

# PRESERVING PENNSYLVANIA

The Newsletter Dedicated to Preserving Pennsylvania's Historic Places

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 01

FALL 2023



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

# 2023 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards Sponsors

Preservation Pennsylvania gratefully acknowledges our generous individual and corporate sponsors of the 2023 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards.

*(This list reflects individual and corporate support received as of the printing date.)*

## HONOR AWARD SPONSORS

F. Otto Haas Award sponsored by **Tom Hagen**  
Henry A. Jordan Award sponsored by **Mrs. Henry A. Jordan**  
Chairperson's Award sponsored by **Margaret B. Wallis**

## SPECIAL FOCUS AWARD SPONSOR

Ralph Modjeski Award sponsored by **Modjeski and Masters**



## LEADERSHIP AWARD SPONSOR

Turning Point Award sponsored by **A. Roy Smith**



## BRICK SPONSORS

THOMAS R. RIPPON



## MORTAR SPONSORS

ROBERT & REBECCA KINSLEY



**PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

*for greater philadelphia*

Libations Sponsor:



Thank you to each of our sponsors for their support of our biggest fundraiser event of the year! You've helped make certain that anyone in Pennsylvania, from Abbottstown to Zelenople, can call Preservation Pennsylvania for help in saving the places they love.

Thank you to the  
**Pennsylvania  
Historical & Museum  
Commission**  
for their support!





## 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.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

**Chairperson** Margaret B. Wallis

**Secretary/Treasurer** A. Roy Smith

**At-Large** Jane Sheffield, Altoona

## STAFF

**MINDY GULDEN CRAWFORD**

*Executive Director*

[mcrawford@preservationpa.org](mailto:mcrawford@preservationpa.org)

**SABRA SMITH**

*Communications Director*

[ssmith@preservationpa.org](mailto:ssmith@preservationpa.org)

## ABOUT US

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 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards, and publishes an annual list of endangered properties. Preservation Pennsylvania also participates in educational programs and advocacy initiatives, conducts special projects, and offers on-site assistance to people throughout the commonwealth.

Thank you to our sponsors, members, donors and all the passionate preservationists who make a difference!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR .....	4
F. OTTO HAAS AWARD .....	6
HENRY A. JORDAN AWARD .....	7
CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD .....	8
SPECIAL FOCUS AWARD	
Ralph Modjeski Award .....	9
LEADERSHIP AWARDS	
Turning Point Awards .....	10
Community Involvement .....	12
Education .....	13
Emergency Response .....	14
Public Impact .....	15
Stewardship .....	16
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARDS	
Restoration .....	17
Rehabilitation .....	18

**Cover:** *Lynnewood Hall is a Gilded Age estate located outside Philadelphia. After years of languishing, enduring break-ins and deferred maintenance, the Lynnewood Hall Preservation Foundation forged a connection with the owner and was able to acquire the property. They are already well underway with planning and preservation work, intending to create a true community asset.*



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Preservation is a cause that touches the very heart of our identity as Pennsylvanians. It transcends time, reminding us that our past is not confined to history books but lives on in the landmarks and places we cherish.

At Preservation Pennsylvania, we believe that preserving our past is essential for shaping a vibrant and culturally rich future. We are proud to showcase the remarkable projects, passionate advocates, and transformative initiatives that have earned their place in this year's awards celebration.

Preservation is not merely about saving old buildings; it's about safeguarding our shared history, culture and identity. It's about ensuring that the stories of our past continue to enrich the lives of future generations. Each award from Preservation Pennsylvania represents a chapter in this ongoing narrative of preservation.

With this year's awards, we recognize a homeowner and preservation-focused team that used original materials to repair her home after tornado damage. We'll applaud the transformation of an old furniture factory into a boutique hotel hosting visitors to the Lehigh Valley. We'll highlight two places listed on *Pennsylvania At Risk* that have reached a crucial – and positive – juncture in their timelines. We'll give a shout out to the community organizations that have taken old places with history and transformed them into spaces with meaning. We'll recognize a decade of research and dedication that has restored the reputation of a pioneering woman in the field of architecture. Together, let's take this time to celebrate the ingenuity, expertise, perseverance and passion that resulted in each of these projects making a real difference and setting an example for the positive power of preservation.

Preservation is a cause that touches the very heart of our identity as Pennsylvanians. It transcends time, reminding us that our past is not confined to history books but lives on in the landmarks and places we cherish.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the spirit of preservation in Pennsylvania.

Mindy Gulden Crawford, Executive Director

# We congratulate the 2023 recipients of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards!

## HONOR AWARDS

### — F. OTTO HAAS AWARD —

for outstanding individual achievements in historic preservation

**JEFF KIDDER**  
(ERIE COUNTY)

### — HENRY A. JORDAN AWARD —

for outstanding historic preservation efforts at the local level

**DAVID MORRISON**  
(DAUPHIN COUNTY)

### — CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD —

for demonstrated leadership in historic preservation

**BONNIE WILKINSON MARK**  
(DAUPHIN COUNTY)

## SPECIAL FOCUS AWARD

### — RALPH MODJESKI AWARD —

For an exceptional effort within the transportation field that results in an improvement in transportation systems while respecting and preserving the best practices of compatible design and historic preservation principles.

