

# Preserving

The Newsletter Dedicated to Preserving Pennsylvania's Historic Places

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

VOLUME 27 ■ ISSUE 3 ■ FALL 2014



Before & After

## 2014 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation AWARDS

preservation  
PENNSYLVANIA



Before & After

[www.preservationpa.org](http://www.preservationpa.org)

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**MISSION STATEMENT** Preservation Pennsylvania, through creative partnerships, targeted educational and advocacy programs, advisory assistance, and special projects, assists Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future.

**ABOUT US** Preservation Pennsylvania is the Commonwealth's only statewide, private nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant properties. The organization was created in 1982 as the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania to operate a revolving fund that would assist in the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. Since its incorporation, the organization has evolved and now hosts the Statewide Conference on Heritage and the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards, and publishes an annual list of endangered historic properties in "Pennsylvania At Risk" in addition to managing the revolving loan fund. Preservation Pennsylvania also participates in educational programs and advocacy initiatives, conducts special projects and offers on-site technical assistance to people across the Commonwealth.

Friday, September 26, 2014  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



The Ballroom,  
Ellis Hall at  
Juniata College  
1700 Moore Street  
Huntingdon, Pa.

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LETTER  
FROM  
THE  
DIRECTOR

Working to save Pennsylvania’s historic resources is sometimes a pretty tough task, and we don’t win them all. But each year, we honor a group of amazing projects that overcame all of the challenges they faced and succeeded. It’s time to celebrate!

This issue of *Preserving Pennsylvania* gives a brief overview of the 2014 Historic Preservation Award winners presented on September 26, 2014. Since 1979, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards have honored individuals and organizations that exhibit excellence in the field of historic preservation. Preservation Pennsylvania uses this opportunity to recognize impressive projects and inspiring commitment to protecting and preserving Pennsylvania’s rich historic resources.

While I love honoring each of these recipients at the event each year and having the opportunity to talk to them about their successes, I think what I enjoy most about the process is working with the Awards Review Committee. Most of the awards are peer selected, and I continue to be so impressed by the commitment that group brings to the table. Each year, the Awards Review Committee is made up of folks from various disciplines (architect, archaeologist, planner, historian, curator, etc.) who volunteer to read all of the applications and review the photographs so that when they come together, they can carefully consider each project. Most times, the committee members are meeting each other for the first time, but that doesn’t stop them from jumping right in and deliberating the merits of each project. The recipients should be proud to know that a group of peers who truly understand the challenges of undertaking these projects wants to recognize those achievements.

The projects are inspiring, and their contribution to Pennsylvania’s rich heritage is so important.

*Congratulations to all the recipients!*

Mindy  
Mindy G. Crawford



# F. Otto Haas Award

for outstanding individual achievements in historic preservation



## Paul M. Heberling

Huntingdon  
County

Paul Heberling was born in 1922 in State College, Pa. Paul's boyhood years were spent hunting, fishing and exploring the fields and forests that surrounded State College – areas now covered by housing subdivisions, office parks and strip malls. Paul's life continues to be guided by the small-town values, respect for the natural environment, and appreciation of local history that he gained during his formative years in State College. The changes he witnessed in his hometown made an equally powerful impact on Paul, fostering his commitment to study, document and interpret the past and to preserve its best elements for future generations.

Following high school, Paul enrolled at Penn State University. After two years of college, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Air Corps. Paul married in 1945 and finished his undergraduate studies in psychology at Penn State in 1948. Paul earned his M.A. in Psychology in 1950 and began his professional career as a clinical psychologist. Paul worked as staff psychologist at the State Penitentiary at Huntingdon from 1949 – 1954, returning to State College to work as the director of treatment at Rockview State Penitentiary until 1957. After several stressful years working in the penal system, Paul opted for a second professional career as a college administrator and professor. In 1957, he returned to Huntingdon to serve as dean of men and psychology professor at Juniata College. Paul found his true calling in teaching, and has maintained his association with Juniata College since he arrived 57 years ago.

Paul's career took another turn when, in 1963, he taught an anthropology course, filling in for a sick colleague. The following year, he was awarded an NSF fellowship at the University of Colorado that allowed him to immerse himself in the world of southwestern archaeology, something that would become a great passion. After returning to teach full time at Juniata College in 1967, Paul took the lead for Juniata in the archaeological excavations that they conducted jointly with Penn State at the Sheep Rock Shelter site. This marked a turning point in Paul's professional career. His focus shifted from psychology to anthropology and archaeology once and for all. Paul completed additional course work at the University of Colorado, where he participated in extensive archaeological site survey work at Chimney Rock National Monument and received his M.A. in Anthropology in 1970.

As a result of Paul's efforts, Juniata College created a Department of Anthropology in 1968. Paul initiated a series of summer field schools for Juniata students at archaeological sites throughout the Juniata Valley. The best known of these sites were the Workman Farm site and Bedford Village site, both in Bedford County.

