by the Senate appropriations committee.

West Overton’s significant industrial and labor related buildings.

This year the awards committee elected to present a special award to honor a project that excels in the field of historic resource documentation and recordation. The 1991 Special Award was presented to Marrianna Thomas Architects and Clio Group for their work on the Old Economy Village Structures Report. The award acknowledges the results of 3½ years of work documenting the principal buildings, structures and...

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PITTSBURGH’S “PENNSYLVANIAN” PROJECT
by Charles Uhl

In 1978 the moribund railroad industry abandoned Union Station, which stands at the intersection of Grant Street and Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh.

Penn Station, as it was locally known, served as the western terminus and regional headquarters of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In its heyday the 13-story brick and terra cotta station was its own small city; serving as a dormitory for train crews, housing a medical facility, printing plant, library of engineering drawings, and executive offices, along with the normal passenger station services: restaurants, barber shop, newsstands, and ticket counters. Constructed between 1898 and 1903 to plans prepared by D.H. Burnham & Company of Chicago, the station is a rectangular donut, with a large skylight at the second story level of the donut’s hole, covering what was the main concourse. The most striking and distinctive architectural feature is the “cab stand,” a Beaux-Arts, terra cotta rotunda reminiscent of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair.

For eight years the soot-stained station sat empty as Pittsburgh’s Urban Redevelopment Authority and entities such as the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation sought proposals for the building and potential purchasers. Penn Station deteriorated. Wooden scaffolding sprouted from the twelfth floor windows to catch broken pieces of terra cotta cornice before they fell onto pedestrians or motorists. An article in a 1980 issue of American Heritage magazine included Penn Station on a list of the nation’s most threatened buildings.

In 1986, Historic Landmarks for Living put together the deal that rehabilitated Penn Station. Using the preservation tax credits to attract investors, the station venture became a real estate syndication. Bower Lewis Thrower of Philadelphia served as architects for the project. Mistick Incorporated of Pittsburgh was the General Contractor.

The project’s major challenges included the restoration of the rotunda and the huge old concourse. The terra cotta of the rotunda is attached to a steel framework that had rusted badly over the course of ninety years. The simple, but labor-intensive solution to the rusted structural steel was to sandblast the metal down to a sound surface, and weld new steel members in place as necessary. Much of this work had to be performed in very confined areas within the rotunda. Restoring the concourse required a number of preservation-oriented trades including ornamental plasterwork, decorative painting, and repeated cleaning of the marble floor. Living units were delivered to the management organization floor-by-floor from the top of the structure down. Tenants lived in the building while construction was completed on the lower floors. At times during 1987 and 1988, over 425 trades people per day came to work on Penn Station.

The upper floors of the rehabilitated Pennsvillian (as it is now known) contain 242 market-rate apartments; over 90 percent are leased. Pittsburgh has very little housing in its central business district, and local skeptics predicted there was little market for upscale downtown apartments. They were wrong. About one-third of the 50,000 square feet of commercial space is leased. Total development cost of the project was $42,000,000.

While the rehabilitation of old Penn Station is a success, and will help other residential projects in downtown Pittsburgh, it may be among the last of its kind. Tom Mistick, president of Mistick Incorporated and board member of Preservation Pennsylvania, feels the 1976-86 era will be regarded as a “golden age” of historic rehab. Deals like the one that saved Penn Station are not likely to happen in the post-Tax Reform Act of 1986 financial environment.

Charles Uhl is Director of Preservation Services for Tom Mistick and Sons, Inc. and is on the Board of Directors of Preservation Pennsylvania.
The long battle to save St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in New York City has ended in complete victory for preservationists. The United States Supreme Court refused to review a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the application of New York City’s landmarking laws to St. Barts, thus ensuring landmark status. At the same time, the Supreme Court overturned a ruling by the State of Washington’s Supreme Court that declared Seattle’s landmark designation of First Covenant Church a violation of freedom of religion as guaranteed by the First Amendment. The St. Barts ruling is the most important ruling for preservation since the 1978 Penn Central decision affirming local landmark designation of a building that does not deny the owner economic use of the property. The St. Barts victory will undoubtedly cement the newly established alliances between preservationists and the religious community.