**CHESTNUT STREET BRIDGES OVER CSX AND 24TH STREET**  
(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

## LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### — TURNING POINT AWARDS —

**CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL FARMHOUSE REHABILITATION**  
(CUMBERLAND COUNTY)

**LYNNEWOOD HALL**  
(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

### — COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT —

**SLATE BELT HISTORY PROJECT**  
(including the Quarry Hoist Pavilion)  
(NORTHAMPTON COUNTY)

### — EDUCATION —

**MINERVA PARKER NICHOLS RESEARCH PROJECT, EXHIBIT AND BOOK**  
(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

### — EMERGENCY RESPONSE —

**FORT WASHINGTON IDA TORNADO, HOMEOWNER PORCH RECONSTRUCTION**  
(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

### — PUBLIC IMPACT —

**NICHOLSON TOURISM CENTER AT THE HISTORIC DL&W RAILROAD STATION**  
(WYOMING COUNTY)

### — STEWARDSHIP —

**THE ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA**  
(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARD – RESTORATION

**THE ORCHID HOUSE AT LONGWOOD GARDENS**  
(CHESTER COUNTY)

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARDS – REHABILITATION

**BURK-BERGMAN BOATHOUSE**  
(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

**BISCHOFF INN**  
(SCHUYLKILL COUNTY)

**OLD NEIFFER ROAD BRIDGE OVER SWAMP CREEK**  
(also known as Sunrise Mill Bridge)  
(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

**OLD LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
(LEHIGH COUNTY)

**THE YORKTOWNE HOTEL**  
(YORK COUNTY)



# F. OTTO HAAS AWARD

For outstanding individual achievements in historic preservation

HONOR AWARD • Sponsored by Tom Hagen (recipient of the 2015 F. Otto Haas Award)



## JEFF KIDDER

(ERIE COUNTY)

For more than three decades, Jeff Kidder has guided the preservation of hundreds of historic buildings in northwest Pennsylvania and western New York. In Erie, his leadership and passion for preservation has been transformative, with a significant impact on civic and cultural spaces throughout the city, including Perry Square, Liberty Park Amphitheater, Presque Isle Lighthouse, Erie Playhouse, and the Hagen History Center. Most recently, Kidder Architects, the firm he founded in 2003, partnered with Erie Insurance to renovate and restore historic buildings for commercial use as offices, event venues, and lodging. He has also been involved in Historic Erie Preservation Trust's efforts to revitalize the West 6th Street Historic District, bringing back to life an important corridor of architecturally significant buildings on Erie's "Millionaire's Row."

Mr. Kidder has worked on Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) Keystone Preservation Grant-funded projects and Federal and Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects. He has also prepared historic structure reports and National Register nominations.

In addition to his award-winning architectural practice, Mr. Kidder has served as a past member and chair of the PHMC Historic Preservation board, past member and officer of Preservation Pennsylvania's board, and a founding member of Preservation Erie. He has served three times on the PHMC Keystone Grant Application Review Panel, whose responsibility it is to review submitted grant applications and rank them for final approval.

The spark that led him to this field may sound familiar to fellow preservationists. As a child growing up in a small town in Erie County, he watched a beloved old neighborhood house slowly fall into disrepair. He could not rescue that Queen Anne landmark, but was determined to learn the skills necessary for future interventions.

After receiving a master's degree in architecture and Certificate of Preservation from the University of Virginia, Mr. Kidder was hired as Assistant Architect of Historic Buildings and Grounds at UVA, with his primary focus being the preservation of the Thomas Jefferson-designed buildings on the UVA campus. In 1991, Mr. Kidder returned to his hometown of Erie where, for more than 30 years, he has made a difference, one building at a time.

*Top: Jeff Kidder guiding design ideas in a 2008 charette for the Roosevelt Middle School. The Erie School District had planned to demolish and replace the 1922 school building. Concerned citizens persuaded the school district to allow Preservation Pennsylvania, in partnership with Preservation Erie, to formally evaluate the building at no cost to the district.*



# HENRY A. JORDAN AWARD

for outstanding historic preservation efforts at the local level

HONOR AWARD • Sponsored by Mrs. Henry A. Jordan



## DAVID MORRISON

(DAUPHIN COUNTY)

For more than 40 years, David Morrison has served as a leader of educational, governmental, historical and architectural organizations in Pennsylvania. He is a founder of numerous entities including the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum, the Camp Curtin Historical Society, the Midtown Market District, the Harrisburg Area Grange, the Community Historic Preservation Fund, the People's Bridge Coalition, and the Modern Transit Partnership.

Since 2014, he has served as Executive Director of the Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA). Founded 50 years ago in response to two catastrophic events, the devastating Hurricane Agnes Flood of 1972 and the demolition of Harrisburg's spectacular State Theatre, Historic Harrisburg has been promoting "historic preservation, urban revitalization, and smart growth since 1973!" With a membership of more than 600 and a year-round schedule of educational programs and tours, the organization has played a pivotal role in Harrisburg's ongoing revitalization and Central Pennsylvania's expanding heritage tourism presence.

While at Historic Harrisburg, Morrison spearheaded its acquisition of the landmark 1893 Central Trust Company building in the Midtown Historic District, and he is coordinating its restoration as a multi-organization headquarters and resource center. In 2014, he initiated HHA's annual "Preservation Priorities" listing of some 30 historic sites and landmarks, sparking restoration and preservation of many that previously were in jeopardy.

In the past, Morrison has served in executive roles at Harrisburg Area Community College, the American Institute of Architects, the Pennsylvania Department of General Services, and Lehigh University.

He has served as a volunteer board chair, officer, or board member of 29 organizations over the past 50 years. He is the author of numerous books and magazine articles, and is the recipient of numerous awards for civic service, including the AIA Pennsylvania Service Award (2002) and the Marianne Faust Award for Community Leadership (1999).