For Paul, archaeology wasn't just a job; it was a passion and a way of life. In an effort to remedy the lack of professional attention given to the Juniata Valley and central Pennsylvania, Paul performed extensive archaeological surveys, recording many of the local sites now in the State Museum's Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) files. This work continued through the mid-1970s, when his focus shifted after being inspired by pioneering industrial archaeologist Roland Wells Robbins. For the next 25 years, Paul became deeply involved with a long-term archaeological study at Greenwood Furnace State Park, the scene of an extensive and highly successful charcoal ironworks from 1832 to 1904. For the first few years, he directed college field schools at the site, then a series of public archaeology projects utilizing volunteers. Greenwood Furnace is one of the very few state parks where historical interpretation is an integral part of the recreational and educational programs, and a model for other parks. Even in his 70s and 80s, Paul continued to be closely involved with the ongoing public archaeology projects at Greenwood Furnace, each year assisting park staff with management, excavation and interpretation during their summer programs.

In 1979, Paul spent time in Britain participating in a diverse array of archaeological projects under the direction of noted British archaeologists. He later spent parts of several field seasons at Flowerdew Hundred in Virginia working under James Deetz and others.

In the early 1980s, Paul began doing archaeological consulting work on his own, mainly in connection with local transportation and other publicly funded projects. In 1985, he formed the cultural resource management firm of Heberling Associates, which has completed hundreds of archaeological and historic resource projects throughout central and western Pennsylvania. Paul continues to be an owner and key advisor of that company today.

Paul retired from Juniata College in 1989, but has remained closely connected with the school. Paul's commitment to education is not limited to an academic setting. He is a dynamic and gifted public speaker who has presented hundreds of talks about archaeology and local history to heritage groups, civic organizations and school groups throughout the Juniata Valley from the 1960s through the 1990s. In 2005, he directed a public archaeology project for the Tyrone Area School District and the "Blazing New Trails" program, excavating the site of a canal lock keeper's house along the Lower Trail in Blair County. For local people, he is the go-to person for any question regarding archaeology. In central Pennsylvania, Paul Heberling is the public face of archaeology.

For his entire adult life, Paul Heberling has been active in local civic organizations including the Huntingdon Community Center, the local Red Cross chapter, the Huntingdon County Historical Society, the Shade Tree Commission and various other posts. In all of these capacities, he has been a tireless advocate for historic preservation and archaeology. During the past 15 years, Paul has served three terms on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Historic Preservation Board and several terms on Preservation Pennsylvania's Board of Directors, where he currently serves on the Board of Advisors.

## Henry A. Jordan Award

for outstanding historic preservation efforts  
at the local level



### Salvatore J. Panto Jr.

Northampton County

Easton Mayor Salvatore (Sal) Panto is recognized for making Easton a cleaner and safer city in both its historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, and for bringing fiscal stability to the city. But he is known to Preservation Pennsylvania as the man who has led an innovative economic development program, generating more than \$400 million in investment and creating hundreds of new jobs in the city, largely by recognizing the value of the city's existing assets, including its infrastructure and historic properties.

Mayor Panto has been involved in preservation efforts in Easton since before taking office as mayor for the first time in 1984. Key projects completed under Mayor Panto's leadership or currently in progress include: 1) rehabilitation of the downtown Pomeroy's building, which had previously been vacant for 35 years; 2) rehabilitation of a historic silk mill complex as Silk: A Creative Community; 3) establishment of Lafayette College's North Third Street campus, bringing students downtown; 4) the connection and upgrading of the waterfront park to the city's streetscapes; and 5) development of a new intermodal transportation center and office building adjacent to the historic downtown that will also house the National High School Sports Hall of Fame. Of all of his successes, Mayor Panto is most proud of the housing rehabilitation program he started in the city's neighborhoods and the success of many small businesses downtown and throughout the city.

Born and raised in the City of Easton, Sal served as mayor of Easton from 1984-1992, and took office again in 2008. He is recognized as a leader among local government officials. He served as president of the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities and vice president of the National League of Cities Environmental Steering Committee. Sal is active in the United States Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, and was recently named to the Environmental Steering Committee.

Sal Panto is committed to being approachable, and is successful largely because he listens to people and makes people feel genuinely good about their city. Under his leadership, Easton is becoming a model city for the region.

## Chairman's Award

for demonstrated leadership  
in historic preservation



### The Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka

Allegheny County

St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale contains a series of 22 unique murals painted by Croatian immigrant and artist Maxo Vanka from 1937-1941. Father Albert Zagar gave Vanka strict instructions about what images to paint on the front wall, but he was given freedom to paint as he wished on the back, sides and dome. The resulting extraordinary set of murals interweaves traditional Slavic images of faith and redemption with a powerful message of social justice and the brutality of war. The murals were recognized by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1979 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka was created in 1991 out of concern for the deteriorating condition of the murals. In 2009, the independent and volunteer-led, 501(c)(3) organization launched a multi-year campaign to restore, clean and light the murals. More than \$450,000 has been raised, and eight panels have been restored.

