



Preserving Pennsylvania

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Summer 2003

Pennsylvania At Risk 2003

The Annual Listing of the Commonwealth's Most Endangered Historic Properties

Bethlehem Steel Plant, Bethlehem, Northampton County



The vision of the Bethlehem Steel plant as a museum of our nation's industrial heritage is in jeopardy with the recent sale of the corporation.

Significance

Is there a site that represents the industrial history of America better than the home plant of the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation? What might be more difficult to comprehend is that the Bethlehem Steel name no longer exists in American industry. What is impossible to imagine is that within a few short months there might not be a single blast furnace, machine shop, foundry or crucible building left to represent one of the greatest industrial legacies in the world.

The Bethlehem plant provided an identity to a city and to generations of people who worked there. Some of the most significant technological innovations in the fully integrated Bessemer steel process, in heavy steel forging and the production of continuously wide flange structural beams and columns were developed at the Bethlehem facility. The Bethlehem plant manufactured America's first modern

battle fleet for the U.S. Navy in 1885 and remained the largest shipbuilder and military supplier in the nation throughout the 20th century. The number of landmark buildings and structures using Bethlehem Steel stretch from coast to coast and include the White House, the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels.

Threat

On May 7, 2003 Bethlehem Steel Corporation completed the sale of substantially all of its assets to International Steel Group (ISG) for \$1.5 billion. Prior to ISG acquisition, the site was to be transformed into a cultural, commercial, retail and recreational destination with many of the buildings and machinery preserved by the National Museum of Industrial History, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. But with the ISG sale, all of the development

- *Bethlehem Steel, Bethlehem, Northampton County*
- *Big Run Elementary School, Big Run Borough, Jefferson County*
- *Historic Districts of Philadelphia*
- *Chalfont Historic District, Chalfont Borough, Bucks County*
- *Keystone Corridor Railroad Stations:
Coatesville Station, Chester County
Elizabethtown Station, Lancaster County
Harrisburg Trainsheds, Dauphin County*
- *B'Nai Israel Synagogue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County*
- *Eagles Building, Altoona, Blair County*
- *Byrd Liebhart Site (36YO0170), Lower Windsor Township, York County*

plans are on hold. ISG intends on selling the 150-acre site to Delaware Valley Real Estate Investment Fund, a Philadelphia-based venture capital fund that specializes in local economic development but has no interest in retaining any of the industrial heritage of the Bethlehem Plant and intends to clear the site.

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Big Run Elementary School Big Run Borough, Jefferson County



The 1908 Big Run School has educated generations of students in this rural northwestern Pennsylvania community. Consolidation and closure, proposed by the school district for this neighborhood school, is opposed by local residents.

Significance

The National Register eligible Big Run Public School served the Big Run community as a high school, junior high and elementary school from its construction in 1908 until its closure in May 2003. Designed by the Pittsburgh architectural firm of Robinson and Winkler, the school is a handsome 2-story red brick building set on a raised granite basement. The building is symmetrically arranged in 3 bays with a recessed central arched entrance and projecting side bays. A hexagonal bell tower, with original and functioning school bell, sits atop the large hipped roof of the main building. For almost 100 years, the school has provided the Big Run community with a neighborhood school and local landmark where children could attend school within walking distance of their home.

Threat

Over the past two years, the Punxsutawney Area School District has attempted to close the Big Run Public School in an effort to consolidate the

district's elementary schools and bus students to a single location. The district cites the building's age, it's poor physical condition and excessive rehabilitation costs as the determining factors. The majority of these problems stem from inadequate funding and deferred maintenance. A locally formed Save Our Schools Committee, with the assistance of Preservation Pennsylvania and the National Trust, has presented alternatives, such as renovations to the neglected building that would be reimbursable by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, or forming a charter school to keep their children in a community-based educational environment.

The loss of neighborhood schools is a recurring issue in Pennsylvania and nationally. Preservation Pennsylvania devoted the entire *1998 Pennsylvania At Risk* to this issue and the National Trust has published *Historic Schools: A Roadmap for Saving Your School* and *Why Johnny Can't Walk to School*.

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MISSION

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.