David Morrison exemplifies the adage that "preservation happens at the local level!"

*Top: David Morrison (center) has a track record of preservation leadership that has made a significant difference in Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania.*



# CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD

for demonstrated leadership in historic preservation

HONOR AWARD • Sponsored by Margaret B. Wallis



## BONNIE WILKINSON MARK

(DAUPHIN COUNTY)

For Bonnie Wilkinson Mark, the most rewarding aspect of more than 35 years of working with federal, state, and local preservation programs has been the opportunity for creative collaboration with building owners and architects to save and reuse old buildings. From 1997 until 2009, she served as historical architect and was responsible for the technical review and administration of the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit program for the Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP) at the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC). In that time, she worked with architects, developers, and property owners to solve complicated rehabilitation issues affecting buildings throughout Pennsylvania.

For more than a decade, until her retirement this year, Mark served as a Principal in Delta Development Group, Inc.'s Planning and Community Development division. She prepared National Register of Historic Places nominations and reviewed Historic Tax Credit and Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit applications for compliance with NPS's Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Bonnie has spent her career demonstrating that historic preservation and economic development can work together to retain, recycle, renovate, rehabilitate or restore older buildings. She is the author of a case study published by the National Park Service that demonstrates the transformation of an old school building into affordable housing.

Reflecting on her career, Mark is proud of the perseverance and creativity represented by some of her favorite projects. The Bedford Springs Hotel and Yorktowne Hotel were challenging, but the rehabilitation of each property has had a significant community impact. She encourages preservationists to keep an open mind and think outside of the box, citing her work with The Progress Fund to revitalize a large 1905 building in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood neighborhood.

In retirement, Mark plans to expand on research she began in graduate school to write a book about the wooden boat-building industry of the Thousand Islands.

*Top: Despite a fear of heights, Mark climbed scaffolding to reach the top of the Pennsylvania state capitol building as part of a Section 106 review of work being done on the dome and roof. Photo credit: Tim Noble*

*Bottom: Photo credit: Toby Richards Photography*





# RALPH MODJESKI AWARD

for excellence in transportation design, preservation and archaeology

SPECIAL FOCUS AWARD • Sponsored by Modjeski and Masters, celebrating 130 years of technical excellence & innovation



## CHESTNUT STREET BRIDGES OVER CSX AND 24TH STREET

(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

HONORING

**PENNDOT DISTRICT 6-0 / BENESCH / BUCKLEY & COMPANY / MATERIALS CONSERVATION COLLABORATIVE – MARCO FEDERICO, HERITAGE CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE, LLC**

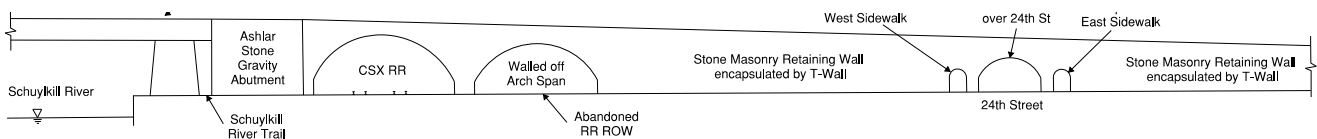
The Chestnut Street bridges cross the CSX Railroad and 24th Street in the city of Philadelphia. As seen in the elevation sketch, the project dealt with a two-span closed spandrel, stone masonry arch bridge over railroad tracks (constructed in 1864 and widened in 1901) that is part of a larger viaduct structure connected by stone masonry retaining walls to a three-span closed spandrel, stone masonry arch bridge over the 24th Street roadway and sidewalks. The masonry structures showed advanced deterioration of the spandrel walls, arch rings, and arch barrels.

What made the project unusual was its location between the Schuylkill River, a busy recreational trail, an active railroad, and urban high-rise buildings in the city of Philadelphia. One of the largest challenges of this rehabilitation was working under staged construction methods while maintaining CSX railroad traffic, requiring constant coordination to balance railroad schedules while still advancing the construction project.

Although the bridges are not National Register-designated, PennDOT District 6-0 treated the bridges as historic, following the PennDOT Stone Arch Bridge Management Plan and Stone Arch Bridge Maintenance Manual. For example, historic railings were cleaned, repaired, repainted and reset, and new replica railings were fabricated to replace missing sections of railings.

The finished project will extend the service life by another 75 years, carrying over 18,000 vehicles on Chestnut Street each day, as well as safely serving pedestrians and bicyclists. It also repaired a sinkhole behind the bulkhead supporting the Schuylkill River Trail, enhanced the trail and shifted the street-level bike lanes from the south side to the north side to improve connectivity and safety.

The rehabilitation of the Chestnut Street bridges meets modern multimodal transportation needs while rehabilitating 19th-century structures within a historic setting.