During Phase 1 of the project, the conservators cleaned the surface to lift decades of accumulated dirt, and stabilized areas damaged by salts resulting from water infiltration during Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The conservators stabilized the murals, applying poultices to safely remove the salts and re-adhere healthy material by chemically converting materials back into a stable surface. Damaged areas were retouched using materials that remain easily reversible and permeable to water so that salts could not be trapped under the surface again.

Tours that showcase the murals are available at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. on Saturdays, unless pre-empted by Parish services and/or activities. Private tours are accommodated at other times. Email [docentmanager@vankamurals.org](mailto:docentmanager@vankamurals.org) to arrange a visit. The 45-minute tour provides a fascinating glimpse into Vanka's art and the experiences that shaped his ideas.

For more information and images of the restoration, visit [www.vankamurals.org](http://www.vankamurals.org).

# Initiative Awards

for special initiatives, services or commitment to preservation values

## Education



Credit: Natalio Parker

### Little Antietam Creek, Inc.

#### Franklin County

Little Antietam Creek, Inc. (LACI) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire and educate people of all ages in history and the process of historical and archaeological research. It accomplishes this by welcoming participants to learn the scientific methods and procedures by working alongside LACI researchers on LACI projects.

LACI's motto *Research and Education Through History* describes its approach. With LACI's research focus on the people who populated the Cumberland Valley from prehistory until the present, teacher and student learn together about their local history.

Since the spring of 2012, LACI has been working at the Stoner Farm near Waynesboro, Pa., which was first settled by German immigrants Johannes and Catrin Steiner in 1744. LACI is focusing its efforts in and around the 19th-century David Stoner House, one of three standing historic structures on the farm. These investigations, which include architectural and historical research, as well as restoration inside and archaeological excavations around the house, have been accomplished entirely by students, interns and volunteers under the supervision of archaeologist Scott Parker, who has 30 years of archaeological experience.

Participants include middle school, high school and home school students from various schools around the area, workshop attendees, interns from several local universities, and adult volunteers including members of Chapter #27 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology. LACI's Archaeo Camp, a summer day camp for teenagers where for five days they are the crew on LACI's archaeological excavations, has been held at the Stoner Farm since 2012.

Through LACI's programs, local residents of all ages have helped to excavate the remains of an 18th-century house lived in by David Stoner (son of Johannes and Catrin) and his family in 1798 but built considerably earlier than that, likely by Johannes before his death in 1769. As one of the earliest excavated historic sites in the area, the Stoner Farm is significant to local and regional history and has already yielded much information about early settlement along Antietam Creek. LACI is always working to expand its programs and outreach, and welcomes both educators and learners to participate in its efforts.

## Communications



### Perkasie Historical Society

#### *Walking Tour Mobile Device / Web Application*

#### Bucks County

**HONORING:** Perkasie Historical Society; Bucks County Community College APP Development Group

The Perkasie Historical Society has provided escorted tours of Perkasie since the inception of the Perkasie Historical Society Museum in 1990. In 2012, they worked with students at the Bucks County Community College to introduce a new smartphone app and web-based walking tour. Working collaboratively, the historical society and college students developed an application for Android devices, and then expanded that app to use Quick Response (QR) codes to provide information about historic sites in the community. Known as *Perkhistory*, the new tour allows visitors to see historic and current photos of a variety of local historic sites and read or listen to information about them. At one site, a YouTube video is available as part of the walking tour.

Based on input provided by students at Pennridge High School, the walking tour is divided into three sections: Perkasie Olde Towne, Menlo Park and South Perkasie, which can be visited in any order. The Perkasie Historical Society walking tour can be accessed through the Perkasie Historical Society website (<http://perkasiehistory.org/walking%20tour.htm>) from a home computer or smartphone browser, or through the use of a QR code reader and codes found on the website or affixed to the Perkasie Historical Society Museum, South Perkasie Covered Bridge and Menlo Park Carousel.

By utilizing technology as a tool for teaching history, this application allows people to experience Perkasie's historic resources at their convenience, and has served to enhance community awareness and an appreciation of local history. The use of technology to communicate local history has allowed the historical society to engage with younger generations. The project has strengthened relationships among local schools, government and businesses, and has improved the visibility of the Perkasie Historical Society. These new (younger) members have spurred interest in the preservation of other buildings such as the Perkasie Railroad Station. This is a powerful demonstration of how developing an interest in local history can help to build the preservation movement.



