

Preserving Pennsylvania

Volume 13

Number 4

The Newsletter of Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc.

Spring 2000

2000 PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK

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

Camp Security Springettsbury Township, York County

Significance

Located just east of the City of York, Camp Security is the site of a Revolutionary War prison camp that housed over 3000 British and Hessian prisoners of war between 1781 and 1783. The site is believed to exceed 30 acres. Facilities included a stockaded prison and a village area, where model prisoners and their families resided.

A state marker on PA Route 462 commemorates the camp. A small portion of the village area was excavated by Historic York, Inc. and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1979. Excavations recovered domestic artifacts including redware pottery, glass bottle fragments, window glass, buttons, and straight pins. Objects from the excavation are part of a display on military archaeology at the State Museum in Harrisburg. The location of the camp stockade has yet to be found.

Camp Security, which has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, has the potential to provide significant documentation on the story of Continental prison camps and on York's role in the Revolutionary War.

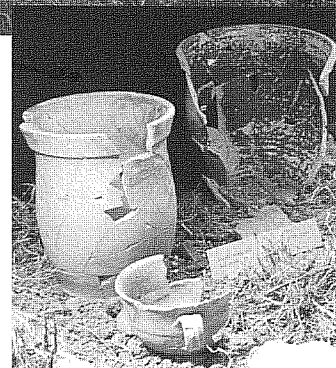
Threat

In 1999, a residential subdivision of 73 houses was proposed for the site. Because the subdivision will impact a stream and wetlands, the US Army Corps of Engineers became involved, triggering Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As part of the Section 106 review process, the Corps is requiring archaeological investigations prior to issuance of a permit to the developer. The developer, who is cooperating with the Corps and other interested parties, has agreed to fund this initial investigation, which will document the nature and location of archaeological sites within the proposed development. Given the density of



Above, general view of Camp Security site looking south; right, red earthenware storage vessels and porringer excavated in 1979. Photo courtesy of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.



artifacts found during the 1979 excavations, further investigation may be required to satisfy Section 106. The developer has not agreed to fund any additional investigation, and although a local university has offered to excavate the site for free over a period of years, their timetable does not meet the developer's needs.

The developer is willing to donate or sell several acres for preservation, although agreement on how much to preserve and identification of a willing buyer or recipient have yet to be determined. If agreement cannot be reached, the entire site may be lost. In another possible scenario, the development could be redesigned to avoid impact to streams and wetlands, thereby removing Corps jurisdiction and the need to comply with Section 106. If this should happen, the site would be lost, without further research prior to destruction.

PRESERVATION PENNSYLVANIA

Board of Directors

David L. Taylor *Brookville*
President

Ann N. Greene *Philadelphia*
Vice-President

Denise Illig Robison *Erie*
Secretary

Thomas B. Hagen *Erie*
Treasurer

James Adovasio, Ph.D. *Erie*
Carl J. Anderson, III *Erie*
Thomas W. Armstrong *Pittsburgh*
Hon. Kerry Benninghoff *Bellefonte*
Freddie Bittenbender *Shickshinny*
R. John Dawes *Alexandria*
Mary Werner DeNadai, AIA *Chadds Ford*
Brenton H. Fisher *Altoona*
Brent D. Glass, Ph.D. *Harrisburg*
Samuel Y. Harris, AIA, PE, Esq. *Philadelphia*
John A. Jarvis *Lancaster*
James N. Kise, AIA, AICP *Philadelphia*
Janet S. Klein *Rydal*
M. Hannah Leavitt, Esq. *Harrisburg*
Ann M. Liacouras, Esq. *Gladwyne*
Robert A. MacDonnell, Esq. *West Chester*
Lisa Wray Mazzanti *Springville*
Gail C. Momjian *Plymouth Meeting*
Naomi Nelson *Philadelphia*
Lawrence Newman *Wilkes-Barre*
Robert Pfaffmann, AIA *Pittsburgh*
Thomas R. Rippon *Mifflinburg*
Hon. Patricia H. Vance *Camp Hill*
Hon. Michael Waugh *York*
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. *Pittsburgh*
Philip D. Zimmerman, Ph.D. *Lancaster*