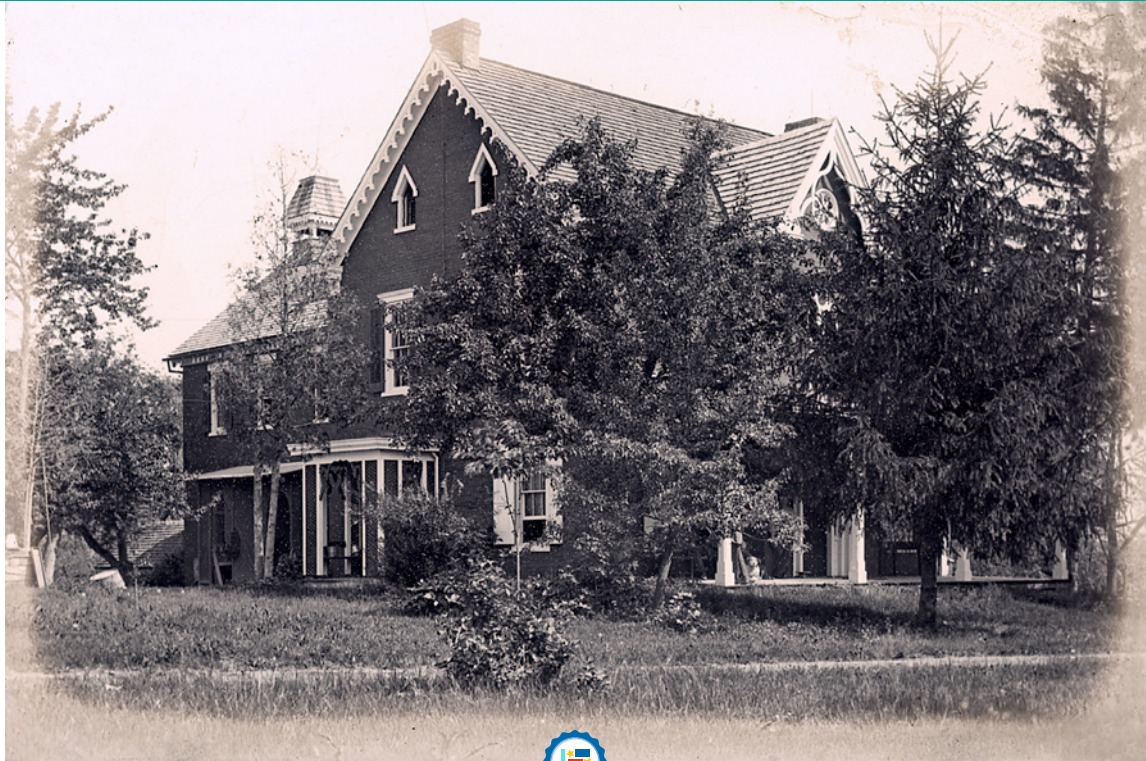
Top: The completed Chestnut Street bridges project from the south side of 24th Street. Photo credit: Benesch and Monica Harrower/PennDOT



# TURNING POINT AWARD

for an individual or organization whose efforts have resulted in a crucial change in the potential outcome for a historic place

LEADERSHIP AWARD • Sponsored by A. Roy Smith



## CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL FARMHOUSE REHABILITATION

(CUMBERLAND COUNTY)

HONORING

UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON CARLISLE BARRACKS

In 2018, Preservation Pennsylvania added to the *Pennsylvania At Risk* list an old farmhouse on the grounds of the Army Garrison Carlisle Barracks. The building was originally a civilian home located outside the boundaries (the original portion dates to 1853-1856). The farm was purchased to become part of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School to provide students with agricultural education. The farmhouse not only housed the head farmer and his family, but also provided an agricultural classroom, sleeping quarters, and a dining hall for the student farm laborers. From 1879 until 1918, approximately 10,000 Native American children from 140 tribes attended the school in Carlisle, envisioned by a man named Richard H. Pratt as a place for “civilizing the Indian” by stripping away Native culture and connections. It would become a model for similar institutions all across the country.

The Carlisle Indian School Farmhouse Coalition nominated the farmhouse to *Pennsylvania At Risk*, expressing

concerns about potential demolition. Based on consultation with advocates and descendants of CIS students, the CIS Farmhouse Coalition hopes that someday they may transform the building into a safe space where descendants can remember, honor and commemorate their loved ones, as well as educate and raise awareness of the history and legacy of the CIS.

The rehabilitation project now underway is an encouraging step toward this ultimate goal. Instead of demolition, the Carlisle Barracks is now undertaking a full structural, interior, and exterior rehabilitation, in consultation with Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. Care is being taken to preserve character-defining features, and utility upgrades will allow for use as administrative office space for the Carlisle Barracks Garrison/Army War College. We are delighted to honor this Turning Point in the timeline of this old farmhouse!

*A vintage photograph of the farmhouse building. Photo credit: Cumberland County Historical Society*



# TURNING POINT AWARD

for an individual or organization whose efforts have resulted in a crucial change in the potential outcome for a historic place

LEADERSHIP AWARD • Sponsored by A. Roy Smith



## LYNNEWOOD HALL

(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

HONORING

### LYNNEWOOD HALL PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Lynnewood Hall has the distinction of holding a place on Preservation Pennsylvania's very first *Pennsylvania At Risk* list in 1992. Advocates didn't want to see the magnificent Gilded Age estate meet the same fate as nearby Whitemarsh Hall, demolished and replaced with a housing development. Now, more than 30 years later, the extraordinary efforts of the Lynnewood Hall Preservation Foundation have accomplished what seemed impossible; on June 30, 2023, they successfully purchased the property and have already embarked on research, planning and restoration.

The estate encompasses 34 acres with three buildings: Lynnewood Hall (110 rooms and 100,000 sq. ft.), Lynnewood Lodge (16,000 sq. ft.), and the Gatehouse (5,000 sq. ft.). Architect Horace Trumbauer designed Lynnewood Hall (1899) and other notable buildings, including the aforementioned Whitemarsh Hall, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Duke University, and The Elms in Newport. Patriarch Peter A.B. Widener commissioned the house and died there in 1915. Sadly, his elder son, George, and grandson, Harry, both died when RMS Titanic sank in 1912. The house had a series of owners after the Widener family departed, and the structures and beautiful gardens began to suffer from neglect. Until now.