Historic Districts of Philadelphia

Significance

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects recently recognized three residential blocks (1500-1524 N. 17th Street, Willis Hale, architect; 1601-1641 Diamond Street, Furness, Evans & Co., architects; and 1907-1951 N. 32nd Street, Angus S. Wade architect) with the 2003 *AIA Philadelphia Landmark Building Award*. These unified residential blocks are the heart of three of Philadelphia's most distressed historic districts: Strawberry Mansion Historic District, Diamond Street Historic District and the Lower North Philadelphia Speculative Housing Historic District. These neighborhoods are a product of late 19th century industrial Philadelphia when speculative residential construction for middle class neighborhoods produced elaborate rows of Victorian design from the leading architects of the period.

Threat

The three historic districts listed above are at the center of the ambitious Philadelphia Neighborhood Transforma-



The 1500 block of North 17th Street in the Lower North Philadelphia Speculative Housing Historic District offers an example of the distinctive architectural quality that could be lost to sweeping demolition of neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

tion Initiative (NTI), a city program authorizing the issuance of \$300 million in bonds over the next five years to eliminate vacant and dangerous buildings (blighted neighborhoods), provide support for neighborhood preservation initiatives and assemble vacant land for new market rate housing developments for homeownership. The immediate concern for the preservation community is the possible demolition of entire historic districts, dredging up memories of misguided urban renewal projects from

the 1960's. There is hope that the NTI program can properly identify truly blighted neighborhoods, set aside important historic neighborhoods for preservation, and integrate new context sensitive design into the historic fabric of Philadelphia and its neighborhoods. The Preservation Alliance, Preservation Pennsylvania, and the National Trust have engaged in dialogue with city staff on allocating NTI resources to the preservation and rehabilitation of historic neighborhoods.

Chalfont Historic District, Chalfont Borough, Bucks County



These late Victorian era houses, located within a locally designated historic district, would be demolished if plans for a new suburban-style drug store win approval from Chalfont Borough.

Significance

Located at the intersection of two historic roadways, Chalfont Historic District served as an agricultural community until the introduction of the railroad in 1856. The quiet crossroads community quickly became a small commercial and industrial center and still maintains the charm of a late Victorian era market town. Characterized by a variety of building types and styles, the core of the borough consists of early nineteenth century Georgian stone taverns and inns, a number of churches and

municipal buildings with a mixture of Victorian and Craftsmen style residential buildings. A number of gristmills and sawmills are located along the banks of two major streams, and the railroad station and freight depot add to the character of the district. The district is designated under Pennsylvania's Historic District Act.

Threat

A national pharmacy chain is proposing to build a drugstore with a drive-thru window in the heart of the historic district, re-

sulting in the demolition of four buildings, three of which are historic. Though the demolition of prominent buildings in the core of a historic district by national pharmacy chains is a well-documented practice, this particular pharmacy chain entered into a Corporate Good Neighbor Initiative with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to avoid the demolition of historic buildings and prevent this exact scenario.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time this year that a drugstore chain has threatened buildings in a Pennsylvania historic district. Four buildings in the Wellsboro Historic District (Tioga County) were demolished to make way for a new drugstore and a historic building in the Bloomsburg Historic District (Columbia County) was recently spared when community activists, Preservation Pennsylvania, the Bureau for Historic Preservation and the National Trust reminded the drugstore of their 'commitment' to preservation. Now the Chalfont community is gearing up for a similar fight to save the fabric of their historic district.

Keystone Corridor Railroad Stations

Coatesville Station, Chester County

Significance

The Coatesville train station, adjacent to the Coatesville Historic District, is the oldest extant station along the Pennsylvania Railroad's Main Line from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. The station's platform continues to serve Amtrak's Keystone Corridor with an annual ridership of almost 5,000. The two-story Italianate station was constructed in 1865 and continues to display period 2/2 windows with decorative flat and segmental hoods and arcaded passageways. The train station served as an essential component to the architectural and industrial history of this important iron and steel producing center.

Threat

The primary threat to the station is its 20-year abandonment and continued under-utilization in the community of Coatesville. The building is in good overall condition but is suffering from neglect and vandalism. The City of Coatesville, which leases the station from Amtrak, recently received a Knight Fellowship Program in Community Building to fund a design charette. The charette will utilize Smart Growth and New Urbanism principles with an aim towards revitalizing the Coatesville community and identifying the central role an active and rehabilitated Coatesville train station will play in that revitalization. The goal is to restore the station as the gateway to the historic, commercial and professional center of Coatesville.



Coatesville's station, built in 1865, is the oldest remaining station along the Keystone Corridor. The building has the potential to become the focus of revitalization efforts in the community.