Board of Advisors

Louis J. Appell, Jr. *York*
Hon. David J. Brightbill *Lebanon*
Nora Mead Brownell *Spring House*
Anne S. Genter *Sewickley*
Cynthia Phelps Giles *Sewickley*
Carole F. Haas Gravagno *Ambler*
Henry A. Jordan, M.D. *Chester Springs*
Alvin B. Lewis, Jr., Esq. *Lancaster*
Hyman Myers, AIA *Philadelphia*
Jean Craige Pepper *Erie*
Harley N. Trice, Esq. *Pittsburgh*
Lynda S. Waggoner *Mill Run*
Margaret B. Wallis *Ambler*

Staff

Patrick A. Foltz.....Executive Director
Susan Shearer.....Assistant Executive
Director/Editor
Sheila Campbell.....Program Director
Bonita C. Hoke.....Development Director
Anita Paynter.....Administrative Assistant

Clarion County Jail Clarion, Clarion County



Significance

Prominently located in downtown Clarion, the Clarion County Jail was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The governmental complex, which includes the jail and the courthouse, is the only property in the borough currently listed in the Register, and it is one of only two listings in the entire county.

The jail was constructed between 1873 and 1875. Located directly behind the courthouse, it is an imposing building with semi-octagonal projecting bays and a 97-foot square battlement tower rising from the center of the front section. The front section of the building is brick with a series of sandstone arched windows on the first and second stories. The remaining architectural features are accented with sandstone, projecting brick and crenellations, creating an extraordinarily well-detailed example of prison architecture.

Preserving Pennsylvania is a quarterly publication of Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc., 257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101; phone 717-234-2310; fax 717-234-2522; PPA@preservationpa.org; www.preservationpa.org

This publication has been financed in part with funds from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Historical and Museum Commission, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute an endorsement or recommendation by them. Additional support is provided by membership dues and contributions. Portions of the newsletter that are not copyrighted or reprinted from other sources may be reprinted provided proper credit is given. ISSN 0888-7306

Historically, the front section served as the warden's residence, kitchen and administrative offices for the jail. The rear wing, constructed of rock-faced ashlar sandstone with narrow rectangular cell windows, houses two tiers of cells flanking a central interior court.

Threat

In the early 1990s, the jail was determined to be outdated and was replaced in 1995

with a new facility located in nearby Shippensburg. For the last five years, the building has housed a number of county government functions, including the 911 Emergency Center and document storage.

In 1995 the Clarion County Commissioners received a \$100,000 Keystone Historic Preservation Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to rehabilitate the jail into modern office and storage space. Despite many extensions on the initial grant, opposition from the local newspaper and newly-elected county commissioners continually delayed the project. Recently, the commissioners voted to abandon the project and return the grant to the PHMC.

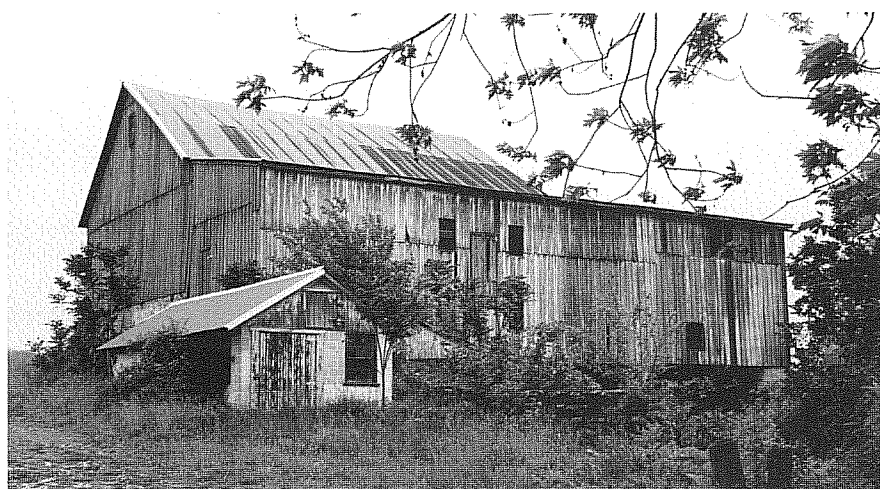
A new proposal is to demolish the jail to make way for parking and possible development of a new county services building on the site.