The group's mission statement expresses its vision: "Using only the highest standards of conservation craftsmanship, sustainability principles and research, the Foundation will create an important cultural site while providing educational, recreational, and work opportunities for the communities of Greater Philadelphia." We encourage you to visit their website or follow their social media to connect with their plans and progress as they create a welcoming space for the local residents and the legions of Lynnewood Hall fans around the globe.



**Top left:** One of the most pressing issues for the Lynnewood Hall Preservation Foundation was to begin the work of weatherproofing and securing the building. Working with Iconic Windows, the team replaced broken glass and repaired damaged windows. A full window restoration project will take place in the future. **Top right:** Work clearing up and investigating the grounds began immediately. The beloved Gilded Age estate has a bright future, thanks to the Lynnewood Hall Preservation Foundation. (Photo credit: LHPF)



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

LEADERSHIP AWARD • Community preservation/heritage issues or projects ranging from a grassroots advocacy project to commemoration of a place/person or event



## SLATE BELT HISTORY PROJECT

(including the Quarry Hoist Pavilion)

(NORTHAMPTON COUNTY)

HONORING

BOROUGH OF BANGOR / TOTTS GAP ARTS INSTITUTE / SLATE BELT HERITAGE CENTER

Historic preservation uses the power of place to connect individuals through shared history. In a pocket of towns in Northampton County, the slate industry was once a major part of the economy, providing thousands of jobs and shaping the region's culture. The Slate Belt History Project celebrates that legacy with a history initiative to memorialize and educate.

The first element is a series of murals; the most recent depicting an active slate quarry. Students of the Totts Gap Arts Institute (TGAI) helped research, design and paint each mural, assisted by staff at the Slate Belt Heritage Center (SBHC) and TGAI.

The second project is a short documentary film about the slate industry called "From the Earth: A Tribute to Slate Belt Heritage and Culture." The documentary was created by filmmaker Lois Silver in collaboration with students, the SBHC and TGAI. It tells the story of the immigrants who brought their skills to northern Northampton County, and includes oral histories.



The community rejoiced when the third element overcame significant hurdles and was completed in 2023. The Quarry Hoist Pavilion in Bangor's Bethel Park shelters a steam-powered quarry hoist manufactured in Bangor circa 1900

and in use locally until 1980. This was the culmination of a 17-year process to acquire and refurbish the hoist and another five years to build the timber-frame pavilion with over 200 mortise and tenon joints. The roof material is locally quarried slate. The pavilion was completed by an all-volunteer crew of local residents; the donors of trees downed by the remnants of Hurricane Sandy and milling by a sawyer; the

donation of slate materials and labor; the finishing touches by a landscaping company; and the persistent efforts of volunteer carpenters to learn and complete the joinery.

The Slate Belt History Project is an important effort to preserve this important part of the region's history for future generations, created by the people and for the people!

**Top left:** The pavilion was built by an all-volunteer crew of local residents. **Top right:** The pavilion will shelter the vintage quarry hoist that dates from 1900. **Bottom:** Local students helped research, design and create the murals that celebrate the area's local slate quarrying history. All photos: Totts Gap Arts Institute



# EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP AWARD • Innovative preservation/heritage educational programs or curricula



## MINERVA PARKER NICHOLS RESEARCH PROJECT, EXHIBIT AND BOOK

(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

HONORING

**MOLLY LESTER / WILLIAM WHITAKER / HEATHER ISBELL SCHUMACHER / ELIZABETH FELICELLA**

She was famous in her time, yet faded into obscurity. Minerva Parker Nichols (1862-1949) was a pioneer in the field of architecture; the first woman in the United States to have her own practice. It took another woman, in another century, to rediscover Ms. Parker Nichols and bring her remarkable story back into the spotlight.

Molly Lester came across Minerva Parker Nichols in 2011 while digging for a master's thesis topic for the Historic Preservation program at the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. As she told a reporter for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "She seemed to be a really fascinating individual. Some of her writings and quotes are just so confident in an era when there wasn't a lot of room for women to be confident in the field of architecture."

Lester completed her thesis, but uncovering Ms. Parker Nichols' life and work had become a passion project. She

continued researching and created a website and podcast to share the story of the groundbreaking female architect. She traveled from city to city, dug into archives, and visited the new residents of homes designed by Parker Nichols in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

After more than a decade of research, Lester has successfully elevated the reputation of Minerva Parker Nichols. The Architectural Archives at the Weitzman School of Design presented an exhibit from March to July 2023: *Minerva Parker Nichols: The Search for a Forgotten Architect*. A companion book, to be released fall 2023, includes a foreword by Despina Stratigakos; essays by Heather Isbell Schumacher, Molly Lester, and Franca Trubiano (associate professor of architecture at Penn); a photographic portfolio by Elizabeth Felicella; and a catalogue raisonné by William Whitaker

*For more than a decade, Molly Lester has been researching Minerva Parker Nichols (1862-1949), the first woman in the country to have her own architecture practice. The project began as a master's thesis and expanded to include publications, lectures and events, a podcast, video shorts, and new discoveries related to Nichols' commissions, clients and legacy. Visit her website [minervaparkernichols.com](http://minervaparkernichols.com) to learn more.*



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

LEADERSHIP AWARD • In recognition of quick action to repair and/or preserve a historic resource after a threat or catastrophic event, such as fire, flooding, or extreme weather



## FORT WASHINGTON IDA TORNADO, HOMEOWNER PORCH RECONSTRUCTION

(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

HONORING

SHARON SHAPOWAL / J&M PRESERVATION STUDIO / JRB HISTORIC RESTORATION LLC

As we've seen in the news, extreme weather can disrupt lives and devastate a neighborhood in a matter of minutes. On September 1, 2021, the remnants of Hurricane Ida spawned an EF-2 tornado that ripped through a section of southeastern Pennsylvania with winds up to 130 mph. In the town of Fort Washington, downed trees caused property damage, an extended power outage, and at least one fatality.

