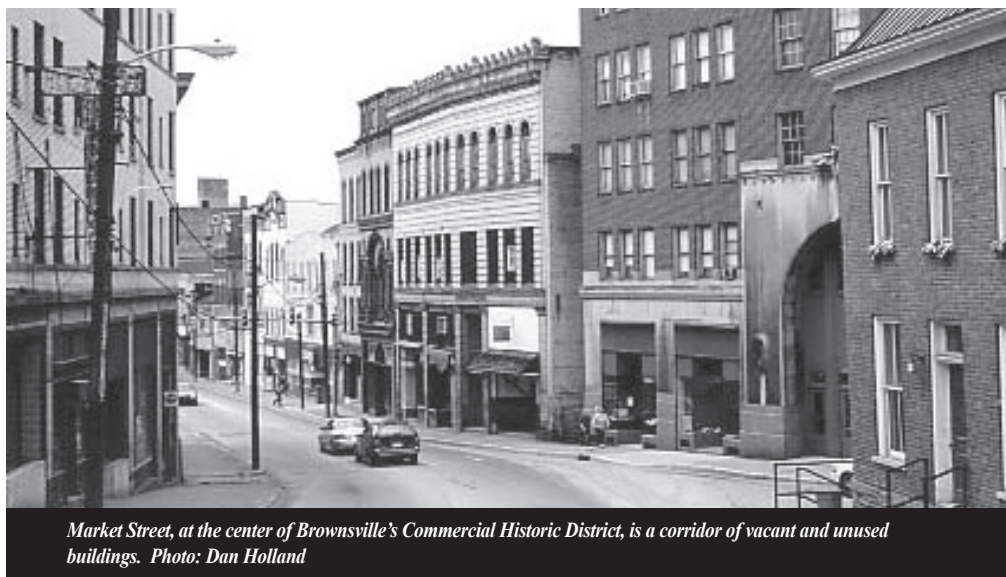




VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3 SUMMER 2004

# Pennsylvania At Risk 2004 *The Annual Listing of the Commonwealth's Most Endangered Historic Properties*



*Market Street, at the center of Brownsville's Commercial Historic District, is a corridor of vacant and unused buildings. Photo: Dan Holland*

## Brownsville Commercial Historic District, Brownsville Borough, Fayette County

### Significance

The Brownsville Commercial Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. This concentrated collection of commercial buildings, located along the east bank of the Monongahela River, dates primarily from the period 1900-1930 with a few earlier and later examples. The district includes the c. 1835 Flatiron Building, restored in the 1990s and now the home of the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation (BARC). The Brownsville Commercial Historic District reflects local early twentieth century vernacular building traditions but also features Italianate, Neoclassical, Art Deco and Art Moderne elements.

The newly constructed National Road came through Brownsville in 1817 bringing a dramatic increase in business. Prosperity declined in 1852 when the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line bypassed Brownsville but in the early twentieth century leading railroad companies

formed the Monongahela Railway with hauling, repair and, later, administrative headquarters in Brownsville. An influx of immigrants, working in the coal mines and on the railroad, vastly increased Brownsville's population and the commercial district along the "Neck" served local and surrounding coal patch towns citizens as the hub for their personal and business needs.

## Threat

Today Market Street, the main artery of the commercial district, resembles an eerie ghost town with vacant and under-maintained storefronts and buildings. Over 90 percent of the commercial district is currently under the control of one property owner who hopes to make downtown Brownsville a riverboat or casino gambling hub and refuses to rehabilitate or sell the buildings for any other purpose. In February the elaborately designed 1920 Plaza Theater was demolished and others may soon follow although the majority of the buildings are in fair to good shape. The BARC, with community and regional support, stands ready to reclaim the historic commercial district of this distinctive community and put it back to work. 🍷

