LANCASTER COUNTY TAKES CENTER STAGE IN NATIONAL SPRAWL BATTLE

With the victory against Disney’s plans to build a massive theme park in the historic Virginia Piedmont behind them, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and its president Richard Moe are leading the preservation movement in taking on supermarket sprawl. The unprecedented onslaught of multiple proposals for a new generation of discount retail structures - dubbed superstores - for rural areas of Lancaster County is at the center of the dialogue begun at the National Trust annual meeting in Boston in late October and continued at a special conference in early December.

Sprawl - a term used to describe unplanned growth - became the leitmotif of the National Trust annual meeting, resurfacing in session after session. Recognizing the challenge, the Trust brought together more than a hundred and fifty people from across the country on December 3 for “Superstore Sprawl or Vital Communities: Citizens Can Choose.” The day-long, intensive session began with remarks by Moe who underscored the need for preservation to move beyond saving individual buildings to address community character as the context without which individual buildings can have only limited meaning. Moe specifically talked about the threat to Lancaster County. He said, “We are currently facing in Lancaster County, one of America’s unique and historic places under an unprecedented threat, a saturation strategy that signals an escalation by superstores.”

The conference culminated in a Compact for Livable Communities which is both a call for comprehensive, responsible community planning and for a national coalition to deal with the issue of sprawl in a coordinated, comprehensive way. The compact is reprinted in its entirety on page 4.

SPRAWL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: WHERE OUR MISSION REALLY LIES
by David B. Schneider, Executive Director, Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

“We can no longer be content to simply preserve an old house here and an old house there, we must be much more concerned with the total community.” With these words, John A. Jarvis assumed the presidency of the board of directors of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. He could not have arrived at a more challenging nor critical time. The “Garden Spot of America” in mid-1994 was about to enter a new phase of intensive suburban sprawl. Proposals for four separate 200,000 square foot Wal-Mart stores, a 550,000 square foot “power center”, plus several other superstores were being reviewed by local municipal governments. The Historic Preservation Trust found itself having to question its very mission in light of, as Jarvis termed it, “an invasion.”

The proliferation of superstores forced the realization that the balance the county had begun to strike between growth and preservation was a very fragile one. Most of the county’s sixty municipalities had not yet fully implemented the principles of the county’s visionary new comprehensive plan of 1991-1992, and they were and are almost powerless to respond effectively to the regional impacts of these massive development projects.

The Trust has come to recognize that Lancaster County itself is the historic resource we are working to preserve. Its character, and its unique and nationally renowned sense of place, is largely defined by thousands of individual historic buildings, vast expanses of productive farmland, traditional urban and small town centers, and the diverse cultural traditions of its people, including the Plain Sect populations who serve as the very symbol of the community. It is essentially a very large historic district, the whole of which is far more significant than the sum of its parts.

Looking at our mission this way forces us to realize that we can no longer simply treat the symptoms of the county’s growth by preserving individual historic properties. For example, in 1994 alone, the Historic Preservation Trust became involved in fifty-nine preservation issues, in addition to providing an extensive array of community services. With a professional staff of one, it was almost impossible to respond effectively to each of these demands. All the while, the disease of uncoordinated and poorly planned sprawl was simply increasing the odds that we will have to respond to even more issues in 1995. Sprawl is, in effect, threatening to destroy the very essence of Lancaster County.

Preserving unrelated historic resources while failing to preserve the unique character of Lancaster County as a whole simply is not very compelling to the community. This point has been driven home repeatedly in recent months by the overwhelmingly positive response we have received to our expanded vision. In public meeting after public meeting, we listen to longtime residents of Lancaster County speak passionately about the need to preserve Lancaster County in the
AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

JOHNSTOWN

- A History Research Training Institute has been established at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The Institute conducts summer-long training programs for undergraduates and recent graduates, focusing on a single research site in southwestern Pennsylvania. The 1995 program will run from June 7 to August 11. Scholarships are available. Contact: James R. Alexander, History Research Training Institute, Univ. of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA 15904; 814-269-2083.

PHILADELPHIA

- The proposed Rittenhouse/Fitler Square Residential Historic District, extending roughly from 15th to 23rd streets and from Walnut to Pine Streets in the heart of Center City, is nearing a date for consideration by the Historical Commission. If approved, this will be the third locally designated district in Philadelphia. Other districts awaiting local designation include Society Hill, Spruce Hill, Girard Estate, Penn-Knox/Wister, and Strawberry Mansion.