Outside a stone Queen Anne-style house designed by architect T. Frank Miller in 1888, the winds snapped a 75-year-old Norway spruce and ripped off the front porch. Homeowner Sharon Shapowal struggled to find a qualified contractor in a competitive post-disaster environment. Each consult resulted in the same opinion: dumpster the porch and build new. Until Jeff Barr of JRB Historic Restoration LLC arrived and agreed that using the original materials and old growth wood made sense. To meet township permit requirements, he recommended engineer Melanie Rodbart, PE, of J&M Preservation Studio, who estimated a 95% reuse potential.



Township staff, forced to relocate after the tornado blew off the township building roof, were overwhelmed with permitting requests, causing delays. Meanwhile, the preservation-focused team embarked on meticulous measurement, examination of historic photographs, and notation of "ghosts" of missing elements to guide the project.

Each porch piece was numbered, collected and stored. Taking up the floor revealed an ingress of topsoil and signs of extensive animal activity. Stone porch piers were unearthed and mended. Damaged joists were sistered to new lumber. With a commitment to quality, the team was able to use old growth lumber to match visible rafters, salvage cracked posts to construct wall half-posts, repair sculpted rafter ends, and cleverly use a ledger board to hide code-compliant bolts and hangers.

Despite many obstacles, the porch was restored by a homeowner who knew the value of original materials and a team that went above and beyond.

*The tornado's winds and lashing rains devastated the Fort Washington neighborhood.*



# PUBLIC IMPACT

LEADERSHIP AWARD • Excellence in using a historic building as a catalyst to enrich a community. Includes examples of small business or adaptive reuse.



## NICHOLSON TOURISM CENTER AT THE HISTORIC DL&W RAILROAD STATION

21 Lackawanna Trail, Nicholson

(WYOMING COUNTY)

HONORING

NICHOLSON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION / REUTHER + BOWEN

The Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W) Railroad Station is a historic preservation and community development project that serves as a role model for others, illustrating that these types of projects, through dedication, hard work, and perseverance, can be successful.

In June 2012, the Nicholson Heritage Association (NHA) purchased the 1849 railroad station, with donations from individuals, businesses, and a Pepsi Refresh Project grant.

In 2014, NHA held two public meetings to present and discuss the results of a feasibility study, funded mainly in part by a grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) funds.

In late 2014, NHA received a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic station. The Wyoming County Commissioners were

the project's sponsor, in order for the project to be eligible for funding.

The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission deemed the station eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2014, as a locally significant example of mid-19th-century railroad architecture.

To cover the required project costs, NHA received multiple individual donations and grants, including from DCNR, EMHR, the Wyoming County Room Tax Fund, the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, and the Tom E. Dailey Foundation. The contractor and design team were assembled in the fall of 2018.

The Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic DL&W Railroad Station serves as a community landmark and a welcome gateway that will help revitalize Nicholson and the region by attracting tourists to the station, Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct (also known as the Tunkhannock Viaduct or Nicholson Bridge), Nicholson, Historic Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, and Endless Mountains.





# STEWARDSHIP

LEADERSHIP AWARD • Exceptional stewardship efforts by an individual or group on behalf of a significant historic resource



## THE ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA

219 S. 6th Street, Philadelphia

(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

HONORING

THE ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA / KREILICK CONSERVATION, LLC / PREMIER BUILDING RESTORATION, INC. / SUN PRECAST CO., INC. / 18TH CENTURY RESTORATIONS, INC.

The Athenaeum's National Historic Landmark building was built between 1845-47 from the designs of John Notman, who introduced the Italianate Revival style to America. It is the oldest extant Italianate palazzo in the United States, and a work that has influenced generations of architects.

The Athenaeum, as stewards of this treasure, embarked on an interior and exterior rehabilitation and restoration that required careful scheduling and cooperation between contractors.

Outside, visible deterioration of wood, stone, metal and stucco elements required repair, the roof was leaking, and cleaning was overdue. The west balcony above the front entrance required disassembly to properly repair and replace damaged stone and deteriorated hardware. Large areas were patched using 10 custom mortar colors to seamlessly blend with the varied shades of brownstone. Significant sculptural patching was undertaken to restore damaged areas of architectural ornament.

Among the most complicated and visually striking repairs was the installation of new, cast-stone elements to replace the heavily deteriorated and mismatched orange sandstone water table, balusters, and plinths from an earlier

restoration. Upon removal of the damaged sandstone, it was discovered that the foundation of the building was compromised by large voids and disaggregating mortar, which was repointed, parged, and rebuilt as needed.

Many of the wooden windows and portions of the cornice were suffering from flaking and discolored paint, rot, and failed glazing compound. Where necessary, replacement parts made of Spanish cedar and thermally treated poplar were used.

The exterior restoration provided access to parts of the building rarely seen up close and never-before documented. The necessary disassembly and repair of features doubled as an opportunity for archaeological inspection, offering new insight into the building's construction and long history of undocumented repairs. Study revealed a mix of pre- and post-industrial construction methods that place it in the context of early industrialization in ways that had previously gone unnoticed in favor of the building's other, more architecturally showy innovations.