## Brownsville Commercial Historic District, Fayette County

**Ambridge High School,  
Ambridge Borough,  
Beaver County**

**Heidelberg (Kerlin Farm),  
Cheltenham Township,  
Montgomery County**

## Westinghouse Atom Smasher, Forest Hills, Allegheny County

## Mount Moriah Cemetery, City of Philadelphia & Yeadon Borough, Delaware County

**Reed Hall, Dixmont State  
Hospital, Kilbuck Township,  
Allegheny County**

**Schwab School, Weatherly  
Borough, Carbon County**

**Broad Ford Overholt Distillery,  
Upper Tyrone Township,  
Fayette County**

## Pearl S. Buck House, Hilltown Township, Bucks County

## Lincoln Highway Garage, York, York County

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## Ambridge High School, Ambridge, Beaver County

### Significance

The borough of Ambridge was incorporated in 1905, following the dissolution of the utopian Harmony Society. The new community was named for the American Bridge Company that purchased land from the Society and built a large manufacturing complex and housing for its growing workforce. The imposing three-story brick school, originally built as a junior high school to serve the rapidly expanding population, was dedicated on April 13, 1926. The building is a significant community landmark and a link to Ambridge's heritage as a 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial center.

### Contributors to this Issue

Scott Doyle, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
Cheltenham Township  
John W. Coltman, Pittsburgh  
Karen Overholt Critchfield, , Pittsburgh  
John Ellingsworth, Philadelphia

### Threat

As Ambridge strives to build a new identity and economy based on smaller, diverse manufacturing plants and tourism from Old Economy Village, a historic site administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the potential loss of Ambridge High School is seen by many as further eroding both the pride and potential of a struggling community. Ambridge residents have formed Concerned Citizens of the Ambridge Area School District to advocate for keeping and rehabilitating this important community and educational landmark instead of replacing it with a new school.

Historic neighborhood schools are under assault across Pennsylvania. In response to calls from communities such as Warren, Altoona, Meadville, Souderton, and Ambridge, Preservation Pennsylvania is working with Tom Hylton, author of the acclaimed *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania*, to address the growing number of neighborhood school closings and the implications for Pennsylvania communities. The issues involve land use concerns related to plans for new buildings, educational quality and health issues posed by large consolidated facilities to which all students must be bused, and the potential negative impact of school closings on community and neighborhood vitality.

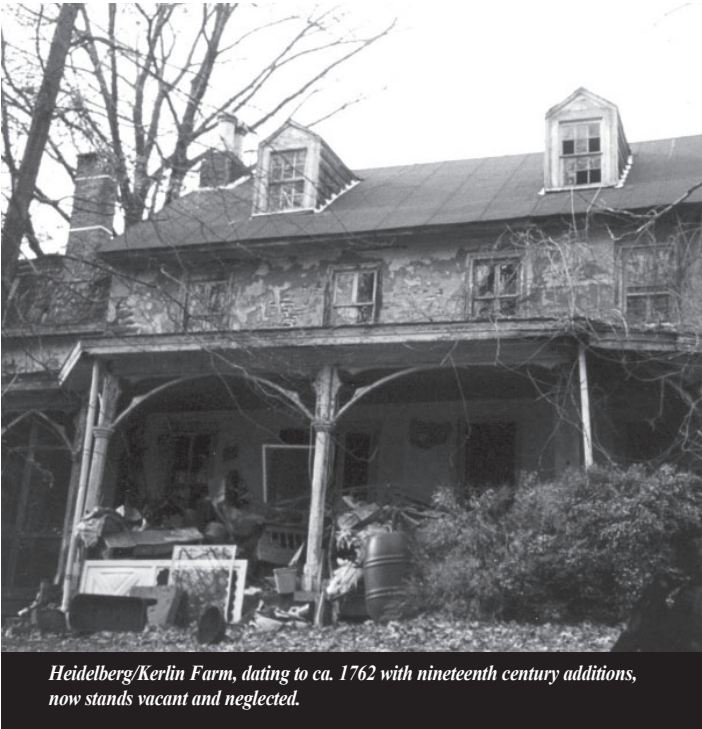
At the state level, efforts are underway with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to advocate for incentives that would encourage communities to rehabilitate existing buildings rather than construct new schools outside of existing neighborhoods. ♥