Controversy is once again marching around the Gettysburg National Battlefield as a land exchange between Gettysburg College and the National Park Service has resulted in the destruction of breastworks and other battlefield features on Seminary Ridge. The college wanted seven acres of military park land on which it would allow the Gettysburg Railroad to relocate tracks that ran through campus. In exchange, the college offered a scenic easement over 47 undeveloped acres north of the college. The Park Service concluded that the land exchange would not have a significant impact on the battlefield and the deal was approved as part of the Battlefield Boundary Study in 1990. In December of 1990, bulldozing began in the area covered by the transfer resulting in loss of the battlefield features.

1991 is be the first year that the National Trust for Historic Preservation will offer special funding for railroad depot preservation grants. Funding for depot preservation projects came as a result of numerous letters and requests sent to Congress last year asking support for the National Trust’s 1991 budget and special funding for historic depots. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be tax exempt and must be applying for projects that provide grants for consultants to conduct planning or feasibility studies; sponsor conferences or workshops; design or implement education programs; or undertake other planning activities that will lead to the implementation of a depot preservation project. Further information is available through the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Once again application of Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act has resulted in a major archaeological discovery. As part of an environmental impact statement required by all federally funded projects, or projects undertaken on federally owned land, archaeologists have discovered burial catacombs underneath the ruins of a prehistoric pueblo at Casa Malapais in Arizona. Discovery of the catacombs—a subterranean cemetery with galleries for tombs—is thought to be the first of its kind in the Southwest. The discovery may help archaeologists understand more about the Mogollon people who inhabited the area and why they suddenly disappeared around the year 1400.

Instead of trying to raise $200,000 for a complete restoration of their fire-damaged historic train station, the citizens of Quakertown Pennsylvania came together to help stabilize the structure. Using materials donated by a local lumber company, the Quakertown Train Station Preservation Committee secured the 1902 Romanesque Revival station against further vandalism and installed a new roof. The citizens group will now focus on finding a group interested in finishing the restoration and developing a practical reuse plan.

Those visiting Bushkill Park in Easton Pennsylvania will discover that an old friend is gone. The hand-carved wooden carousel that has been a main feature of the park since the 1930s was sold to a buyer from Ohio. A valiant effort by concerned citizens to raise $300,000 towards the purchase of the historic carousel fell short, and now it is but a memory. According to Frederick Fried of the National Carousel Association, there are only 100 of this type of carousel left in the United States.
PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

The following historic properties were added since December 15, 1990 to the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official listing of buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects deemed worthy of preservation by the United States Department of the Interior. Properties are listed in alphabetical order by county.

Leap the Dips, Blair County, March 15, 1991
Carson College for Orphan Girls, Chester County, March 15, 1991
Hockley Mill Farm, Chester County, December 18, 1990
Hopewell Historic District, Chester County, February 28, 1991*
Isaac A. Packer Farm, Clinton County, February 21, 1991
South Wayne Historic District, Delaware County, April 18, 1991*
Charles Grant Heasley House, Greene County, February 21, 1991
Rockhill Iron and Coal Company, Rockhill Furnace No. II, Huntingdon County, March 1, 1991
Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club, Huntingdon County, February 28, 1991
Dawesfield, Montgomery County, March 29, 1991
West Diamond Street Historic District, Philadelphia, February 21, 1991*
Brewerytown Historic District, Philadelphia, March 1, 1991*
Jesse Robinson House, Tioga County, February 21, 1991
Adam Fisher Homestead, Westmoreland County, February 28, 1991
Ashley and Bailey Company Silk Mill, York County, February 21, 1991]
Strickler Family Farmhouse, York County, February 21, 1991
* Historic District
For more information on the procedure for and advantages of listing in the National Register, contact the Bureau for Historic Preservation at the address/phone below.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION DEVELOPS A BURIAL POLICY

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has developed a draft policy to deal with the treatment of unmarked human burials, associated funerary objects and skeletal material in state ownership. This policy begins to address the issues of protection of unmarked burials from destruction, the respectful treatment of all human remains and the appropriate role of Native Americans, descendants, culturally affiliated groups, and interested parties in the decision making process. This policy also begins the process of complying with recent federal legislation governing skeletal material and associated grave goods. That legislation, the Native American Grave Repatriation and Protection Act (1990), applies to all institutions and museums that receive federal funds.