Elizabethtown Station, Lancaster County

Significance

Originally constructed in 1915 as the railroad station on the campus of the Masonic Home of Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, the railroad station served both the Masonic Home and the Elizabethtown community along the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The nationally renowned Philadelphia architectural firm of Zantinger, Borie & Medary designed the station in a collegiate style of rough-faced ashlar limestone with fine limestone trim and graduated slate roofs, creating a visual and architectural relationship to the Masonic Home campus. Amtrak abandoned the station, situated below track level and connected to the trackside platform by a distinctive stair tower, almost 25 years ago.

Threat

Although the Elizabethtown platform provides service for 38,000 riders each year along the Keystone Corridor, the station has sat vacant and suffered from vandalism over the past 25 years. The borough has received \$1.1 million in TEA-21 grant commitments, \$200,000 in Lancaster County grants, \$15,000 from the Great American Station Foundation and a \$400,000 commitment from the borough itself to fund the rehabilitation of the station. The final piece of funding for the project, pledged by Amtrak, was recently withdrawn and local officials were informed that Amtrak would be unable to undertake the required review and approvals necessary for the project to proceed. Rehabilitation of the station for commercial use, renovations to the platform, a bus stop, taxi stand and bicycle access to the site and high-speed shuttle service to Harrisburg International airport – all part of the plan for rehabilitation of the station – are currently on hold.



Elizabethtown Borough's commitment to rehabilitating their 1915 station has been delayed by funding and staffing cutbacks at Amtrak.

Harrisburg Trainsheds, Dauphin County

Significance

The Harrisburg Central Railroad Station and Trainsheds represents the period when Harrisburg served as a major transportation hub for the Pennsylvania Railroad. The rail complex now serves as a stop on Amtrak's Keystone line which runs between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The 1885 passenger station is a good example of late nineteenth century railroad passen-



The Harrisburg Trainsheds are recognized by the National Park Service as one of Pennsylvania's National Historic Landmarks because of their distinctive Fink truss system.

ger station construction but the two trainsheds are what make the resource a National Historic Landmark. The sheds are nationally significant for their use of

the Fink truss system. Patented in 1854 by Albert Fink, the Fink Truss is remarkable for its capacity to span long distances utilizing a light-weight structural system.

Threat

The structural system in the Harrisburg sheds is supported by sway bracing that provides a rigid connection between individual components of the truss system. The sway bracing, which is primarily wood, is rapidly deteriorating. Two spans have collapsed and fallen onto public walkways and waiting areas, endangering public safety as well as the stability of the sheds. Following emergency stabilization, other portions of the roof structure, truss panels, roof sway bracing and downspouts were found to be in need of critical repair or total restoration. Despite receiving Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Grant funding and the availability of Transportation Enhancement funding, repairs to the trainsheds have been delayed allowing for further deterioration to this National Historic Landmark.

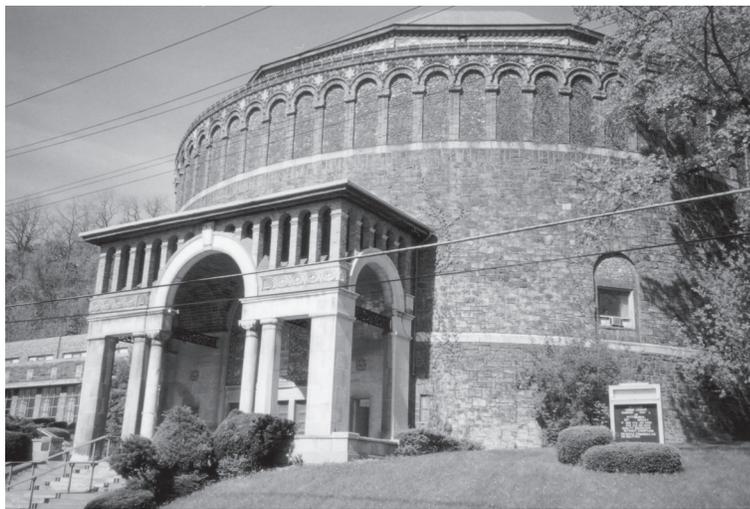
B’Nai Israel Synagogue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

Significance

Located in the East Liberty neighborhood of Pittsburgh, the National Register eligible B’Nai Israel Synagogue is a Byzantine-inspired circular stone building capped by a low copper dome on an octagonal drum. The design is further highlighted by a blind arcade that runs the perimeter of the cornice and an arched entry porch reminiscent of Brunelleschi’s Pazzi Chapel in Florence, Italy. The building was designed in 1923 for the growing Jewish population in East Liberty by renowned architect Henry Hornbostel, architect of numerous landmarks throughout Pittsburgh and founder of Carnegie Mellon’s School of Architecture. B’Nai Israel Synagogue is an outstanding element along the predominantly residential North Negley Avenue streetscape.