**Mission Statement** Preservation Pennsylvania through creative partnerships, targeted educational programs 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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## Heidelberg (Kerlin Farm), Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County



*Heidelberg/Kerlin Farm, dating to ca. 1762 with nineteenth century additions, now stands vacant and neglected.*

### Significance

In ca. 1682 William Penn sold a land grant for 1000 acres, part of which would eventually become Cheltenham Township, to Everard Bolton and others shortly after their arrival in the New World. Bolton's share of the land was three hundred acres and he is believed to have constructed a home, known in the nineteenth century as Heidelberg, now as Kerlin Farm, here in the late seventeenth century. According to eighteenth century tax records, the original portion of the house was a two-story stone structure and there were several additions, including a third story, during the nineteenth century. The property remained in the hands of Bolton family heirs until the mid-twentieth century. This house is likely the oldest residence in Cheltenham Township and may be one of the oldest in Pennsylvania.

### Threat

The current owner inherited a portion of the property and bought out the shares of the other heirs in 1985. It was apparently her intention to restore the house and reside there. However, the property has not been properly maintained for several years and is now in danger of being lost due to extensive water damage and overall neglect. The Cheltenham Township Historical Commission does not want to lose a significant example of early community and Pennsylvania history and is hopeful that increased awareness will encourage the sale and/or appropriate rehabilitation of this historic property. ♥

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## Westinghouse Atom Smasher, Forest Hills, Allegheny County

### Significance

The five million volt van de Graaf Atom Smasher Generator represents the first large-scale program in nuclear physics established in private industry. Constructed by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1937, it made possible precise measurements of nuclear reactions and provided valuable research experience for Westinghouse's pioneering work in nuclear power. The Atom Smasher, 30 feet in diameter and 47 feet high, created nuclear reactions by bombarding target atoms with a beam of high-energy particles down a vacuum tube extending from the top of the pear-shaped pressure vessel to a target below. The remarkable aspect of the Atom Smasher's history is that Westinghouse made the decision to build the generator in 1936, three years before the discovery of nuclear fission opened up the possibilities of nuclear power. The Atom Smasher continued in operation until 1958.



*The 1937 five million volt van de Graaf Atom Smasher Generator represents the first large-scale program in nuclear physics established in private industry. Photo Source: IEEE History Center*

### Threat

With the former Westinghouse research facility in Forest Hills being put up for sale, the future of the Atom Smasher is in doubt as the site is prepared for sale by present owner Viacom.

Designated as one of 50 historical milestones by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and as a historic landmark by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, the Atom Smasher is the centerpiece of Westinghouse's private nuclear physics program. Though Viacom has approached several institutions about displaying and interpreting the Atom Smasher, the size of the generator has prevented most preservation efforts. Adorned with the 1950's Westinghouse logo, the importance of the Atom Smasher requires greater recognition and subsequent support for its preservation, especially within the scientific research and technology communities. The Atom Smasher is located in a clearly visible public space, and with additional interpretation and signage, can continue to serve as a testament to Westinghouse's contributions to technological innovation. ♥



*Gravestones throughout Mount Moriah Cemetery are broken, and covered with trash and weeds. The elaborate 1855 gatehouse is rapidly deteriorating. Photos: John Ellingsworth*

## **Mount Moriah Cemetery, City of Philadelphia and Yeadon Borough, Delaware County**

### ***Significance***

Established by an Act of the Legislature in 1855, Mount Moriah Cemetery was touted as Philadelphia's "great rural cemetery ... forever secure against disturbance from opening of streets or the growth of the

city." The cemetery featured an elaborately designed gatehouse and entrance opening onto orderly graveled avenues that led to lots of considerable natural beauty, surrounded by a high stone wall for security. Today the cemetery is located on 380 acres along both sides of Cobbs Creek with land in both southwestern Philadelphia and in Yeadon Borough. Mount Moriah is the final resting place for many early leaders of Philadelphia as well as over 5,000 veterans from the

Civil War, two World Wars and the Korean conflict. A ten-acre plot, purchased by the United States government in 1864, became the burial site for residents of the Naval Asylum, later known as the Naval Home, and remained in use until 1976.