## Community Involvement



### Kemmerer Park Carriage House

#### Carbon County

**HONORING:** Mauch Chunk Museum & Cultural Center; Mauch Chunk Historical Society; Kemmerer Memorial Park Board; Kemmerer Family Foundation

The Kemmerer Park Carriage House is all that remains of the mansion Mauch Chunk industrialist John Leisenring built in 1879 for his daughter, Annie, and her husband, Mahlon Kemmerer. The elegant residence was part of the Front Hill neighborhood, home to many of the town's wealthiest families. When Mahlon Kemmerer died in 1927, his widow gifted the property to the town. It was dismantled to create Kemmerer Park, owned by the Kemmerer Park Association and leased to the borough of Jim Thorpe.

For many years, the picturesque carriage house remained locked but unused. A roof replacement in the late 1990s failed, allowing water infiltration that accelerated deterioration. By 2008, concerns about the building's condition earned it a spot on the *Pennsylvania At Risk* list. Safety concerns, lack of use or need, and repair estimates resulted in a decision to demolish it.

Without the leadership of the Mauch Chunk Museum & Cultural Center, headed by John Drury, the carriage house history might have ended there. Drury rallied community support, finding volunteers to assist with the preservation effort including research, fundraising, grant writing and the hands-on work of rehabilitation. Descendents of the Leisenring and Kemmerer families provided initial funding. An annual Victorian Ball celebrated the town's history and raised additional funds. Thanks to the efforts of the Mauch Chunk Museum & Cultural Center, the Mauch Chunk Historical Society, the Kemmerer Memorial Park board and volunteers of all ages who responded with donations of time, energy or money, the Kemmerer Park Carriage House has been preserved. An apartment on a part of the first floor will provide income for Kemmerer Memorial Park, where the carriage house is located. A public museum and library honoring the Front Hill families will occupy a portion of the main floor. The upper floor, currently used as storage, is planned as a meeting place for local organizations.

## Community Involvement



### Rittenhouse Square

#### Centennial Restoration Project

#### Philadelphia County

**HONORING:** Friends of Rittenhouse Square; Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation; Materials Conservation Collaborative, LLC

As one of William Penn's five original squares for the City of Philadelphia, Rittenhouse Square is one of Philadelphia's prominent historic parks. The Square has undergone many renovations and alterations over the years, most notably the 1913 renovation of the park designed by Philadelphia architect Paul Cret using features prominent in French landscape design, which define the park today.

Over the years, Cret's improvements – including limestone balustrades and urns, flower beds and sculptures – had deteriorated. In honor of the centennial of Paul Cret's 1913 design, the Friends of Rittenhouse Square worked in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation to complete a substantial preservation project within the park, returning these prominent features of the Square to their original grandeur through conservation and in-kind replacement.

As part of the project, they replaced approximately 150 cast stone balusters, many of which were broken or missing, with real limestone balusters. They conserved and reinstalled the limestone coping stones, and repaired and conserved all of the Square's limestone urns, as well as the entrances to the park at each of the square's four corners. The historic dog sculptures were cleaned and repaired, as were their lead collars. The Neoclassical lead urns were removed, conserved and reinstalled, as well.

This project is a good example of a public-private partnership working effectively to restore the Square's historic character-defining features for the enjoyment of future generations.

Funding for this type of project is difficult given the City's tight budget. Without the efforts of the Friends of Rittenhouse Square to secure funding and guide the project, it probably would not have been accomplished.

## Modjeski Award

for excellence in transportation, design, preservation or archaeology



### The Great Allegheny Passage

Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette and Somerset Counties

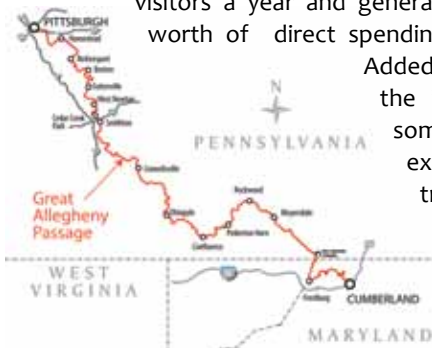
**HONORING:** The Great Allegheny Passage, Allegheny Trail Alliance made up of seven partner organizations

On June 15, 2013, a group of over 1,000 cyclists pedaled into Point State Park in Pittsburgh with a very special purpose: to celebrate the completion of the final section of the Great Allegheny Passage. This stretch measured a mere mile long, yet was perhaps the most challenging section of the entire 150-mile trail. The final gap included construction of a 1,000-foot wall adjacent to a scrap metal recycling operation, and negotiations that spanned decades with another property owner that finally reached conclusion when the site was sold to new corporate owners in Spain.

A stretch of railroad abandoned in the mid-1970s sparked a big idea for a trail that would connect with the C&O Canal towpath and create a 335-mile transportation and recreation route stretching from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. As president of the Allegheny Trail Alliance, a coalition of local trail groups in southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland, Linda McKenna Boxx assembled a team to tackle the fundraising, engineering, contracting, permitting, land purchase and construction of the trail. The project took 35 years and \$80 million but is now completed. It was the first trail inducted into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame and widely considered to be one of the best bike trails in the country.