Threat

Currently owned by the Urban League of Pittsburgh, the building was most recently used as the Urban League Charter School but now stands vacant awaiting an appropriate use. The interior of the building, highlighted by a wooden truss and transverse arch system spanning the 120



The massive stone rotunda of B’Nai Israel Synagogue is a dominant feature in the Garfield-East Liberty Neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Unused at this time, the building suffers from ongoing water damage that may result in loss of significant architectural elements.

foot rotunda, original dark painted ceiling ornament with gold highlights and stained glass windows, is being damaged by water infiltration from the roof. Other areas of deferred maintenance include limited stone and terra cotta damage on the exterior. The synagogue was recently highlighted in the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh’s “Top Ten Best Preservation Opportunities in the Pitts-

burgh Area” for possible re-use as a community-based center for events and performances. The future of the synagogue and other Pittsburgh religious buildings may also be jeopardized by a recently approved amendment to the Pittsburgh Historic Preservation ordinance, which exempts historic religious properties from historic designation, unless nominated by the owner.

Eagles Building, Altoona, Blair County

Significance

Unlike the Masons or the Elks, who also built substantial buildings in the commercial center of Altoona, the Eagles were a predominantly working-class organization and the Eagles Building stands as a powerful tribute to the thousands of working people who financed its construction. Their lodge, designed by architect D. George Puderbaugh of Altoona in 1912-3, is a stark but elegantly arranged brownstone building in the Neoclassical Revival style and is embellished, appropriately enough, with pairs of giant, carved eagles. The building was designed to house the Eagles' club activities on all four floors of the opulently appointed interior, which displays a lavish use of ornamental plasterwork and bright painted decoration on the walls and ceiling. The building is a significant resource to the National Register-listed Downtown Altoona Historic District.

Threat

Though still owned and operated by the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 26, the rapidly deteriorating structural condition of the building and continued deferred maintenance are quickly leading to proposed demolition under the current Altoona City Code Enforcement. The current extent of damage is unknown due to the lack of access to the building but a 1989 HABS/HAER Altoona *Intown Neighborhood* survey for the America's Industrial Heritage Project documented that the interior of the building was already suffering substantial water damage on all four floors. The Allegheny Ridge Corporation and concerned local citizen Joel Koss are trying to convince the current landowner and city officials to transfer ownership of the property, make urgent emergency repairs to fend off immediate demolition and prepare a preservation plan to identify funding sources and rehabilitation needs.



The Eagles Building, as it appeared c. 1912, has the potential to contribute, once again, to downtown Altoona.

Byrd Liebhart Site (36Y00170), Lower Windsor Township, York County



The site of a Susquehannock village and cemeteries lies along the Susquehanna River in York County. A large residential development is proposed for the area.

Significance

Situated on a hilltop overlooking Long Level and the Susquehanna River, lay the undisturbed remains of Susquehannock tribal members among at least four cemeteries and the preserved features of their village that was abandoned in approximately 1680 A.D. The Byrd Leibhart site (36Y00170) represents the final known village site of the Susquehannocks, a group that occupied the Susquehanna River Valley for almost 200 years before they disappeared due to warfare with the Iroquois,

conflict with the English, and the susceptibility to European diseases. Through minimal archaeological investigation at the site, it was determined that the palisaded village had an estimated population of 900 people and portions of at least two longhouses were discernable in the initial excavation. The National Register eligible site is of key importance to an understanding of the history and demise of the Susquehannocks, one of Pennsylvania's most prominent Native American groups.

Threat

Proposed plans for a residential development of 603 units on 334 acres of the historic Lauxmont Farms complex, on which the Byrd Leibhart site is located, has caused an uproar among developers, state officials and legislators, township planning commissioners and supervisors, local citizens, environmental groups and tribal leaders. Led by the Susquehanna River Hills Task Force, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology and the tribal groups, attempts are being made to halt the development project by focusing on the adverse impacts the development will have on archaeological resources, the ecology and wetlands, infrastructure such as roads, sewer systems and other public services, controlled growth and agricultural conservation and the overcrowding of schools. Though the developer promises to avoid any archaeologically sensitive areas, this is virtually impossible when the exact locations of the cemeteries and other village features are unknown.