### ***Threat***

Mount Moriah Cemetery is neglected, deteriorating and dangerous. Most of the cemetery is not mowed regularly, hundreds

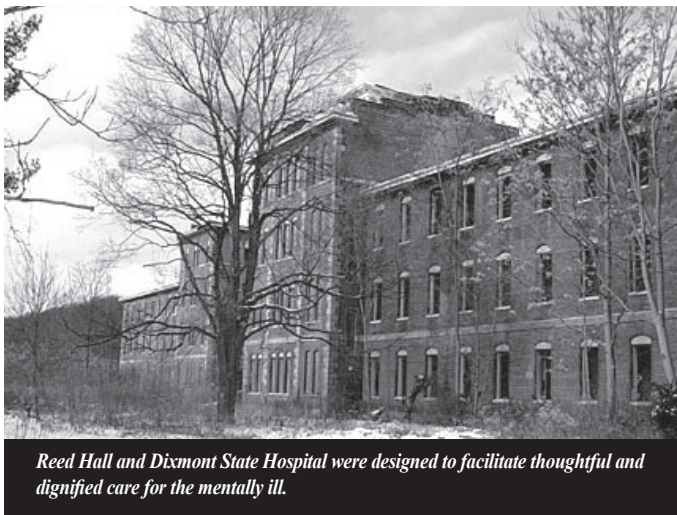
of historic gravestones are broken, leaning, sunk into the ground or



indistinguishable amid waist tall grass and garbage and trash abound. The Romanesque brownstone gatehouse and entrance, designed 1855 by Philadelphia architect Stephen D. Button (1813-1897), is boarded-up, vine covered and under-maintained. Ownership of Mount Moriah Cemetery is not clear but it may be family owned through a non-profit corporation. The Pennsylvania Department of State has no annual reports on file for the non-profit corporation and there are currently a number of outstanding City code violations. The care, management and protection of historic cemeteries is complex and is often best handled with a cooperative partnership of owners, volunteers and community and governmental support. ▼

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## **Reed Hall, Dixmont State Hospital, Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County**



*Reed Hall and Dixmont State Hospital were designed to facilitate thoughtful and dignified care for the mentally ill.*

### ***Significance***

In response to growing concerns for the moral treatment and care of patients suffering from mental and emotional disorders, the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, constructed in 1859, was among the first asylums in the nation to provide patients with healthful occupation and recreation in a dignified setting. The hospital was renamed Dixmont Hospital in 1860 in honor of Dortha Dix, one of the foremost pioneers in promoting the humane treatment of the mentally ill. The main building,

the massive red brick, Romanesque-style Reed Hall, is based on the design of Thomas Kirkbride, the superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. The linear plan, with a central building to house administration and wings extending from each side with setbacks – men on one side, women on the other – provided sitting alcoves and comfortable, well-ventilated, well-lit single patient dormitory rooms along a wide central corridor. The 400-acre hospital site was also self-sufficient with workshops, farming, livestock, recreational fields and gardens.