- Philadelphia's historic preservation organizations are engaging in a collective strategic planning process to define preservation priorities for the future, and agree on roles and responsibilities. Over thirty participants representing the city's major preservation organizations, city government, and local leaders gathered for the first meeting in November. Preservation Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the National Trust's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office have assisted in convening the initial planning meetings with financial assistance from the Clancil Foundation.

PITTSBURGH AREA

- The former Ursuline Academy in Bloomfield has been transformed by preservationist Joedd Sampson into Victoria Hall, a center for banquets, weddings, and other special events. The success of Sampson's projects over the past five years, mostly on the city's North Side, prompted a recent article in the Pittsburgh Gazette to dub her "a one-woman salvation army for 19th-century buildings." Her future plans include a residential restoration in Shadyside.

- Kennywood Park, described by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as the finest and best-preserved traditional amusement park in the country, received a 1994 honor award from Trust at its annual conference in Boston this past October. Opened in 1897 and located five miles southeast of Pittsburgh, Kennywood still boasts the fine landscaping and many of the traditional amenities that characterized turn-of-the-century amusement parks. Because most of these once popular weekend destinations for city dwellers have been demolished or significantly altered, Kennywood's decision to maintain and promote its heritage earned it designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1985. The park is a popular seasonal attraction for local residents and visitors alike. Come to Kennywood this summer and enjoy the beauty of the restored 1926 hand-carved Dentzel carousel or thrill to a ride on the 1927 Racer, the only double-track roller coaster remaining in the western hemisphere.

WESTMORELAND/FAYETTE COUNTIES

- The sixty-mile corridor along Routes 711/381, running from West Fairfield south to Farmington, is being considered for designation as a State or National Scenic Byway. Scenic America, a national conservation group based in Washington, DC, is compiling information on important scenic, historic, natural, cultural, archeological, and recreational resources along the route. For more information contact: Scenic America, 21 Dupont Circle NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202-833-4300.

TOURISM • HISTORY • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS • GROWTH • FUNDING HERITAGE CONFERENCE CONVENCES IN WILKES-BARRE IN APRIL

For all those committed to Pennsylvania's rich heritage, the 1995 Heritage Partnerships Conference, April 23-26 in Wilkes-Barre is a must. Not only is this the once a year opportunity to learn about what others around Pennsylvania are doing to preserve and interpret our heritage, but the 1995 conference brings a new and expanded regional focus with speakers from Massachusetts, New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The conference program addresses four major themes, with classroom sessions complemented again this year by our popular Workshops on Wheels. Heritage and Eco Tourism explores an important component of our approach to economic revitalization. Managing Growth and Change focuses on the threats of sprawl and the challenge of keeping what we value in planning for future development. Keeping History on the Agenda reminds us of the place of history in the interpretation of the heritage story. Building Community Partnerships looks at community issues and at strategies for working with a variety of local institutions. Following these, special Wednesday sessions delve into the often daunting array of private, state and federal funding programs available to help underwrite our efforts.

The conference opens on Sunday evening, April 23, with a gala reception in the rotunda of the Luzerne County Courthouse. Designed by F. J. Osterling of Pittsburgh and completed in 1909, the imposing Beaux Arts building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. On Monday evening, following the afternoon Workshops on Wheels, attendees will be treated to a preview of the newly installed exhibitions in the roundhouse at Steamtown, followed by dinner at the historic Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton and a presentation by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Tom Hylton.

The 1995 Historic Preservation Awards program, honoring individuals, organizations, historic preservation projects and programs is being held at a luncheon on Tuesday, April 24 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre.

This year's third annual Heritage Partnerships conference brings a number of new partners to the list of conference sponsors. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the National Coalition for Heritage Areas join Preservation Pennsylvania, Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission, Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, and the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Association in planning and helping to support the conference program. For a conference brochure contact Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-569-2243.

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE CLUB

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For information on becoming a member of The Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact Preservation Pennsylvania.
PRESERVATION PA ACQUIRES BUILDING, PLANS MOVE TO HARRISBURG

A generous bequest to Preservation Pennsylvania from Otto Haas has enabled the organization to designate funds for the purchase of a property in the Historic Harrisburg National Register and Municipal Historic District in downtown Harrisburg. The building, which will become the organization's headquarters, is located at 257 North Street, a block from the Capitol and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The history of the building can be traced to the early years of the twentieth century. Occupied for fifty-five years by the Bleyer/Crist families, the brick structure was substantially reconstructed in 1912 into its present form with a distinctive second and third story copper clad turret on the corner of Susquehanna Street. The late 1970s brought a flurry of preservation and reinvestment activity to the area, and the building was part of a nine-property renovation into rental residential townhouses. Since that time, occupancy has been both residential and commercial.