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.

Saalbach Barn

West Caln Township, Chester County



Significance

In defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act, Quaker abolitionist Thomas Bonsall offered sanctuary to escaping slaves on his Chester County farm. The granaries of his large barn provided shelter and hiding until it was safe to move on to the next stop on this Underground Railroad route.

The barn is part of an agricultural complex that dates to the 1700s and encompasses more than 200 acres located to the northwest of Coatesville. Bonsall owned the farm from 1834 until 1868, and it continued as a working farm until the 1993 death of George Saalbach, whose family acquired the property in the 1930s. Saalbach willed the property to the Brandywine Valley Association, a non-

profit conservation watershed organization, with the stipulation that it be maintained for agricultural purposes.

Documented sites of the Underground Railroad are rare. Written records would have jeopardized the safety of fugitive slaves, and, if discovered, also would have meant confiscation of the owner's property and loss of important safe havens along the route to freedom. Confirmation of the ties of this property to the Underground Railroad, as well as its virtually uncompromised rural character, offers a unique opportunity to tell the story of this challenging time in our nation's history.

Threat

Since acquiring the farm in 1993, the Brandywine Valley Association (BVA) has renovated two houses on the property and is pursuing long range plans for interpreting the natural environment associated with the site. In 1997, however, BVA proposed dismantling the barn because of its deteriorating condition. Local opposition to destruction of this important link to the story of the Underground Railroad has grown since the announcement. Demolition opponents, led by West Caln Township supervisor Donald Hannum, believe destruction of the barn violates Saalbach's will. In the meantime, without even basic maintenance, the barn continues to deteriorate. Immediate and adequate funding for restoration is key to its preservation.

Risk Assessment: 2000

The older a building gets, the more threats it seems to face. Neglect can eat away at its integrity, rotting timbers, holing roofs, crumbling mortar and foundations. It is a slow process, but an inevitably fatal one.

Some buildings face threats more menacing than the elements. Traditionally grouped under the general category of "progress," there is nothing progressive about sprawl and eminent domain, or an owner's failure to realize how historic buildings can enrich a community's future.

When a building falls to the wrecking ball or bulldozer, it isn't progress. Often, it is a sign of surrender, a tacit admission that the owner lacked the imagination, sensitivity, or sense of stewardship needed to accommodate his or her desires without destroying a piece of the local past.

When private owners make such decisions, it's unfortunate. When a unit of government uses eminent domain to take and destroy such properties, it is inexcusable. Not since the destructive days of urban renewal has eminent domain been such a looming threat to the State's historic buildings and sites.

Those of us who believe that historic buildings have a role to play in the future of Pennsylvania have much to do to educate the public, reduce the risks and to shorten the list.

Patrick A. Foltz
Executive Director

Contributors to this Issue:

Scott Doyle, Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Gail Momjian, Plymouth Meeting Historical Society
Elizabeth Roman, Historic York, Inc.
Adrian Scott Fine, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Donald Hannum, West Caln Township, Chester County
Roberta Ramsay/Nancy Smith, Tyrone
Norman Farrell, Easton

First National Bank of Tyrone

Tyrone, Blair County

Significance

The Borough of Tyrone developed following the arrival of the Pennsylvania Railroad's main line to this part of western Pennsylvania in 1850. For the next ninety years, the community thrived as one of the most important stations between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, functioning as a hub for several branch and independent lines serving the timber-and coal-rich region. The downtown boasted an array of fine late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings, including the imposing First National Bank.