### ***Threat***

In 1980, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare nominated Reed Hall for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. With the consolidation of State mental health facilities in 1984, Dixmont Hospital was closed and transferred to private ownership in 1995. Unfortunately, the transfer occurred without protective covenants to ensure the preservation and maintenance of Reed Hall. The property has suffered severe neglect including fire, vandalism and abandonment. In 2002, proposals surfaced to demolish the remainder of Dixmont Hospital and re-develop the site as a major big box retail outlet. Based on a request by the owners to remove Reed Hall from the National Register, a site visit in July 2002 by PHMC staff concluded that Reed Hall continued to be recognizable as nationally significant. A local group, Communities First!, has been advocating for the preservation of the site, but lost a Common Pleas Court decision in late July. Communities First! is planning an appeal and other efforts to defeat the proposed project. ▼





*The 1901 Mrs. C. M. Schwab School was a gift to the community of Weatherly by Charles M. Schwab, president of Bethlehem Steel Company.*

### **Schwab School, Weatherly, Carbon County**

#### **Significance**

The Mrs. C. M. Schwab School was a gift to the community of Weatherly by Charles M. Schwab, president of Bethlehem Steel Company from its incorporation in 1904 to 1922. The school was built in 1901

and dedicated on September 19, 1903 as a tribute to Schwab's wife, Emma Eurana Dinkey Schwab who spent her childhood in Weatherly. It was designed in the Colonial Revival style by Wilkes-Barre architect Owen McGlynn (1878-1918) who was a prolific designer of schools and Roman Catholic churches in northeastern Pennsylvania. The building's imposing siting on a hill in the

middle of town visually defines this small, coal region community. Constructed at a cost of \$85,000, the original 3-story section of the building stands 125' tall, contains ten rooms, an auditorium, and a large 1897 model Seth Thomas Clock in the clock tower rising from the central hipped roof.

#### **Threat**

The Schwab School has been empty since the end of the 1990-91 school term. The school district received a high estimate on costs to bring the building up to code and they opted instead to build a new school elsewhere in the borough. At that time the building was offered to the borough for \$1, but the offer was refused. In 1997 the building was sold by the school district for \$40,000 to a private investor who planned to renovate it for elderly housing. Subsequently, the investor took a \$300,000 mortgage on the property and put it on the market. The asking price, according to local sources, is now \$1.5 million. Although vacant for thirteen years, the original building is still in fairly good repair. The Schwab School is a prime example of history held hostage by an owner with unrealistic expectations of financial gain. ▼

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### **Broad Ford Overholt Distillery, Upper Tyrone Township, Fayette County**

#### **Significance**

Abraham Overholt (1784-1870) began distilling whiskey as a commercial product in 1810 in West Overton, Westmoreland County. In 1856 Overholt's son and nephew expanded the distillery business with a second facility on the banks of the Youghiogheny River at Broad Ford, eight miles away in Fayette County. Family members continued to manage the distilleries at West Overton and Broad Ford as well as interests in coal mining, coke production and the new Mount Pleasant and Broad Ford Railroad. Beginning in 1881 another grandson of Abraham Overholt, Henry Clay Frick (later in partnership with R.B. Mellon), gained control of the "A. Overholt & Co." trade name and the Broad Ford property, an acquisition contested by the Overholt family. By the early twentieth century the distillery



*Now abandoned, Broad Ford Overholt Distillery is a good example of Pennsylvania's rich industrial heritage. Photo: Karen Overholt Critchfield*



complex featured a number of distinctive industrial buildings. Old Overholt Straight Rye Whiskey is still produced today under the ownership of Jim Beam Brands.

#### **Threat**

Current ownership of the Broad Ford Overholt Distillery complex is unclear although the site has apparently been abandoned for a number of years. Sale, salvage or theft of copper distillery equipment, structural steel and other

building materials has taken place over time and the entire site is overgrown. This massive building complex tells a multi-faceted story of Pennsylvania industrial history. Its interpretation as a managed ruin would make an excellent hands-on educational site for students of historic preservation, archaeology, architecture, building conservation and industrial history as well as providing a unique heritage experience for visitors. ▼



*Located in rural upper Bucks County, Green Hills Farm, a National Historic Landmark, was Pearl S. Buck's principle residence from 1934-1975.*