Pennsylvania At Risk is published annually by Preservation Pennsylvania. The list is a representative sampling of the variety and richness of our commonwealth's historic properties and the types and severity of threats they face.

The listing is compiled from nominations and suggestions made by our members, local heritage organizations, the board and staff of Preservation Pennsylvania, and the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

In addition to the annual listing, Preservation Pennsylvania will occasionally add to the endangered list at other times during the year in response to timely threats to significant historic properties.

In evaluating properties for inclusion on the list, Preservation Pennsylvania looks for the following:

- the property is listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, **or**
- the property is considered a contributing structure in a National Register Historic District, **or**
- the property is designated historic by local government, **and**
- the property is faced with imminent, recognized endangerment either from overt action, neglect, incompatible use, or loss of context.

Preservation Pennsylvania welcomes your comments on this year's list, your updates on the status of past entries, and your suggestions for future listings.

Pennsylvania At Risk 1992-2002

The following properties have been included in past listings of **Pennsylvania At Risk**. Those with * have had a positive preservation outcome; those with ** have been lost. The other properties remain at risk.

Adams County

Camp Letterman, Gettysburg (1997)
Cyclorama Building, Gettysburg (1999)

Allegheny County

African American Sites (2002)
Allegheny River Boulevard (1995)
Armstrong Cork Company Complex, Pittsburgh (1994)
Carrie Furnaces, Swissvale (1992)
Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Pittsburgh (1993)
"Fifth and Forbes" downtown area, Pittsburgh (1999)
Homestead Historic District (2001)
Howe-Childs Gateway House, Pittsburgh (1996)
Pittsburgh Civic Arena (2002)
Saint Nicholas Croatian Roman Catholic Church, Pittsburgh (2002)
Scanlon Observatory, Pittsburgh* (1997)
Sterrett, McCleary, and Letsche Schools, Pittsburgh (1998)

Beaver County

Legionville Campground, Harmony Township (1992)

Bedford County

Bedford Springs Hotel, Bedford (1992)
Koontz Koffee Pot, Bedford (2001)
S.S. Grand View Point Hotel, Schellsburg** (1993)

Berks County

Astor Theater, Reading** (1992)
Franklin Street Railroad Station, Reading (1999)
Oley Township Historic District (1995)
Penn Square, Callowhill Historic District, Reading (1995)

Blair County

First National Bank of Tyrone, Tyrone (2000)
Leap the Dips, Lakemont Park, Altoona* (1995)
Roosevelt School, Claysburg (1998)

Bucks County

Delaware Canal, Bucks & Northampton Counties (1993)
Levittown Public Recreation Association Building, Tullytown (2002)
Moland House, Warwick Township, Bucks County* (1995)
Twin Silo Road Historic District, Plumstead Township (2001)
Wycombe Bridge* (1999)

Butler County

Elliott Mine Archeological Complex, Butler & Lawrence Counties (1999)

Cambria County

Cambria Ironworks, Johnstown (1997)
Glosser Brothers Department Store, Johnstown* (1994)

Centre County

Bellefonte Academy Building, Bellefonte (2002)

Chester County

Brandywine Battlefield, Chester & Delaware Counties (1994)
Downingtown Junior High School, Downingtown (1998)
Phoenix Iron & Steel Company Foundry Building, Phoenixville* (1996)
Roger Hunt Mill & Miller's House, Downingtown (1997)
Saalbach Barn, West Caln Township** (2000)
Valley Forge National Historic Park, Chester & Montgomery Counties (2002)
West Chester Downtown Historic District* (2001)

Clarion County

Clarion County Jail, Clarion (2000)

Clearfield County

St. Severin Church, Drifting (1993)

Clinton County

Memorial Park, Lock Haven (1993)

Crawford County

Meadville High School, Meadville (1998)

Cumberland County

John McCullough House, West Pennsboro Township (1995)
Walnut Street Bridge, Dauphin & Cumberland Counties (1996)

Dauphin County

Auto & Aeroplane Mechanical School, Harrisburg** (1996)
Baker House, Harrisburg (2000)
Capital Area Greenbelt, Harrisburg (1997)
Harrisburg Historic District (1999)
Hershey Consolidated School, Derry Township (1998)
Star Barn, Lower Swatara Township* (1992)
Walnut Street Bridge, Dauphin & Cumberland Counties (1996)