When it opened in the fall of 1906, this four-story Italian Renaissance Revival style building was hailed in the local press as the "most costly and beautiful structure in Tyrone." Praised as "substantially constructed, elaborately ornamented, and artistically finished and furnished—A fine edifice of best material, containing tons of stone, brick, marble, iron, concrete," the building was designed by the Beezer Bros. of Pitts-



burgh. Located at the principal downtown intersection, it originally housed the bank and six apartments on the upper floors. The building is part of the National Register-listed Tyrone Borough Historic District.

Threat

The solid and imposing structural qualities that garnered praise in 1906 are, in fact, contributing to problems confronting the building today. The collapse of a section of the building in 1996 raised questions about its overall structural integrity. According to a recent assessment by a structural engineer, the lack of steel reinforcement in the area of collapse (and possibly throughout the entire building), places the building at risk of further collapse unless reinforcement is added. The significant level of funding necessary to repair and stabilize the building are challenging to a community struggling to revitalize its downtown business area.

Cold Point Village Historic District

Plymouth & Whitemarsh Townships, Montgomery County



Significance

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, the Cold Point Historic District includes the village and a number of surrounding farms and farmsteads. Early settlers to this part of southeastern Pennsylvania were drawn by the area's rich soil and limestone deposits. The Corson limestone quarry, established in 1843, is still operating and is the oldest continually worked lime quarry in the nation.

The architecture of the village reflects the English-Welsh heritage of the builders and the raw materials found close at hand. Houses are predominately two and a half story rubble stone single-family dwellings, stuccoed, with gabled roofs, some exhibiting Greek Revival and Gothic detailing. At the time of the nomination to the National Register, the village had 90 structures. These included more than 90 percent of the buildings that appeared on an 1877 atlas.

Threat

Sprawling residential and commercial development is, by far, the greatest single threat to historic places in Pennsylvania. In tiny Cold Point Village, located in the midst of suburban Philadelphia growth, five important buildings have already been lost and major landowners are preparing development plans that could impact more historic buildings and the surrounding rural landscape that still gives the village its historic context. In addition, expansion of the Corson Quarry now sends hundreds of trucks through the village's small roads causing traffic congestion and possible structural damage to the houses.

The Plymouth Meeting Historical Society is attempting to work with local officials and landowners to find development solutions that respect the historic district. Their challenge is to build support to convince township officials of the importance of protecting and preserving the village.

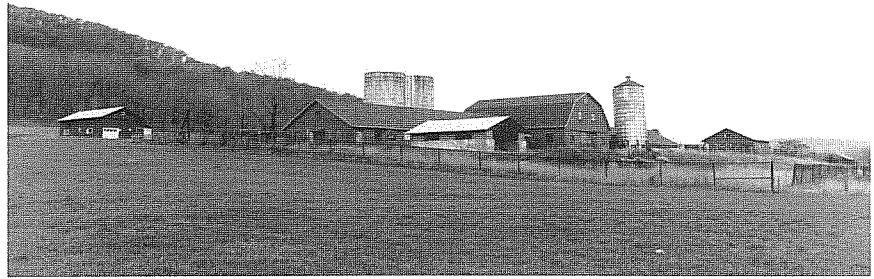
Farview State Hospital Agricultural Complex

Waymart, Wayne County

Significance

The former Farview State Mental Hospital, located in the northeastern corner of Pennsylvania, was established in 1905 as the State Hospital for the Criminal Insane. The property originally consisted of over 1,500 acres, half of which were donated by the Delaware & Hudson Company and its subsidiary, Hudson Coal Company. Farview derived its name from popular picnic grounds developed by the Delaware & Hudson near the highest point along its Gravity Railroad over the Moosic Mountains.