PHMC, through its cultural resource management program, research programs, collections, exhibits and grant making is involved in activities that affect human remains. This policy is an attempt to balance the scientific and research value of skeletal material and associated grave objects and the cultural and religious values that all societies give to the remains of their ancestors.

This policy recognizes that each situation must be dealt with on a case by case basis, but also recognizes that more guidance is needed in two specific areas. The first is in the area of skeletal material discovered during cultural resource management projects, archaeological field investigations, grant funded projects and all earth moving projects on state land. The unexpected and even expected discovery of human remains should trigger a process that encourages careful and dignified treatment and mandates the notification of all interested parties. The second area in which guidance is needed is in the treatment of existing collections of skeletal material and funerary objects. The Commission, its repositories, and grantees need direction in the sensitive area of exhibiting and interpreting such remains, storage and handling, and possible repatriation. This part of the policy is the first step in complying with the recent federal legislation.

Comments on this draft policy will be sought from all affected communities, including the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council, religious organizations, Native American groups and minority groups. For a copy of the policy, please send requests to: "Burial Policy", Brenda Barrett, PHMC, Bureau for Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.

For more information on state historic preservation programs contact:
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
717-783-8946
PHMC RECEIVES 1991 HAAS AWARD
Preservation Pennsylvania presented the 1991 Haas Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at the awards banquet of the 13th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation in Philadelphia.

The award was presented in recognition of PHMC’s outstanding leadership and sponsorship in the United States Brig Niagara reconstruction project.

The project, begun in 1987, took $4 million and thousands of hours of research and construction time to complete. The foresight and dedication that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission displayed during the project allows all Pennsylvanians to be proud of their flagship. PHMC richly deserves the Haas Award.

PHILADELPHIA PERFECT BACKDROP FOR PRESERVATIONISTS
Philadelphia, with its numerous preservation success stories, was the ideal setting for nearly 200 preservationists from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. who attended the 13th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation at the Barclay Hotel.

With Rittenhouse Square in flowery bloom and full of springtime activity, the conference opened with a well attended reception at the Rittenhouse Plaza Apartments, an Art Deco delight. Friday’s plenary session at the Church of the Holy Trinity featured David Weiss of Congressman Peter Kostmayer’s office. Weiss is Congressman Kostmayer’s staff director of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and has helped craft important historic preservation legislation. Mr. Weiss gave the audience an overview of the legislative process and the increased number and importance of historic preservation legislation on Capitol Hill. Certainly the highlight of the conference was the keynote address continued on page 7
Walter Kidney has captured the
cemetery in a 176 page guide with a his-
torical narrative that is accompanied by
50 color and 314 black and white photos
plus 364 illustrations. The narrative
takes the reader through the historical
areas of the cemetery and gives impor-
tant information on notable archi-
tectural features and historic figures in-
ternal in Allegheny. Whether an
interested resident of Pittsburgh or a
 cemetery enthusiast from Philadelphia,
this beautifully presented book is a
must. Available through the Pittsburgh
History and Landmarks Foundation, 450
Landmarks Building, One Station
Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, $34.95
cloth.