### **Pearl S. Buck House, Green Hills Farm, Hilltown, Bucks County**

#### **Significance**

Located in rural upper Bucks County, Green Hills Farm was Pearl S. Buck's principle residence from 1934-1975. Purchased upon her return from China and the international success of her novel "The Good Earth," the 1835 stone farmhouse served as a retreat

and allowed Buck to concentrate on her writing and humanitarian causes. One of the most successful novelists and acclaimed humanitarians of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Pearl Buck was the first American woman awarded the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes for literature. Upon her death, a large portion of her estate, including her Bucks County farm, went to the Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI) to further humanitarian aid and

the welfare of disadvantaged children. The property was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1980.

#### **Threat**

The property continues to serve as the international headquarters' of PSBI and as a historic house museum to interpret the life and contributions of Pearl S. Buck. Despite three decades of operation as a museum, the house and collections were administered by a volunteer organization and a lack of professional management, deferred maintenance and limited funding have left the structural integrity of the building and operational capacity in jeopardy. With assistance of The Pew Charitable Trusts, PSBI has begun to face these challenges by hiring a historic site director and undergoing a needs assessment report. But PSBI continues to face many challenges and it is critical that immediate action is taken to remedy organizational, structural and financial deficiencies. With increased awareness of the current condition, PSBI hopes to build partnerships to improve as stewards of this National Historic Landmark. ♥

### **The Lincoln Highway Garage, York, York County**

#### **Significance**

The Lincoln Highway Garage was built in 1921 as the first drive-in gas station between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, along the coast-to-coast Lincoln Highway. The success of the business resulted in the building doubling in width by 1923 and doubling again in depth by 1929. Founder Stewart Lehman also operated a Rickenbacker automobile dealership there as well as selling hunting and fishing supplies. The garage was known for its many gas pumps and a wide variety of brands. At its peak, the gas station had thirteen pumps including

its own brand, Sportsman's Special. The business continued to operate over the years eventually becoming a Texaco dealer in the 1990s.

#### **Threat**

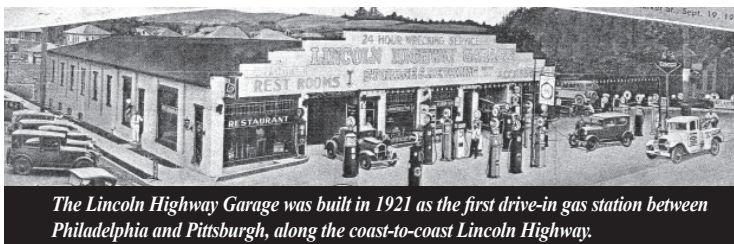
In fall 2003, Turkey Hill Minit Markets, a division of Kroger Foods, indicated their desire to purchase the business and demolish the building for a new convenience store with gas pumps. In December 2003 Turkey Hill met with Historic York, Inc. and the Lancaster-York Heritage Region (LYHR) to review an alternate proposal that would reuse at least a portion of the existing garage. Funds were offered by LYHR for design costs and historic tax credits were a possibility.

Initial discussions seemed positive but when the proposal was presented to the York

City Planning Commission, Turkey Hill officials indicated this alternative was not feasible. The Planning Commission asked that Turkey Hill continue to work with city staff and local organizations to reach a compromise.

Several meetings were held but Turkey Hill was unwilling to consider reusing the historic building. The compromise was that Turkey Hill would design a building vaguely reminiscent of the original building and the façade would include two murals honoring the history of the garage and the Lincoln Highway.