The hospital employed a system of patient labor, with inmates working the adjacent farmland to reduce the cost of expenses to the state. The prison farming operation included crops, dairy cattle, horses, pigs, and chickens. Twelve agricultural structures, dating from the mid 19th century through the 1930s, form a significant agricultural complex that was



operated by the hospital until the end of legalized institutional peonage in the early 1970s. The complex has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Threat

Plans to build a massive Federal penitentiary and prison camp on a portion of the grounds associated with the hospital threaten the original agricultural complex and the historic elevated railroad bed, as well as surrounding pristine farmland. Under

Section 106 review, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has proposed mitigation to include a historic marker and booklet describing lost structures.

Local citizens have expressed concern about the handling of the Section 106 process, in particular the expenditure of funds on land acquisition before completion of the review; and they have called for consideration of alternative sites in the area and for more meaningful mitigation alternatives that would benefit and preserve the community's heritage.

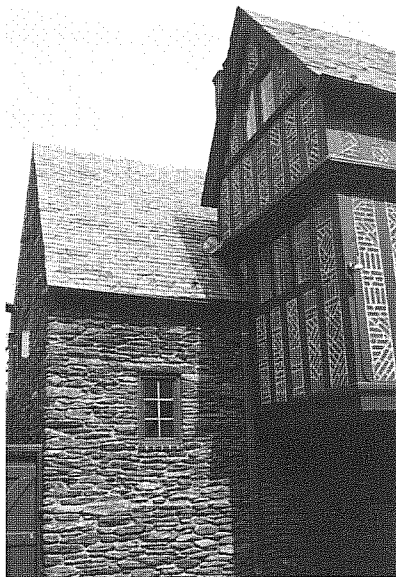
Baker House

Harrisburg, Dauphin County

Significance

Located at 2701 N. Front Street overlooking the Susquehanna River, the Anne and Ralph J. Baker House was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in May 2000. Built in 1925, it was constructed at a time when Harrisburg was in the midst of a remarkable civic transformation. The house was designed by the nationally renowned Philadelphia architecture firm of Mellor, Meigs and Howe. The Baker House represents the firm's only commission in the Harrisburg area and is one of the few remaining example of early 20th century residential architecture that once defined Front Street and River Front Park.

The L-shaped house, constructed of local stone, is deftly integrated into the urban setting. It is highlighted by the intersections of steeply pitched slate roofs, half-timbering and stucco in the projecting gabled entrance, irregular placement of ribbons of metal casement windows, and the grouping of decorative brick chimneys. The interior is well-appointed with arched



passageways of carved limestone, walnut paneling and ironwork from the studios of master craftsman Samuel Yellin. The original landscaping, enclosed by a high stone wall, consisted of mature trees and terraced lawns and patios descending to River Front Park. In 1972 the house became a doctor's office; presently, it is headquarters for the United Way of the Capital Region.

Threat

A one-story office building, constructed next to the house in 1972, was severely damaged in a fire in April 2000 and was immediately demolished. Although no damage occurred to the Baker House, soon after the fire the United Way announced plans to demolish the house and construct a new two-story headquarters on the property. They cited the flood plain, parking problems and lack of ADA compliance among the reasons for their decision.

Although they have expressed a strong desire to stay in the city amidst the community they serve, the United Way has explored few alternatives to demolition of this historic building. Unenthusiastic attempts to rehabilitate the house, or offer it for sale and find or build a new United Way headquarters elsewhere in the city, place the future of the Baker House in doubt. Not only would demolition of the Baker House mean the loss of an architecturally important building, it would also contribute to the continued disintegration of Harrisburg's most important residential street and its most significant civic landscape.

North Hill Historic District and New Castle High School

New Castle, Lawrence County

Significance

Listed in the National Register earlier this year, the North Hill Historic District is a residential neighborhood in the City of New Castle in western Pennsylvania. The neighborhood was developed between 1870 and 1949, with a wide variety of architectural styles, including Craftsman, American Foursquare, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival. Most buildings were constructed between 1890 and 1920, paralleling the rapid growth of the railroad, tin, pottery, and steel industries in the community. This district, which was the major residential area for factory owners and managers, is situated on the crest of the hills overlooking the city's business district and mills.