Delaware County

Brandywine Battlefield, Chester & Delaware Counties (1994)
Deshong Estate, Chester (1992)
Lazaretto, Tinicum Township (2001)
Ridley High School, Ridley Township** (1998)

Erie County

Dickson Tavern, Erie (2001)
Erie City and County Library* (1993)
George Carroll House, Erie* (1995)
Jackson Koehler Eagle Brewery, Erie (1997)
Motor Vessel/Steamship Niagara, Erie** (1994)

continued on page 8

Erie County (continued)

Native American Ossuary, North East* (1992)

Fayette County

Lock and Dam 7, Monongahela River, Greene & Fayette Counties (1995)
Meason House, Dunbar Township (1992)
New Geneva (1993)
Searights Tollhouse (1993)

Franklin County

Chambersburg Historic District, Chambersburg (2000)
Path Valley Pennsylvania Turnpike Rest Stop** (1993)

Greene County

Glassworks and Greensboro (1993)
Lock and Dam 7, Monongahela River, Greene & Fayette Counties (1995)
Thomas Kent, Jr. Farm (1999)

Huntingdon County

East Broadtop Railroad, Rockhill Furnace (1992)

Lackawanna County

Lackawanna Avenue Historic District, Scranton ** (1992)
Morss Mansion, Simpson** (1996)

Lancaster County

Enola Low Grade Railroad Line (1996)
Highway Routes 23 & 30 expansion projects (1992)
Keller's Covered Bridge, Ephrata Township (1994)
Lancaster County (entire county) (1994)
Mountain Springs Hotel, Ephrata (1993)
Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Houses, Lancaster City (2001)

Lawrence County

Elliott Mine Archeological Complex, Butler & Lawrence Counties (1999)
Knox Building (Cascade Theater), New Castle (1996)
North Hill Historic District & New Castle High School, New Castle** (2000)

Lebanon County

Bomberger's Distillery, Heidelberg Township (1994)
Colonial Theater, Lebanon** (1993)

Lehigh County

Allentown National Bank, Allentown (1995)
Vera Cruz Jasper Quarry, Upper Milford Township (1994)

Luzerne County

Hazleton High School, Hazleton (1998)
Hotel Sterling, Wilkes-Barre (2001)
Huber Breaker, Ashley (1994)
Markle Banking & Trust Company, Hazleton (1997)
Plymouth Flats Archeological Site, Plymouth Township (1995)
Stegmaier Brewery, Wilkes-Barre*(1992)

Lycoming County

Broad Street School, Jersey Shore (1998)
Park Home, Williamsport* (1992)

McKean County

Kinzua Viaduct, Mt. Jewett Township (2002)

Monroe County

Buck Hill Inn, Barrett Township (2001)

Montgomery County

Cold Point Village Historic District, Plymouth & Whitemarsh Townships (2000)
King of Prussia Inn* (1993)
Lynnewood Hall, Cheltenham Township (1992)
Selma, Norristown (1992)
Valley Forge National Historic Park, Chester & Montgomery Counties (2002)

Montour County

Danville West Market Street Historic District (1992)

Northampton County

Bangor Swimming Pool, Bangor** (1996)
Brith Shalom Synagogue, Easton** (1992)
Delaware Canal, Bucks & Northampton Counties (1993)

Northumberland County

Victoria Theatre, Shamokin** (1999)

Philadelphia County

Boyd Theater (2002)
Church Street Station, Market-Frankford Elevated (1997)
Dream Garden Mosaic* (1999)
Eastern State Penitentiary (1992)
Knowlton* (1993)
Logan House (1997)
Naval Hospital** (1996)
PSFS Building* (1994)
Richmond Power Station (2002)
Siegmond Lubin Studio** (1995)
United States Naval Home (1992)
Victory Building (1993)

Pike County

Pond Eddy Bridge, Shohola Township (2002)

Schuylkill County

J. W. Cooper High School, Shenandoah

Somerset County

Palace Hotel, Windber** (1993)

Venango County

Coal Oil Johnny House* (1997)

Wayne County

Farview State Hospital Agricultural Complex, Waymart (2000)

York County

Borg Warner Complex, York* (1993)
Camp Security, Springettsbury Township (2000)
Shoe House, Hellam, York County* (1994)

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Preservation Pennsylvania is officially licensed 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 717-234-2310. All membership contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Pennsylvania At Risk 1992-2002: Updates on Previously Listed Properties

Brith Shalom Synagogue, Easton (listed in 1992), was virtually destroyed by an arson fire on June 21. Most recently, the building, which was constructed in 1842, had been home to the Second Baptist Church. Former Preservation Pennsylvania board member Antonia Mitman reports that the facade is still standing and that the community may try to stabilize and rebuild.