Final plans were approved by City Council despite a recommendation to deny by the Planning Commission. Turkey Hill had an opportunity, with offers of financial assistance and historical expertise, to successfully bring together community heritage and economic development. Instead, the Lincoln Highway Garage closed in May 2004 and is currently awaiting demolition. ♥



*The Lincoln Highway Garage was built in 1921 as the first drive-in gas station between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, along the coast-to-coast Lincoln Highway.*



## 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 1992-2003

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)  
B'Nai Israel Synagogue, Pittsburgh (2003)  
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*

Eagles Building, Altoona (2003)  
First National Bank of Tyrone, Tyrone (2000)  
Leap the Dips, Lakemont Park, Altoona\* (1995)  
Roosevelt School, Claysburg (1998)

### *Bucks County*

Chalfont Historic District, Chalfont Borough\*(2003)  
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)  
Coatesville Train Station, City of Coatesville (2003)  
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)  
Harrisburg Trainsheds, Harrisburg (2003)  
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)  
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)

**Jefferson County**

Big Run Elementary School, Big Run Borough (2003)

**Lackawanna County**

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

**Lancaster County**

Elizabethtown Train Station, Elizabethtown (2003)  
 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**

Kingza 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)  
 Bethlehem Steel Plant, Bethlehem (2003)  
 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)  
 Philadelphia Historic Districts (2003)  
 Knowlton\* (1993)  
 Logan House (1997)  
 Naval Hospital\*\* (1996)  
 PSFS Building\* (1994)  
 Richmond Power Station (2002)  
 Siegmund 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)  
 Byrd Liebhart Site (36Y00170), Lower Windsor Township (2003)  
 Camp Security, Springettsbury Township (2000)  
 Shoe House, Hellam, York County\* (1994)

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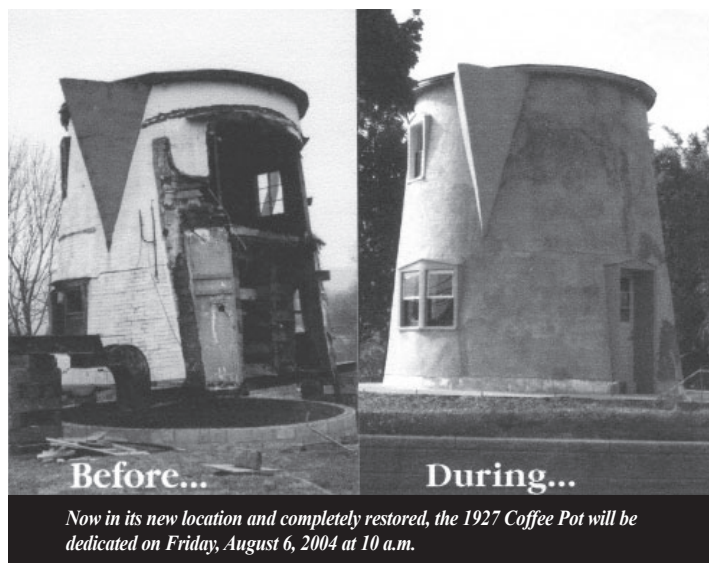
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## Pennsylvania At Risk 1992-2003 *Updates on Previously Listed Properties*

### **Bethlehem Steel Plant, Bethlehem, Northampton County (2003)**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named the Bethlehem Steel Plant to their 2004 11 Most Endangered List. This national recognition of the importance of the site and its preservation have raised the level of discourse on the future of the massive industrial complex.



### **Koontz Coffee Pot, Bedford, Bedford County (2001)**

Restoration is well underway on this signature icon of the Lincoln Highway in Pennsylvania. To secure its preservation, the structure was moved across the road from its original location through efforts spearheaded by the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor. Now located at the entrance to the Bedford County Fairgrounds, the building will reopen to the public on August 6th.

### **Enola Low Grade Railroad Line, Lancaster County (1996)**

Lancaster County Commissioners ended a long struggle to secure the preservation of this engineering marvel, which stretches 23-miles across the southern end of the county, by taking the line by eminent domain in mid-June. The county will develop the line into a recreational trail for hikers, joggers, bicycle and horse-back riders.