With the dedication of the western terminus marker in Point State Park, the trail will host approximately one million visitors a year and generate nearly \$100 million worth of direct spending in local economies.

Added benefits include the inspiring, educational, sometimes life-changing experience of riding the trail and discovering its small towns, industrial history and natural wonders.



**Preservation Planning** for projects that demonstrate the best planning and development practices to promote historic preservation



### Eagles Mere Historic District: Boundary Expansion

Sullivan County

**HONORING:** Protect Eagles Mere Alliance (PEMA)

In 1996, the Eagles Mere Historic District was added to the National Register (NR) of Historic Places, listing more than 300 buildings that exemplified the area's history as a resort community, where city families would come to enjoy the healthful benefits of clean air and mountain water.

Since at least 1885, people have recognized and worked to preserve the natural landscape that surrounds and defines Eagles Mere. In the 21st century, fracking and its potentially polluting side effects threatened the natural resources prized by generations of residents and visitors, and of continuing social and economic value. Because of these concerns, Eagles Mere was listed in *Pennsylvania At Risk* in 2010. Protecting the water quality of Eagles Mere Lake – the area's most important asset by far – became a priority.

In the spring of 2010, with drilling underway just two miles from the borough boundary, Protect Eagles Mere Alliance (PEMA) was founded. The nonprofit's mission: "to protect Eagles Mere from any negative effects of natural gas drilling and/or its byproducts through education, coalition building and advocacy." The group held public meetings, conducted risk assessment studies, studied zoning regulations, and looked for opportunities to protect Eagles Mere. To that end, PEMA spearheaded the expansion of the NR district with support from the Borough of Eagles Mere, Eagles Mere Association (which owns and manages the lake), Eagles Mere Conservancy, Eagles Mere Park Association and many private landowners in the area.

Thanks to PEMA's leadership, approximately 98% of Eagles Mere Lake's 435-acre watershed has been added to the NR district, including the lake plus 500 densely forested acres with a network of historic trails. Now, any federally funded projects or those requiring federal permits in the area will be required to consider potential effects on NR-listed or eligible resources. PEMA President Shannon Baker stated, "The new expanded designation will add a layer of review and possibly protection to areas that are of historic significance now and for future generations."





*The Ambler Boiler House  
was built in 1887 as a  
power-generating station  
for the once-thriving  
Keasbey & Mattison  
asbestos factory.*

## Ambler Boiler House

### Montgomery County

**HONORING:** Ambler Boiler House Development Partners, LP;  
Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County;  
Summit Realty Advisors, LLC

The Ambler Boiler House was built in 1887 as a power-generating station for the once-thriving Keasbey & Mattison asbestos factory. Vacated in the 1970s, this landmark building represents Ambler's once-prosperous industrial history. Over the years, the building deteriorated and became an eyesore, and rehabilitation was particularly challenging because of hazardous contamination left behind after years of asbestos manufacturing.

With the goal of preserving the community's history and creating an engine for economic revitalization, Ambler BH Development Partners, LP and the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County worked collaboratively to purchase the abandoned property. They utilized a combination of federal, state and county redevelopment programs that target brownfield and transit-oriented development projects to help make the project feasible. They aimed to eliminate all environmental hazards at the site, enhancing the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ambler, and to do so while maintaining this significant historic landmark.

The project team worked with the Department of Environmental Protection to prepare and implement a *Remedial Investigation and Cleanup Plan*, which eradicated all contamination on the property. After the environmental clean up was completed in 2011, they addressed structural issues caused by decades of neglect and deterioration. Once the building shell had been stabilized, the boiler house was transformed into class A office space, which now accommodates several tenants. The rehabilitation was done utilizing "green" design features, including a geothermal heat pump system, roofing materials that reduce solar heat gain, highly efficient lighting systems and high-performance windows, a highly efficient heating and cooling system, recycled materials with low emissions of VOCs, and environmentally sensitive cleaning methods, among others.

Additionally, this transit-oriented development takes advantage of its proximity to the adjacent SEPTA station, encourages the use of public transportation, provides preferred parking for fuel-efficient and low-emitting vehicles, promotes a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly environment due to its proximity to Ambler's Main Street district, and has on-site bicycle storage. The completed project was recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council with Platinum level LEED certification.