Also located within the neighborhood are several school buildings. The architectural style and setting for the schools blend seamlessly into the character of the district, creating an ideal living environment. The most impressive of the schools is the Neoclassical style New Castle High School, designed by the local firm of W.G. Eckles Company Architects in 1910-11.



Left, 1910 high school, and below, one of the 16 homes slated for demolition under the plan for a new high school.



Threat

In May 1999, the New Castle Area School District presented the results of a feasibility study on the adequacy of district school buildings in providing quality education. Three options were presented for the high school: rehabilitation of the existing building; demolition of the building and new construction on the existing site; or demolition and new construction on a new site. The school district has announced its intention to adopt the second option. Plans for the new school not only call for demolition of the historic high school but also demolition of 16 homes, all contributing buildings in the historic district sur-

rounding the school. Extensive demolition is deemed necessary to accommodate a sprawling building and parking. The feasibility study shows that the existing school can be rehabilitated to meet program needs for less cost without demolition of 16 homes. Concerned local citizens are advocating that the school board reconsider its plan, utilize the existing school, and preserve the historic character of the residential neighborhood.

Chambersburg Historic District

Chambersburg, Franklin County

Significance

The prevailing character of the Chambersburg Historic District is defined by the Great Fire of 1864 during the Civil War. On July 30, 1864, Confederate forces burned most of this southcentral Pennsylvania community to the ground. After the Great Fire, the local economy boomed with the development of iron foundries and the repair and marshalling yards of the Cumberland Valley Railroad. Burned-out areas were rapidly reconstructed, displaying a remarkable architectural cohesiveness. This cohesiveness is most apparent in the central commercial area, characterized by a sequence of three-story Italianate buildings constructed between 1864 and 1870. The historic district, which was listed in the National Register in 1982, also includes three residential areas.



Threat

The character of the district remained firmly intact until a recent wave of proposed redevelopment projects. One of the projects, a cultural arts center at 161-173 Main Street, pictured above, calls for the demolition of three Italianate commercial buildings and four residential

buildings adjacent to the Capitol Theatre. Meanwhile, the theater is undergoing rehabilitation funded by a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant. Regrettably, the plan that would demolish the historic build-

ings for new construction was done without considering their potential for rehabilitation.

The emphasis in Chambersburg has been on preservation of individual landmarks and sites, overlooking the importance of streetscapes and cohesive neighborhoods as the unifying thread in the fabric of the community.

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, released each spring, 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 1992-1999

*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

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)
Howe-Childs Gateway House, Pittsburgh
(1996)
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)
S.S. Grand View Point Hotel (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

Leap the Dips, Lakemont Park, Altoona*
(1995)
Roosevelt School, Claysburg (1998)

Bucks County

Delaware Canal, Bucks & Northampton
Counties (1993)
Moland House, Warwick Township,
Bucks County (1995)
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)

Chester County

Brandywine Battlefield, Chester &
Delaware Counties (1994)
Deshong Estate, Chester (1992)
Downingtown Junior High School,
Downingtown (1998)
Phoenix Iron & Steel Company Foundry
Building, Phoenixville (1996)
Roger Hunt Mill & Miller's House,
Downingtown (1997)

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)
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)
Ridley High School, Ridley Township
(1998)

continued on page 8

Erie County

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

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)

Lawrence County

Elliott Mine Archeological Complex, Butler & Lawrence Counties (1999)
Knox Building (Cascade Theater), New Castle (1996)

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)
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)

Montgomery County

King of Prussia Inn (1993)
Lynnwood Hall, Cheltenham Township (1992)
Selma, Norristown (1992)

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

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)
Siegmond Lubin Studio** (1995)
United States Naval Home (1992)
Victory Building (1993)

Somerset County

Palace Hotel, Windber** (1993)

Venango County

Coal Oil Johnny House (1997)