Preservation Pennsylvania plans to renovate the property during the next few months with an anticipated move of our headquarters from Lancaster to Harrisburg in the summer of 1995. We will undertake a fund raising effort to underwrite the costs of renovation which are anticipated to be $100,000. Plans call for keeping the rear apartment for rental income and security. Preservation Pennsylvania offices will occupy the entire front three floors of the building.

Preservation Pennsylvania sees the move to Harrisburg as critical to our increasing advocacy role, and the purchase and renovation of an historic property as an important milestone in the evolution of the organization.

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.


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PHILADELPHIA INTERVENTION FUND LAUNCHES NEW THREE YEAR GRANT CYCLE

Since 1988, Preservation Pennsylvania has awarded more than $500,000 in grants to combat crisis situations threatening Philadelphia's historic resources. Through funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Philadelphia Intervention Fund has been instrumental in the development of plans for the landmark Eastern State Penitentiary and the Philadelphia Waterworks, in preparing feasibility studies and physical condition reports for numerous properties, and in undertaking critical repairs to damaged structures.

Now in our third three-year grant cycle funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, Preservation Pennsylvania actively seeks applications from Philadelphia nonprofit organizations and public agencies on behalf of historic properties in need of assistance. Applications may be made at any time and grants generally range from $1,000 to $20,000. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, economic analyses, structures reports, market feasibility studies, purchase of a property, and research for nomination of a property to the Philadelphia Landmarks Register or the National Register of Historic Places.

For a brochure and application form, contact Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-569-2243.
Lancaster County in National Sprawl Battle...continued from page 1

Preservation Pennsylvania, having placed Lancaster County on the state listing of endangered properties, continues its efforts to support local initiatives to maintain community character and combat sprawl. As of January 1995, one proposed Lancaster County Wal-Mart site has been defeated, one is in the final approval stages, two continue through the process with neither assured of defeat, and a new site has been proposed to replace the one defeated in 1994. The tally of superstores currently under consideration continues to be four Wal-Marts, one Sam’s Club, a power center and a growing list of other large-scale national retail outlets, as developers plan to profit from the boomtown mania that now permeates Lancaster County - a mania that clearly threatens the historic character of this special place.

The parallels between today’s fight against sprawl and preservation’s battles against urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s are obvious. The issue is ultimately one of regaining control of our community, our environment, our future. Preservation Pennsylvania, in our support of a forthcoming book by Pulitzer prize winning journalist Thomas Hylton, is committed to participation in the growing dialogue on this issue and a search for answers - including proposed legislation for statewide comprehensive planning. The subject of sprawl will be a topic for discussion at the Heritage Partnerships conference, April 23-26, in Wilkes-Barre, and Tom Hylton will be the featured speaker at the conference on the evening of Monday, April 24. Publication of Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania is scheduled for spring 1995.

Compact for Livable Communities

Issued from the conference “Superstore Sprawl or Vital Communities: Citizens Can Choose” sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, December 3, 1994, Boston, Massachusetts

WHEREAS, sprawl - the poorly planned, land-gobbling, automobile-oriented development that typically occurs on the outskirts of cities and towns - has contributed to the physical and economic decline of many traditional and historic downtown business districts; and

WHEREAS, sprawl also depletes the countryside and generates excessive, community-disrupting automobile traffic that degrades the environment by contributing to air and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, the superstores that are a cornerstone of sprawl-type development are designed and located so as to be accessible only by automobile, thereby encouraging further sprawl, and

WHEREAS, the construction of more retail space than a local economy can absorb contributes to commercial glut and economic displacement rather than economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of sprawl, resulting in the abandonment or underuse of existing buildings and public infrastructure, is both wasteful and fiscally irresponsible; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of sprawl - the unsightly homogenization of America - is antithetical to the creation of truly livable communities and the preservation of America’s unique cultural heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned call upon national retail companies and developers to cooperate in the preservation of livable communities and the protection of this nation’s natural and cultural resources, by agreeing to the following development principles:

1. Respect the desire of local communities to maintain their special character and their sense of community. Do not play one community against another by threatening to locate in a nearby jurisdiction if a community requests changes in a company’s national development formula.