# Construction Project Awards

for outstanding preservation, restoration or rehabilitation projects

## Commercial Properties



### Lincoln Ballroom, Union League of Philadelphia

Philadelphia County

**HONORING:** The Union League of Philadelphia; BLT Architects; Eberlein Design Consultants; Bala Consulting Engineers; Keast & Hood Co.; Lighting Design Collaborative; Metropolitan Acoustics

The Union League of Philadelphia was designed by John Fraser in the French Renaissance style and was built in 1865. In 1910, Horace Trumbauer designed two Beaux Arts style additions to the Union League. The Lincoln Ballroom occupies the second level of one of Trumbauer's additions. The ballroom's decoration was scaled back during the original construction.

This project finally completed Trumbauer's vision for the space, installing previously unfinished details including a decorative coffered ceiling. The new ceiling was made of modern fiberglass-reinforced gypsum in historically correct embellished profiles. Use of this light material rather than heavy plaster helped to address structural concerns, and maintained a suitable historic appearance while improving the room's acoustics and minimizing the visibility of modern lighting and HVAC systems. Four custom chandeliers were designed to complement the original monumental French crystal center-hung chandelier.

Decorative elements on the walls were also completed and upgraded to improve acoustics and lighting while maintaining the Union League's elegant and stately aesthetic.

The ballroom's historic windows were repaired and returned to operating condition. Luxurious drapes replaced old, worn drapes to improve thermal efficiency. Without altering the stately character of the Lincoln Ballroom, heating and cooling systems were upgraded, and modern audiovisual needs were addressed. All ducts and conduits were hidden from view, and historic vent grills were reused.

Two entrance foyers were also renovated along with the ballroom with complementary finishes. The adjacent pantries were upgraded to meet modern food service standards.

The rehabilitated Lincoln Ballroom features a new coffered ceiling and restored walls that accommodate lighting, acoustical, HVAC and audiovisual improvements while maintaining the room's original stately historic character.

## Public & Institutional Properties



### Amanda E. Stout Elementary School & Benners Court, Berks County

**HONORING:** Reading School District; Kautter & Kelley Architects; Barton Associates, Inc.

The 1934 Amanda E. Stout Elementary School occupies half of a city block in the heart of a densely populated, poor urban neighborhood in Reading. This project, which involved the addition of two new buildings as well as renovation of the historic school, relieved overcrowding by accommodating 500 additional students and doing so in a neighborhood- and environmentally-friendly manner.

First, approximately 30 blighted buildings were removed from the site, and two new buildings were added to the property. Avoiding demolition is typically preferred, but in this case, it allowed a historic neighborhood school to remain in use, supporting the surrounding neighborhood and making new construction elsewhere unnecessary. The additions included a brick building that was compatible with the historic school and a colorful and modern addition that filled out the remainder of the site. The modern addition includes a multilevel courtyard that incorporates an elevated play deck that provides desperately needed outdoor play space where none previously existed.

Renovations to the existing building included restoration of masonry, terrazzo, plaster moldings, light fixtures, wood doors and a distinctive tile fountain, as well as replacement of some doors, and returning classroom windows to their original proportions to allow plentiful ventilation and natural daylight.

The project also included extensive site and accessibility improvements, including alleys, sidewalks, driveways and parking areas, which created pedestrian routes and accommodated safe vehicular circulation.

The innovative design utilized in this project allowed the rehabilitation and continued use of a historic urban neighborhood school. By sustaining the local school and improving the walkability of the community, this project has been transformational to the neighborhood. The project achieved verified energy reduction, incorporated sustainable strategies eligible for LEED Gold certification, and was recognized for its environmental sustainability by USGBC Central PA Chapter.



## Public & Institutional Properties



### Schmucker Hall, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Adams County

**HONORING:** Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation; Adams County Historical Society; Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects; Delta Development Group, Inc.

Constructed in 1832, Schmucker Hall is located on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. With the exception of July to September 1863, when it served as a field hospital occupied by more than 600 men from both the Union and Confederate Army, the building was a dormitory and classroom building until the early 1950s.

The building was vacated in 1954, and sat empty until 1959, when the Adams County Historical Society leased the building from the Seminary. It served as their headquarters from 1961 through 2011, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

As the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg approached, the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation, the Seminary and the Adams County Historical Society joined together to renovate the historic building so that it could be used as a museum to interpret its unique stories.

This rehabilitation project utilized federal rehabilitation investment tax credits, which required adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the preservation of the building's character-defining features.

The project involved accessibility upgrades, structural stabilization, roof replacement, reconstruction of lost elements including the east entry stairs and the 1914 Peace Portico.

The resulting space provides a venue for a state-of-the-art interpretive museum, with orientation and guest services on the first floor, a *Faith and Freedom* exhibit on the second floor, *Caring for the Wounded* on the third floor, and a military events story line on the fourth floor. Schmucker Hall has been rehabilitated to provide a unique venue that invites the public to actively engage in stories related to the history of the building, site and region.