### **Victory Building, Philadelphia (1993)**

Preservationists celebrated the reopening of the rehabilitated Victory Building in June of this year. Now housing residential and commercial uses, the Victory Building is once again a proud landmark in Center City Philadelphia.

### **West Chester Downtown Historic District, Chester County (2001)**

The County has revised its plans for an expansion of its Judicial and Administrative functions that would have resulted in demolition of eleven buildings in the center of the borough's National Register and local historic district. A new Justice Center will now be constructed on a mostly vacant lot one block away. In the revised plan, the County will no longer need the endangered properties and plans to divest them once the new Center is occupied. This will provide the opportunity to redevelop these buildings in keeping with the architectural and historic character of the town center.

### **Valley Forge, Chester and Montgomery County (2002)**

Thanks to strong public opposition which attracted widespread media attention, the National Park Service has acquired land within the national park that was previously owned by Toll Brothers who planned to develop a subdivision. Active citizen involvement made all the difference resulting in a positive outcome for this National Historic Landmark.

### **Bellefonte Academy Building, Bellefonte (2002)**

The early nineteenth century Bellefonte Academy building, one of the last remaining examples of the academy school movement in Pennsylvania, was destroyed by fire on July 14, 2004. The building housed thirty-three apartments.

### **Demolished/destroyed during the past year:**

Levittown Public Recreation Association Building, Bucks County  
Kinzua Viaduct, McKean County.





## Welcomes New Members - January - June 2004

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Ernest Zlotolow-Stambler  
Jonathan Zorach



# Cornerstone

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Two gentlemen from Ambridge, in western Pennsylvania, came to my office last month. They had driven four hours to Harrisburg to meet with representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to plead the case for saving their historic high school building. They organized their neighbors who signed petitions and they had photographs mounted on display boards. They tell us that people care about this building, that this building is the soul of the community; the school board, however, is determined to have a new building.*

*Ambridge, like so many Pennsylvania communities, is struggling to recover from years of slow and steady decline. These two men and the Ambridge citizens they represent are questioning whether tearing down the old high school will help or hinder the recovery process.*

*Historic preservation has always had an uphill battle for the hearts and minds of Americans. The message from the Ambridge School Board— and many other Pennsylvania communities — is that tearing down old buildings will wash away the problems of blight, decay and joblessness and obliterate the very memory of how this could happen to our town. I for one see no evidence that this strategy is working.*

*Tom Hylton, author of *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania*, spoke last fall at a workshop in Ambler — the town where I grew up and a place that has made great strides in reinvigorating a community devastated by the demise of the asbestos industry. In his talk Tom pointed out that in the past we demolished buildings to replace them with something better. Today, when we demolish a building, what takes its place is usually something of far lesser value - a parking lot, a convenience store, a cookie-cutter chain drugstore or big-box warehouse. Is this progress?*

*Ambridge High School is on this year's Pennsylvania At Risk list because it represents a wave of neighborhood school closings and demolitions that threaten far more than individual historic buildings. Larger, consolidated schools are proven to be less effective learning environments than smaller, neighborhood schools. Busing is identified as a major contributor to childhood obesity — a serious health threat that could be minimized if more children walked or biked to a neighborhood school. Ironically, as the wave of neighborhood school closings rises and more children are bused to new schools, PennDOT has launched a Safe Routes to Schools program to encourage walking and biking. Hard to do when your new school is not within walking or biking distance.*

*Historic preservation began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a movement to save significant individual historic buildings. During the latter years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it evolved into a movement to save communities and restore the connection of people to places. As Pennsylvanians, we have critical choices to make about what our Commonwealth will look like in the years ahead. Communities like Ambridge are struggling to strengthen their community, restore pride in its rich heritage, and tell their children that a parking lot is not progress. They are looking for better answers. We believe historic preservation — preserving and reusing our historic buildings and places as vital elements of our communities - can help. ♥*



Susan Shearer, Executive Director



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