2. Affirmatively seek to reuse existing buildings whenever possible.

3. Refrain from building superstores that are vastly out of scale with the community in which they are located.

4. Locate in existing commercial areas when possible, but taking care to fit in harmoniously with surrounding architecture and streetscapes. Downtown stores must leave room for locally owned, existing small businesses.

5. Reduce automobile dependence by providing facilities for pedestrians and locating stores that can be served by public transportation.

6. Reduce the amount of permeable asphalt surrounding stores through creative design, tree preservation, and transportation strategies.

7. Reduce the land-consumptiveness of superstores by building multi-story buildings and multi-level parking facilities.

8. Respect the desire of Americans to preserve the beauty of their country by preserving trees, scenic vistas, historic landscapes and sites.

Our Mission ....continued from page 1

face of intense development pressure. While making a site visit recently to advise a farm family about the history of their farmhouse, we listened as they lamented about their doubts that their young sons would be able to farm in Lancaster County if present trends continue. The farm is very precious to this family - they have been there since the 1700s - and they have a deep appreciation that there is so much more that defines a historic place than just a building. Collectively, the people we encounter - the Amish woman, the small town merchant, the farmer, the city dweller, and even the children instinctively know what is significant and worth preserving about Lancaster County. Their words are eloquent because they come from the heart. They have shown us where our mission really lies.

Our failure to respond to the proliferation of superstores, to actively promote the full implementation of the county’s comprehensive plan, and to support the preservation of Lancaster County’s fertile farmland, will result in Lancaster County becoming “Anyplace USA” and will render the vast majority of our individual historic resources meaningless. As Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation stated in the recent issue of Historic Preservation News, “Waging warfare against specific proposals - no matter how skilful - remains a poor substitute for a systematic, regional approach to preventing urban sprawl and the destruction of history. The repetition of single-site struggles drains too much money, time, and spirit from us all and ultimately saves less.” We can no longer be content to preserve a building here and a building there, we must be concerned with the total community.
On March 14 the State Historic Preservation Board will review two nominations to the National Register of Historic Places from State College, the town known nationally as the home of Joe Paterno and Rose Bowl winning Nittany Lions. The College Heights Historic District and the Holmes-Foster Highlands Historic District together offer more than one thousand contributing buildings significant in the educational, architectural, and community planning history of this important central Pennsylvania community.

Both districts, today within State College, were originally part of Centre Furnace and nearby lands. The iron industry operation brought settlers to the region in the late 18th century, but Centre Furnace was out of blast by the middle of the 19th century when larger and more productive furnaces came to dominate the industry. Centre Furnace lands were donated by local land holders James Irwin and Moses Thompson for a new farmer’s high school where the science of husbandry - a modern trend that began in the mid 19th century - could be taught. The new school obtained land grant college status in 1862 when the federal government created a program to advance the mechanical and farming skills of the national through a system of land grants and subsidies for higher education.

The success and popularity of the school’s work greatly expanded in the late 19th century early 20th centuries and is reflected by a growing student and faculty population. The post World War I era was marked by rapid growth, with the number of students increasing from 3,200 in 1920 to more than 6,500 by 1930. The need for housing for both students and faculty brought about the building boom that created the two proposed historic districts.

College Heights Historic District, with two hundred seventy-seven contributing resources, is the smaller of the two districts reflecting three State College annexations in the 1920s. Penn State faculty began the housing boom with fifteen houses on Park Avenue, Burrowes Street, Ridge Avenue, and Allen Street. In 1924 the College Heights Association was formed by landowners to bring comprehensive design for sidewalks, phone and electric lines, water and sewer pipes, shade trees, and other amenities to the planning and improvement of this section of town. Landowners also sought to preserve their idyllic setting, buffering the district from further growth with planned retention of forest land and a golf course. The goal was to create “the garden spot of State College.” Sixty-nine additional houses were constructed by 1929, mostly bungalows, four squares, and cape cods. Many were mail order homes; Aladdin, Gorden-Van Tine, and, of course, Sears models are all to be found in the neighborhood. Some were designed by faculty, most often in the Revival styles - Dutch, French, Tudor, Georgian, and New England Georgian.