York County

Borg Warner Complex, York* (1993)
Shoe House, Hellam, York County* (1994)

KEYSTONE SOCIETY

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Louis J. Appell, Jr./Susquehanna Pfaltzgraff Buchanan Ingersoll
Chester County Community Foundation
Claneil Foundation
Greater Harrisburg Foundation
Carole F. Haas Gravagno
Thomas B. Hagen
Heberling Associates, Inc.
Howard Heinz Endowment
John Milner Architects, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Juliet Hillman Simonds Foundation
Kinsley Family Foundation
Drew and Marilyn Lewis
National Park Service
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Pennrose Properties, Inc.
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Richard King Mellon Foundation
The Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Sovereign Bank
Steel Industry Heritage Foundation
William Penn Foundation
Wyomissing Foundation
York Federal Savings and Loan Foundation
Keystone Society members contribute a minimum of \$2,500 annually to Preservation Pennsylvania

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE CLUB

Anonymous
Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation
Freddie Bittenbender
Harvey Bradley
David M. Brashear
Larry Brown
Center for Rural Pennsylvania
Charitable Gift Fund
William B. Churchman, III
Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Felley
Ann and Davis Greene
Griffiths Construction Company
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Hillman
Leroy King
Tighe & Kathy King
Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson Kise
Ann Liacouras
McEwen Trust
Mr. and Mrs. John Milner
Caroline Nunan
Ronald J. Pace
Mary V. Pendleton
Thomas Rippon
Robbie and Denise Illig Robison
Vinokur Pace Engineering Services
York Bank and Trust Co.
The York Water Company
Pennsylvania Heritage Club members contribute \$1,000 annually to Preservation Pennsylvania
For more information on becoming a member of the Keystone Society or Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact Preservation Pennsylvania

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE VOICE FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S HERITAGE

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Professional	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Heritage Club	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Keystone Society	\$2,500

Also enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ to further the work of Preservation Pennsylvania. I would like to designate this contribution for _____.

☐ Please call me to discuss including Preservation Pennsylvania as a beneficiary under my will.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail address _____

New ☐ Renewal ☐ Change of Address ☐

Please make check payable to:
 Preservation Pennsylvania
 257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

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.

UPDATES ON PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK 1992-1999

• **Fifth and Forbes downtown area, Pittsburgh (1999).** Under the city's plans for development of this downtown area into an urban mall, more than 60 buildings are scheduled for condemnation and demolition. As various alternative plans have been put forward for the area which encompasses the National Register-eligible Pittsburgh Downtown Retail Historic District, the issue that has risen to the top of the debate is that of using eminent domain to acquire buildings. Legally, eminent domain can be used by government to take property if it is for a "public purpose". The question in the Pittsburgh case: Is it a public purpose for the city to take property so it can be turned over to an out-of-state, private developer? This question appears to be surfacing in other places, as well. In York, for example, eminent domain is a potential instrument for taking and demolishing more than 30 buildings in an urban historic district to allow a private college to construct new student dormitories.

• **Thomas Kent Jr. Farm, Greene County (1999).** RAG Emerald Resources Corp., the firm that owns the mineral rights under the farm, succeeded in having National Register designation removed from the property in March. The National Park Service removed the listing because the mining company, as an owner of the property, was not included in the nomination process. Owners of the historic farmhouse and related buildings, which are threatened

by effects from longwall mining, have vowed to renominate the property to the National Register.

• **Dream Garden Mural, Philadelphia (1999)** Preservationists are encouraged by a ruling in December 1999 by the Court of Common Pleas, which refused to hear an appeal from the estate of John Merriam, which owns the mural, before the estate goes through the normal, lengthy appeals process. The estate seeks to overturn the city's historic designation of the mural, paving the way for them to sell this historic object that many consider to be one of Philadelphia's finest examples of public art.

• **Cyclorama Building, Gettysburg (1999).** The December 1999 denial by the National Park Service of National Historic Landmark (NHL) status for Richard Neutra's Cyclorama Building (which was determined eligible for the National Register in 1998) has been appealed by the Society of Architectural Historians. Reconsideration of the NHL nomination is expected this fall.