The extensive restoration work and documentation has ensured the continuation of the building's legacy as a landmark in a changing urban landscape.

*The Athenaeum's Italianate Revival building, designed by John Notman and dating from 1845-47, required three rounds of cleaning to remove heavy carbon staining and biological soiling. Photos by Joseph E.B. Elliott*





# RESTORATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARD

These awards honor outstanding preservation, restoration or rehabilitation projects and/or pre-construction documentation (e.g., historic structure reports), technical innovation and achievement. (Please note: Awards are given to the project, not to individual architects/engineers/consultants.)



## THE ORCHID HOUSE AT LONGWOOD GARDENS

(CHESTER COUNTY)

HONORING

JOHN MILNER ARCHITECTS, INC. / BANCROFT CONSTRUCTION

In 1906, Pierre S. du Pont purchased approximately 200 acres of land in Kennett Square, Chester County, 35 miles west of Philadelphia. By 1918, du Pont began planning for a large-scale conservatory at his estate to produce fruit, vegetables and flowers in the off-season, as well as serve as an entertainment space in inclement weather. The Orchid House, one of two original display houses flanking the Main Conservatory, was initially used to display banana plants, orchids, and tropical flora.

The restoration of the Orchid House was part of a multi-phase, expansive “Longwood Reimagined” project within the Western Conservatory complex. A visual assessment of the historic structure was performed and original drawings were consulted to understand the structure and the scope of necessary repairs and restoration. The goal was to return the Orchid House to its original configuration while maintaining its historic integrity.

The scope included reconfiguring mechanical, electrical and heating systems, repairing the tunnel walls beneath the Orchid House, pouring a new concrete floor, and repairing the concrete and steel of the building walls. The concrete was one of the first major works of John Earley, an innovator of decorative exposed aggregate “mosaic” concrete. Mosaic concrete units were patched and replicated, including column capitals, bases, moldings, cornices, pilasters, balustrades and parapets, and the structural concrete required hand patching and cast-in-place repairs at the primary wall piers. Other elements of the project included extensive glass and bronze restoration, reconfiguration of the interior to its original 1920s layout, accessibility upgrades, reglazing of the roof structure, and fabricating new custom display systems along with extensive restoration of the 1929 orchid case.



**Top:** The completed exterior restoration of the Orchid House is shown facing northeast. Exterior site work continues as part of the larger Longwood Reimagined project.  
**Bottom:** Overview of the restored windows, doors, frames, Earley concrete, and orchid displays on each wall.



# REHABILITATION

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARD



## BURK-BERGMAN BOATHOUSE

(PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

HONORING

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA / EWINGCOLE / KEAST & HOOD / SBK + PARTNERS, LLC / PENNONI / TARGET BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Boathouse Row, located along a scenic stretch of the Schuylkill River, is one of Philadelphia’s most cherished landmarks and includes the Burk-Bergman Boathouse, home to the University of Pennsylvania’s three varsity rowing programs. Constructed in 1875, this is one of the oldest boathouses in the country. However, the facility was increasingly unable to meet the program’s demands and needed a comprehensive renovation.

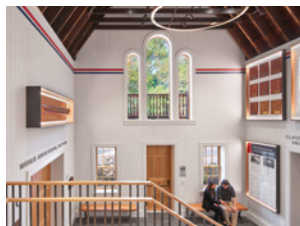
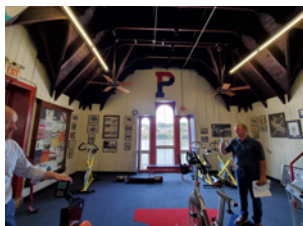
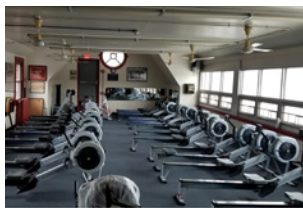
Given the landmark status of Boathouse Row, it was paramount that the design team and owner successfully balance the integrity of the historic building with practical solutions for everyday use. The design reconstructed and overbuilt an addition to the boathouse pavilion to improve function and facility.

The historic exterior of the structure remained, while the interior was completely renovated and modernized. Reconfigured program spaces include a soaring entrance lobby and grand hall featuring trophies and memorabilia, a lounge and meeting area with integrated A/V, a historic vaulted ceiling, and a restored balcony overlooking the river.

Expanded to accommodate larger workouts and host special events, the new ERG room is enhanced by a panoramic view of the river, skylights providing ambient daylight, and an exposed structural system that is a modern interpretation of the building’s historic king post trusses. Improved boat storage and maintenance and modernized locker rooms, coaches’ rooms, and additional support space create a true home for Penn Rowing. Equal space for men and women athletes and a new elevator providing ADA access to the second floor make the building a reflection of Penn’s values and mission of inclusion and opportunity and a showcase for their legacy.

Rather than dilute its past, the Penn Boathouse is a model of a “working artifact” that respects and preserves its history but has been updated with conscientious design.

Rather than dilute its past, the Penn Boathouse is a model of a “working artifact” that respects and preserves its history but has been updated with conscientious design.