The Holmes-Foster Highlands Historic District has seven hundred twenty-six contributing structures, mostly residential, south of the main campus. This, too, is an early 20th century residential district associated with the growth of Penn State University, and, like College Heights, is dominated by homes built both for and by academics. The district came together from six separate State College subdivisions defined between 1900 and 1930. In addition to four-squares, bungalows, and other period single-family homes, this area also has student residences including twenty-four mansion-sized Colonial Revival fraternity houses on West College Avenue. The district is treasured by residents and students alike for the appearance of stability and period aesthetics, as well as the social and economic well being of the community.

State College is not without its pressures on historic resources, and the community is not exempt from the struggles between town and gown. Absentee ownership is rising in the districts, as is development pressure generally in the region. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is seen as a means to recognize the historical importance and value of these districts to the development and ongoing life of State College.

For more information on state historic preservation programs including nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, contact:

Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
PO Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
717-783-8946
GUIDE TO PRESERVATION RESOURCES

RECENT PENNSYLVANIA PUBLICATIONS

Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh: Four Decades of Pittsburgh, Frozen in Light presents the city through years of dramatic change as seen through the visual artistry and perception of documentary photographer Clyde Hare. With one-hundred sixty-five photographs accompanied by text by Alan C. Van Dine and photographic notes by Walter C. Kidney, the book was released in December by Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and is available in area bookstores or by mail from the Foundation for $65 plus 7% PA sales tax and $3 postage and handling. Contact: PHLF, One Station Square, Suite 450, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170, 412-471-5808.

Green Spaces, Historic Places: A Guide to Selected Significant Resources in the Lower Delaware River Valley Corridor, published by the Delaware River Greenway, is a guide to the natural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources along the Lower Delaware River. It contains descriptions of sites with information on access and view points as well as maps of the area from the Delaware Water Gap in the north to the Poquessing and Rancocas Creeks at the southern end of the area. Order from Delaware River Greenway, c/o Heritage Conservancy, 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA 18901, 215-345-7020. Cost $5.

New Information booklets from the National Trust for Historic Preservation:

Appraising Historic Properties by Judith Reynolds. Includes information on finding a qualified appraiser, the benefits and costs of owning an historic property, the valuation process, and appraising easements.

Design Review in Historic Districts by Rachel S. Cox. Covers historic preservation ordinances, establishing design review guidelines, critical issues - such as demolition and new construction - in the review process.

A Guide to Tax-Advantaged Rehabilitation by Jayne F. Boyle, Stuart Ginsberg and Sally G. Oldham, revised by Donovan D. Rydema. Updated with latest information on federal tax law as it applies to historic rehabilitations.

Regional Heritage Areas: Approaches to Sustainable Development edited by T Allan Comp. A collection of articles on the growing movement for broad heritage areas as an approach to preserving community character and fueling economic development. Includes articles on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission and the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program as major national models. Also included is a listing of heritage areas in each state.

New Information booklets are available free upon request. To request new booklets and for information on other titles and costs, contact: Preservation Forum, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; 202-673-4296.

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts seeks applicants to participate in a Disaster Preparedness and Response Program. The Center will offer expertise and financial support to complete a tailored disaster preparedness and response plan for participating museums, historic houses, and other institutions with historic collections. Application deadline: May 1, 1995. For more information and application form contact: Ingrid E. Boll or Virginia Rawnsley, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 264 South 23rd St., Philadelphia, PA 19103; 215-545-063.
YES I WANT TO SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

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Preservation Pennsylvania is officially registered as a charitable organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Questions about Preservation Pennsylvania should be addressed to (717) 569-2243. All membership contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please make payable to:
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Lancaster, PA 17601

ADVOCACY UPDATE
OUTLOOK FOR PRESERVATION AND GOVERNMENT IN 1995
by John Nikoloff, Capital Associates, Inc.

The 1994 elections yielded fundamental shifts in politics at both the state and national levels. In addition to controlling both houses of U.S. Congress, Republicans now control the Governor’s Office, the State Senate and the House of Representatives in Harrisburg.

Key to the new agenda put forth by the GOP is less reliance on government and more privatization of services. Preservationists are challenged to be assertive and promote the positive aspects of historic preservation within the context of these changes.