## Public & Institutional Properties



Credit: Halkin Mason Photography, LLC

### Philadelphia Zoo (KidZooU)

#### Philadelphia County

**HONORING:** The Philadelphia Zoo/The Zoological Society of Philadelphia; SMP Architects; Viridian Landscape Studio; Meliora Environmental Design; CVM Engineers; Bruce E. Brooks & Associates; Arora Engineers; David Nelson & Associates; W.S. Cumby

At the heart of the Philadelphia Zoo's historic campus, the Pachyderm House has recently been renovated to house the Hamilton Family Children's Zoo & Faris Family Education Center, commonly known together as KidZooU.

Designed by Philadelphia architect Paul Cret in 1938, the Pachyderm House opened in 1941. It was home to the Zoo's elephants, rhinoceroses, tapirs and hippopotamuses for many years. The Zoo recently decided to relocate the pachyderms. When the Pachyderm House, with its exterior yards and large interior spaces, became available, it was selected as the home for the new children's zoo and education center.

As part of this unique rehabilitation project, the building's stone exterior was retained and repointed, the slate roof was repaired, and new copper flashing, gutters and downspouts were installed. After conducting a paint analysis, historic paint colors were used to provide bright contrast to the stone and slate. Two decorative medallions on the building were restored, and the original elephant weather vane was reconstructed. New windows that replicated the building's original window profiles were installed, and the building's historic doors – including the iconic elephant door – were restored or reconstructed. New shutters that matched those found in old photographs were also installed.

Two new additions were made to the building to provide code-compliant access to the building, one containing a stair tower and the other an enclosed ramp. These additions are clad in simple lap siding so that they are compatible with but easily distinguished from the original stonework. Original skylights, which were designed to capture heat and create a hot, humid interior for the large African animals, were replaced by operable dormers clad in grey metal to minimize their visual presence against the slate roof. As a result of several energy-efficiency upgrades, the project was recognized with LEED Gold certification.

# Construction Project Awards

for outstanding preservation, restoration or rehabilitation projects

## Residential Properties



### Nugent Home for Baptists

Philadelphia County

**HONORING:** Nolen Properties; JKR Partners, LLC;  
Domus Construction, Inc.

Built in 1895 to house elderly Baptist ministers and missionaries, the Nugent Home for Baptists was established by textile magnate George Nugent. In 1986, this brick and terra cotta chateau was rehabilitated as a boarding home for the elderly and people with mental disabilities. The personal care home was closed in 2002.

The building stood vacant for years, deteriorating rapidly as a result of vandalism and water infiltration. A church acquired the property in 2004 intending to demolish the historic building to build a new church. They met resistance from local residents, assisted by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. The church development fell through, and the current owners acquired the property.

To utilize the federal rehabilitation investment tax credits, the historic Nugent Home for Baptists was rehabilitated in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The project accommodated 21 apartments, while preserving the character-defining features of the property, including its wide hallways, front porch, carved wood central staircase, and front parlors with tall bay windows. The project team cleaned and restored the building's Roman brick facing, stabilized and repointed the building's 16 chimneys, recreated the stolen copper cornices and columns, and restored damaged woodwork inside.

In order to make the project financially feasible, a new building containing 36 additional units was constructed behind the historic home and attached with a glass connector. In addition to the rehabilitation investment tax credits, the project was also made possible by the use of low-income financing from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and a grant from the Office of Housing and Community Development.

Although it was a challenge to balance the requirements of a number of local, state and federal programs, the result was a successful project that preserved an important historic property while helping to meet the strong demand for fixed-income senior housing in the neighborhood. The project has had a positive impact on the community.

## Residential Properties



### Ruth L. Bennett Home for Women and Girls & the Wilson Memorial

Nursery, Delaware County

**HONORING:** Ruth L. Bennett Improvement Club; TAO Design;  
PennDOT District 6-0

The Ruth L. Bennett Improvement Club was founded in 1914 by Ruth L. Bennett, an African American woman who once lived in this Chester community and is a source of local pride. With a mission to provide a safe haven for women and their children, the Improvement Club opened the Ruth L. Bennett Home for Women and Girls in 1918 in this 1880's Queen Anne Victorian home. The Improvement Club constructed the adjacent building to house a child care center known as the Wilson Memorial Nursery building in 1929.

The Ruth L. Bennett Home for Women and Girls and Wilson Memorial Nursery lie in the shadow of the Commodore Barry Bridge. Over time, their condition had deteriorated. In 2002, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) began the design of two access ramps connecting I-95 to SR 291 via the bridge. The project was found to have an adverse effect on these two historic buildings. To mitigate these negative impacts, PennDOT funded the structural repairs and upgrades to the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems of these buildings.

To rehabilitate the Ruth L. Bennett Home for Women and Girls for use as the administrative office for the Ruth L. Bennett Improvement Club, the contractor replaced the roof, repaired the stone foundation walls, reconstructed the unstable portion of the house, and cleaned and repointed the brick exterior. They also repaired or reconstructed a number of exterior elements and interior features. The rehabilitation was comprehensive.