U.S. Naval Home, Philadelphia (listed in 1992). Biddle Hall, the William Strickland designed Greek Revival main building at the Naval Home suffered damage to the roof and attic as the result of a five-alarm arson fire on February 3. The lack of security and continued neglect of this National Historic Landmark by the current owner, a leading national developer of suburban housing, is cited as a major reason for the fire. Remarkably, and a testament to Strickland's original fire-proof design, an inspection by the city of Philadelphia's Licensing and Inspections and an independent structural engineer determined the building to be structurally sound. Since the fire, the owners have worked with the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to restore the roof of the building to its pre-fire appearance and to increase security measures on the property to prevent further problems. The future of the complex, however, continues to be unresolved.



Koontz Coffee Pot, Bedford (listed in 2001). This whimsical example of roadside architecture along the Lincoln Highway faced demolition when the current owners planned changes to the site to accommodate their truck-rental business. The Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor convened a task force - which included Preservation Pennsylvania, the PHMC, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and a number of concerned local citizens - to put together a plan to preserve this important artifact of the early motoring era. After consultation with the owners and others in the community, the Coffee Pot has found a new home. It will be moved directly across the road from its original location onto the Bedford County Fairgrounds where it will be rehabilitated as an information center with an exhibit on the building's history and significance.

Buildings on the southwest corner of historic Penn Square include the finest examples of Art Moderne architecture in the city. The buildings on this corner are proposed for demolition for the construction of a large office building.

Penn Square, Callowhill Historic District, Reading, Berks County (listed in 1995). Originally listed in 1995 because of earlier development proposals that have since been completed, Penn Square is once again threatened with a proposal that will drastically alter its historic character. Sovereign Bank is proposing to demolish eight buildings, seven of which are contributing to the historic district, on the southwest corner of Penn Square for construction of a 60,000 square foot office building. The local Historic Architectural Review Board recently denied demolition but the bank intends to appeal the decision to City Council.



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BECOME A MEMBER OF PRESERVATION PENNSYLVANIA!!

Dear Friend of Historic Preservation:

These are challenging times for those of us who care about Pennsylvania's historic places. In many parts of our state, sprawl continues to consume historic landscapes and demolish our historic buildings. Drugstore chains threaten to suburbanize the character of our historic towns and villages; and historic neighborhood schools are being abandoned. Preservation Pennsylvania, as your statewide historic preservation organization, is committed to meeting these challenges and to providing the tools to help local communities keep what we all value.

But without your membership, we will not have the financial resources or the voices to meet these challenges. Your membership in Preservation Pennsylvania supports:

- Publication of *Pennsylvania At Risk*, this annual listing of the commonwealth's most endangered historic properties. Since it was first released in 1992, this listing has helped save countless historic properties and has greatly increased awareness about our rich - and threatened - heritage.
- Advocacy in the Pennsylvania General Assembly for passage of state historic preservation tax credits for both commercial and residential properties, now being considered in both the House and the Senate.
- Educational programs - in 2004 these include a series of statewide workshops on sound land use and historic preservation, interpretation of historic properties, and strategies for successful advocacy efforts on behalf of Pennsylvania's heritage.

In the more than fifteen years that I have been with Preservation Pennsylvania, I have met many of you and we have talked about the challenges facing your communities. Now, more than ever, Preservation Pennsylvania pledges to be a strong statewide voice for preservation issues and to press for state policies and legislation that support preservation. And now, more than ever, Preservation Pennsylvania needs your membership support - your dollars and your voice - to continue this important work.

Please join Preservation Pennsylvania today by filling out the membership form on page 9 of this newsletter and returning it with your contribution. Please add your voice to those who value the historic places that define Pennsylvania.

Best wishes,

Susan Shearer, Executive Director

P.S. If you are already a Preservation Pennsylvania member, we thank you, and we encourage you to consider a special, additional contribution to keep our voices for preservation heard.