In Harrisburg, Preservation Pennsylvania will be working to explain the benefits of preservation to community, business, and tourism. We will stress the role of preservation in the:
- formation of new businesses
- creation of jobs
- stimulation of private investment
- increased tourism
- increased property values and taxes
- improved community pride

Governor Ridge, in his inaugural address, spoke of a return to community for Pennsylvania. He has pledged to work to strengthen and promote public/private partnerships for economic development. Last fall, in response to a question from Preservation Pennsylvania, Ridge said he would take steps necessary to enhance state parks and recreation, heritage parks, and historic preservation efforts. He suggested the possibility of including these programs in a newly created Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Governor Ridge strongly supported Preservation Pennsylvania’s efforts for KEY 93, and publicly advocated its passage. He has pledged to ensure that KEY 93 funds get to the intended recipients, and he has said that he would be willing to work toward the creation of long term funding solutions.

Legislative leadership has been equally willing to work with us, as shown not only in passage of Key 93, but also in passage during the waning days of the 1994 legislative session of an act that creates a Preserve Our Heritage license plate. When ordered for $35, sales of the plate will generate $5 for Historical Preservation Fund which supports the programs of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The same legislation authorizes a “Flagship Niagara” commemorative license plate, with $15 of the fee used to preserve, maintain, and operate the Flagship Niagara, and, after one year, to contribute to the Historical Preservation Fund.

Changes in General Assembly

In the wake of the elections, the State Senate has reorganized with the following members holding key committee posts: Sens. Richard Tilghman (R, Montgomery) and Vincent J. Fuono (D, Phila.) will continue on the Appropriations Committee. Sen. Tim Shaffer (R, Butler) will chair Community and Economic Development, with new Minority Chair Sen. Gerald LaValle (D, Beaver). Sen. David J. Brightbill (R, Lebanon) will continue on Environmental Resources and Energy, with new Minority Chair Sen. Eugene Porterfield (D, Westmoreland). Freshman Senator Joseph Ullian (R, Northampton) will chair the Urban Affairs Committee and Sen. Hardy Williams (D, Phila.) will be Minority Chair.


Legislative Activity

Key legislation left unresolved at the end of 1994 included HB 1730 which would have allowed archeological surveys under law as part of the permitting process. Legislation is expected this session to dissociate the archeological survey provisions from any tie to the DER permitting process. HB 2128, which would have amended the Pennsylvania Planning Code to permit a municipality to reject any plan’s application if the land had been dedicated to open space or restricted use, will be reconsidered in 1995, and an amended version will likely be passed.

SLAPP Suits legislation was left hanging in the House, and will be reintroduced in 1995.

Conservation easement legislation, HB 1836, was bottlednecked by the Pennsylvania Coal Association, in spite of a compromise worked out among landowners, public utilities, and the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. An amended version of the bill will be considered in 1995.

The legislative calendar for early 1995 projects an active session, with legislative days scheduled ten weeks out of twelve through March prior to budget hearings. A major piece of early legislation will be a Ridge Administration bill to split the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) into a Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and a Department of Environmental Protection.

Preservation Pennsylvania will be working to build on its established credibility as an advocate for historic preservation, to insure KEY 93 disbursements are made, to organize the coalition of interested parties to support historic preservation efforts, and to recapitalize the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania. Your involvement, helping spread the message of the benefits of historic preservation, can make a difference and can contribute substantially to the success of these efforts.

John Nikoloff will be a presenter at the Preservation Pennsylvania May workshops for heritage organizations. See calendar on page 8 for dates and locations. Workshop brochure with registration information will be available in February.
February 26-28 Restoration 95. Exhibits and educational programs on preservation and restoration techniques. Boston, Massachusetts. Contact: Restoration 95, RAEGI Exhibitions, Inc., Ten Tower Office Park, Woburn, MA 01801-9915; 617-933-9689 (exhibitor information); 617-933-6663 (visitor information).


April 12-15 Popular Culture Association annual meeting, Philadelphia. Contact: 419-372-7865.

April 20-22 Annual Conference of Mid-Atlantic Region Archives Conference and Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Baltimore, MD. Contact: 410-539-0872 ext. 345.

April 21-23 Historic Houses in Flower: floral designers decorate seven historic houses in Fairmount Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission $12. Contact: Philadelphia Museum of Art, 215-763-8100.

April 22 Bucks County House Restoration Exposition, Bucks County Community College, Newtown. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Vendors for resources and restoration services; home restoration workshops. Admission charge. Co-sponsored by Bucks County Historical Society, Fonthill Museum. Contact: Fonthill, 215-348-9461.


June 7-August 30 Chester County Town Tours and Village Walks. Wednesday evenings. Contact: Chester County Tourist Bureau, 610-344-6365.

June 14-16 PA Downtown Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College. Contact: PA Downtown Center, 717-784-0456.