Balancing Historic Preservation Needs
with the Operation of Highly Technical
or Scientific Facilities. New from the
Advisory Council on Historic Preserva-
tion, this highly informative publica-
tion identifies several ways in which historic
preservation needs could be reconciled
with the ongoing operational needs of
scientific and technological institutions.
This report was presented by the Ad-
visory Council to the United States
Congress, and many of the findings of
the report were adopted as policy. Of
primary focus is the role the Section 106
process can have in negotiating changes
to scientific and technological resources.
The publication is available without
charge (while supplies last) from the
Advisory Council on Historic Preserva-
tion, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,

Saving The Neighborhood: You Can
Fight Developers and Win by Peggy
Robin. This publication will prove to be
an essential tool for preservation and
conservation groups concerned about
saving neighborhoods, communities,
and rural lands. The book gives im-
portant information about the develop-
ment process and how citizens can be-
come active players in determining
when and where development should
take place. Numerous anecdotes and
case studies of successful “neighbor-
hood saving” activities around the
country are presented to help illustrate
what to do and not do in dealing with
development issues. Community or-
ganizing is covered as well. Structuring
a community group, preparing for pub-
lic hearings, conducting meetings with
developers, member recruitment, fund
raising, and establishing a master plan
are all part of this publication which will
be invaluable for neighborhood pres-
ervation. Available through Woodbine
House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville,
MD 20852. 428 pages, $16.95 pb.

IN MEMORIUM

Mrs. Vera H. Wagner, a pioneer in Pennsylvania’s historic preservation movement,
died in Harrisburg on January 20, 1991. She was founder and first president of the
Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, which has been in the
forefront of efforts to preserve the remaining covered bridges in Pennsylvania.
Largely through her personal efforts, the bill designating “See Pennsylvania Covered
Bridges Week” was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Shaffer
in 1969. In recent years Mrs. Wagner was publicly recognized for her work on behalf
of covered bridge preservation; in December 1990 she was honored at the “Take Pride
in Pennsylvania” awards ceremony when Mrs. Ellen Casey, wife of the Governor of
Pennsylvania, presented her with the Individual First Place Award. Mrs. Casey noted
that Mrs. Wagner “has been a driving force behind the conservation and restoration
of covered bridges in Pennsylvania. As founder of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge
Society, Vera has worked for over 30 years with both the public and private sectors
to conserve covered bridges.” Vera will be greatly missed by the Pennsylvania
Historical and Museum Commission and its staff.
YES I WANT TO SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Individual $15
☐ Family $25
☐ Associate $50
☐ Patron/Professional $100
☐ Benefactor $500
☐ Pennsylvania Heritage Club* and above $1000
☐ Nonprofit Organization $35

*Includes special membership benefits. For information contact Preservation Pennsylvania.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone: Home Work

Please Check: ☐ new member ☐ renewal ☐ change of address

Preservation Pennsylvania is a tax exempt, charitable 501(c)3 organization. All membership contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

PHMC Staffer Dan Deibler is immortalized at the College of Physicians.

Awards (continued from page 1)

landscape of Old Economy Village in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, the early 19th century utopian community founded by the religious Harmonist sect founded by George Rapp. The thirteen volume report represents one of the most exhaustive studies ever conducted on a multi-resource historic complex.

Additional awards presented include:


The preservation award in the multiple dwelling residential construction category went to the Von Louhr Apartment House in Philadelphia. Agoos/Lovera Architects.

Philadelphia (continued from page 5)

given at Friday's luncheon by Susan Walter, Vice President for State Government Relations for the General Electric Company. Ms. Walter, a long-time Capitol Hill lobbyist, gave a lively talk on the lobbying process, how it works, and what it means for the success of organizations. Although Ms. Walter is well established in the business and political world, as the wife of J. Jackson Walter, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, she is certainly no stranger to historic preservation.

The beautiful setting of Rittenhouse Square along with the high caliber of conference speakers and participants made the 13th Annual Conference a memorable one.

Next year’s conference will be held in Harrisburg.
Calendar


June 19-20  The 1991 Pennsylvania Downtown Conference, State College PA. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs and Penn State University. For more information call 814-238-8454.

June 19-22  Sacred Trust IV National Conference on Religious Property Stewardship, Chicago, IL. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information call 312-266-2166.


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.


October 16-20  45th National Preservation Conference. San Francisco, California. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.