The Wilson Memorial Nursery was also rehabilitated, and will again be used as a child care center. This building required a similar level of rehabilitation, including structural repairs, roof and window replacement, insulation and system upgrades, among others. Now comprehensively rehabilitated, these two buildings will again serve the community's youth and aging populations.



## Grassroots Advocacy Award

for grassroots efforts to help communities protect and preserve the historic places that matter to them



### Cresson Tuberculosis Sanatorium

Cambria County

HONORING: Cresson San Marker Committee

The Pennsylvania State Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Cresson (Cresson San) represents the story of people who faced the adversities of tuberculosis with courage and hope. Built on land donated by Andrew Carnegie, the Cresson San was a model for the nation. It was the first to be racially integrated, run a school of nursing, and offer an elementary school. Approximately 40,000 adults and children were treated during its 51 years of operation from 1913 to 1964. After serving as a tuberculosis sanatorium, the institution was used as a residential facility for the mentally challenged, and was then converted for use as a state correctional institution until 2013.

Faced with closure of the facility, members of the community worked together to document, celebrate and memorialize the stories of the Cresson San. This effort took place in three parts: 1) the establishment of a website that tells the stories of the patients and the people who worked there; 2) reunions of those associated with the San; and 3) installation of a roadside marker near the entrance to the former Sanatorium.

Momentum for these activities began with a website about Cresson San created by Chuck Felton, a former patient. It became a hub for an online community to share their stories and photos, and led to the formation of the Cresson San Reunion Committee. Two reunions were held, one in 2011 and another in 2013. At the same time, local advocates for the San worked with other partners to nominate the Cresson San for an official roadside marker from PHMC to permanently memorialize its history. Working with faculty and students from local schools and universities, among other residents, the Cresson San Reunion Committee completed the marker process requirements. In 2014, a special event was held to unveil the new historic marker commemorating the property.

To view Mr. Felton's website, please go to <http://www.feltondesignanddata.com/cressontbsanatoriumremembered/>

# 2014 Pennsylvania At Risk

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year, Preservation Pennsylvania announces a list of endangered historic properties in Pennsylvania. The purpose of this program is to help people protect and preserve the historic places that matter to them by drawing attention to the issues that threaten them, and focusing our efforts on helping to address the challenges that they face.

**If you are aware of a historic property that is in danger, please go to <http://www.preservationpa.org/page.asp?id=8> to download a nomination form.**

**Complete the nomination form, and submit it to Erin Hammerstedt at [ehammerstedt@preservationpa.org](mailto:ehammerstedt@preservationpa.org) or 257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.**

Nominations for this year's *Pennsylvania At Risk* will be accepted until 5 p.m. on **Friday, October 31, 2014**. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Erin Hammerstedt at (814) 571-2444 or [ehammerstedt@preservationpa.org](mailto:ehammerstedt@preservationpa.org).

*To be considered for inclusion in Pennsylvania At Risk, properties must be historic and faced with an imminent threat either from overt action, neglect, incompatible use or loss of context.*

# Leadership in State Government and State Issues Award



## Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition, Dauphin County

The Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition is comprised of local, regional and statewide environmental, conservation and recreation groups that have come together to collectively build awareness and educate the public and elected leaders about the critical need for conservation and preservation funding. The Coalition's mission is to enhance the health and economic well-being of communities throughout the Commonwealth by advocating for public funding to conserve and protect land, water, wildlife habitat and historic places, and to ensure well-managed parks and recreational areas throughout the state.

In 2013, Executive Director Andrew Heath served as the driving force behind the Growing Greener Coalition's success in reversing the Corbett Administration's attempts to drastically cut or eliminate the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and agriculture preservation funding. Under Heath's leadership, the Coalition also played an instrumental role in restoring \$2.25 million in state funding for the PA Heritage Areas Program in the FY2014 budget.

The Coalition has developed a strong grassroots network to educate and inform citizens about the need to protect and enhance conservation and preservation funding in Pennsylvania. The Growing Greener Coalition has participated in discussions and negotiations about Act 13 to ensure that conservation, recreation and preservation were included as part of the impact fee on natural gas drilling. Thanks to the work of the Coalition, the state awarded more than \$28 million in Marcellus Legacy Fund grants to support recreation and critical land and water protection efforts throughout the Commonwealth.

With Andrew at the helm, the Growing Greener Coalition has gained a reputation for its ability to work collaboratively with elected officials of both parties to achieve its goals, and has become a real leader in state government and state issues.



*Executive Director  
Andrew Heath*





# Thank You

## Preservation Pennsylvania Gratefully Acknowledges our Generous Individual and Corporate Sponsors of the 2014 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards

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Preservation Pennsylvania, through creative partnerships, targeted educational and advocacy programs, advisory assistance, and special projects, assists Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future.



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