• The issue of **endangered historic school buildings (1998 Special Issue of *Pennsylvania At Risk*)** continues to be a major concern for preservationists across the Commonwealth.

Featured in the 1998 list, the **Hershey Consolidated School** was sold in December 1999 to a local developer.

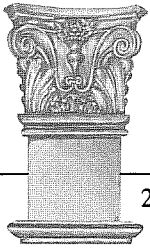
Although a specific reuse plan has yet to be developed, the new owners have indicated they will make every attempt to preserve the historic facade of this National Register-eligible building.

Hazleton High School, also featured in the 1998 listing and determined eligible for the National Register, was rejected for continued educational use by the local school district. Although a developer had actively pursued reuse, his recent withdrawal from the project places the future of the building in doubt.

Preservation Pennsylvania continues to publicize the revised guidelines from the Pennsylvania Department of Education that leveled the playing field for rehabilitation of existing schools and we are working closely with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on other ways to promote the preservation of historic school buildings. The new guidelines have been instrumental in a decision by the **Easton Area School Board** to rehab rather than close the **March Elementary School**, built in 1913 and listed as a contributing building in the College Hill Residential Historic District.

• **Philadelphia Naval Hospital (1996).** In the fall of 1999 the Navy concluded consultation in the Section 106 process on the disposition of this complex of historic buildings, committing to completion of the HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) recordation as well as a landscape inventory and analysis. The Advisory

continued on page 10



Preservation Pennsylvania

257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 521
Harrisburg, PA

Updates 1992-1999....continued from page 9

Council on Historic Preservation, in their final comments, expressed great concern at the loss of a significant historic resource for both the Navy and the City of Philadelphia, as well as a visual landmark. The Council cited failure by the Navy and City to consider flexible redevelopment plans that could have retained the earliest and architecturally significant buildings on the site. The City, which will receive control of the property upon transfer from the Navy, has no firm development plans in place. In the meantime, demolition and site clearance have already begun with removal of officer and worker housing and landscape features.

- **Leap-The-Dips, Lakemont Park, Altoona** (1995). The world's oldest wooden roller coaster and the last known example in the U.S. of a side-friction figure eight roller coaster, Leap-The-Dips reopened on Memorial Day 1999 following extensive restoration. The project to restore this National Historic Landmark was undertaken by the Leap-The-Dips

Preservation Foundation, a non-profit corporation which owns the coaster and is charged with maintaining it for future generations.

- **Penn Square, Reading** (1995). A recent threat to the integrity of Penn Square is a plan by the Greater Berks Development Fund to demolish a row of buildings in the southwest quadrant of the square to prepare the site for future development. In words that harken back to the era of 1960s urban renewal, Greater Berks plans to install a surface parking lot on the site until a developer can be secured for the property. At last word, Greater Berks has agreed to spare Farris Shoe Store which is reported to contain part of what may be the oldest building remaining in the city. Penn Square is part of the Callowhill Certified Local Historic District.

- **Mountain Springs Hotel, Ephrata** (1993). The Borough of Ephrata recently allocated funding to the newly formed Ephrata Economic Development Corporation to purchase and rehabilitate this 19th

century Lancaster County landmark which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Initial plans are to renovate the property into a small hotel. To help make this happen, borough council created a new zoning area around the hotel; the property is also located in a Keystone Opportunity Zone, providing financial incentives to the project.

- **Delaware Canal** (1993). While planning to rewater the canal continues, State Park plans for paving the 60-mile towpath with a 6' wide gravel surface have raised local concerns about whether this is appropriate treatment for this National Historic Landmark. A compromise is being sought by local residents who advocate keeping the northern section of the towpath in its natural vegetated state.

- **Colonial Theater, Lebanon** (1993), located on a prominent corner in the center of the city of Lebanon and determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, was demolished in May of this year.