**Top:** Penn’s varsity rowing teams take to the water. Photo credit: Halkin Mason Photography LLC

**Insets:** The interior was completely renovated and modernized, including a soaring entrance lobby and grand hall featuring trophies and memorabilia, a lounge and meeting area with integrated A/V, and expanded space to accommodate larger workouts and host special events. Photo credits: Halkin Mason Photography LLC



# REHABILITATION

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AWARD



## BISCHOFF INN

320 Lafayette Street, Tamaqua  
(SCHUYLKILL COUNTY)

HONORING

TORAT LTD. / WAREHAUS / GINA M. DOUTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING, LLC / HEIM CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Located in the residential end of a National Register District, a furniture factory from the 1870s now serves as a boutique hotel. At a total cost of \$1.2 million, financing for the project included tax credits and a \$900,000 City Revitalization & Improvement Zone reimbursement grant from the Borough of Tamaqua administered by the PA Department of Revenue, PA DCED, and the Governor’s Office of the Budget.

On the exterior, a ghost ad was preserved, and original wood windows were repaired when possible. Interior space was reconfigured for guest bedrooms with individual bathrooms, a common space on the first floor, and innkeeper’s suite on the second. The west and east walls as well as the first-floor ceiling were covered with gypsum board where needed to conceal plumbing, electric, sprinkler systems, and HVAC pipes and chases. The enclosed stairs and door to the upper floor were left as is, featuring historic graffiti of previous users and original family members.

The original wood tongue-and-groove ceiling remains on the second floor, along with the walls, floors, and original tongue-and-groove dividing wall. Most HVAC equipment

was housed in the attic and conduit run through closets and behind the new drywall. To accommodate ceiling heights, lower-profile ductwork and piping were used and placed tightly between the floor and ceiling joists.

New structural reinforcement to the framing system and restoration of the historic exposed stone foundation walls provided new strength to the building as new timber sections were coupled to the existing structural members.

The owner provided the final touches with artwork, historic pieces of Tamaqua history, and furnishings that included wood headboards and tables that were manufactured in the original furniture factory!

A later phase of work will finish the basement area as an entertainment and exhibit space and rehabilitate the rear historic

two-story warehouse and two-story former wagon shed for rental apartments and artist studio spaces.

*Top: Joyful ribbon-cutting at the new Bischoff Inn, January 2023. Photo credit: Warehaus*

*Insets: (left) Owner Maria Stabio stands in front of the future Bischoff Inn in 2021. (right) A completed bedroom, ready to receive guests in 2023. Photo credits: Maria Stabio*





## **OLD NEIFFER ROAD BRIDGE OVER SWAMP CREEK (also known as Sunrise Mill Bridge)**

3431 Neiffer Road, Schwenksville

(MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

HONORING

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY / GANNETT FLEMING, INC. / A.D. MARBLE**

The Old Neiffer Road Bridge was originally constructed in 1845 and is considered a contributing element to the National Register of Historic Places-listed Sunrise Mill complex, whose buildings date from 1767, including a dwelling, mill and barn. Officials added the bridge to the National Historic Register in 1977. Owned by Montgomery County, the bridge is a four-span, closed-spandrel, stone-arch structure that carried the former Old Neiffer Road over Swamp Creek. It's oriented north to south over Swamp Creek and located approximately 400 feet east downstream of the Sunrise Mill complex. The bridge is closed to vehicular traffic since the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) constructed a new Neiffer Road Bridge south of the original bridge.

Just as scheduled work was to begin in fall 2021, Hurricane Ida dropped 8 inches of rain in 24 hours. Swamp Creek flooded because of the storm surge, causing more structural damage, including the bulging of the abutment, the collapse of the downstream barrier

wall and arch ring, and a loss of stones throughout the bridge. The team mobilized on-site to assess the damage and determine the required repairs.

The design and construction incorporated original character-defining features and maintained the bridge's historical profile. Portions of the collapsed spandrel walls and arch rings needed rebuilding using existing stones that had fallen into the creek.



Rehabilitating a stone arch masonry bridge requires temporarily supporting the arches to dismantle and reconstruct them while preserving as much of the structure as possible. Rehabilitation included cleaning and repointing the stone masonry, replacing the existing backfill with lightweight concrete fill, and completing a full-depth bituminous pavement replacement

over the bridge and the approaches.

Pedestrians and bicyclists will use the renovated structure as part of the proposed Swamp Creek Trail.

*Top: Restored stone arches and mill race with wood railing system. Inset: Stone arch shoring system in place for construction. Photo credits: Gannett Fleming, Inc.*



## OLD LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Fifth and Hamilton Streets, Allentown

(LEHIGH COUNTY)

HONORING

COUNTY OF LEHIGH / ARTEFACT, INC. / THE ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO / BENESCH /  
STRUNK-ALBERT ENGINEERING / SKANSKA USA / S.A. COMUNALE; ALBARELL ELECTRIC, INC. /  
JBM MECHANICAL, INC. / THE WARKO GROUP / WILMER R. SCHULTZ, INC. /  
ELEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

In 2019, Lehigh County initiated a full renovation and retrofit of the Old Lehigh County courthouse, an early-19th-century courthouse on the National Register of Historic Places. First erected in 1817 as a modest two-and-a-half-floor stone building, the courthouse has undergone numerous renovations and additions in different architectural styles over the past two centuries, including a Victorian/Italianate-style expansion in 1865; a small brick building for a law library in 1898; and a Beaux-Arts-style rear addition added in 1914.

By the mid-20th century, the mechanical systems in the courthouse had become outdated, and the building could no longer accommodate the county's growing needs for space. A new courthouse was constructed in 1965, and various courts, offices, and the law library were moved into the new building and other nearby county-owned buildings. While the second-floor courtrooms remained in use, the first floor was occupied intermittently by nonprofit organizations, and many historic features fell into disrepair.

By the 2010s, the county again found itself grappling

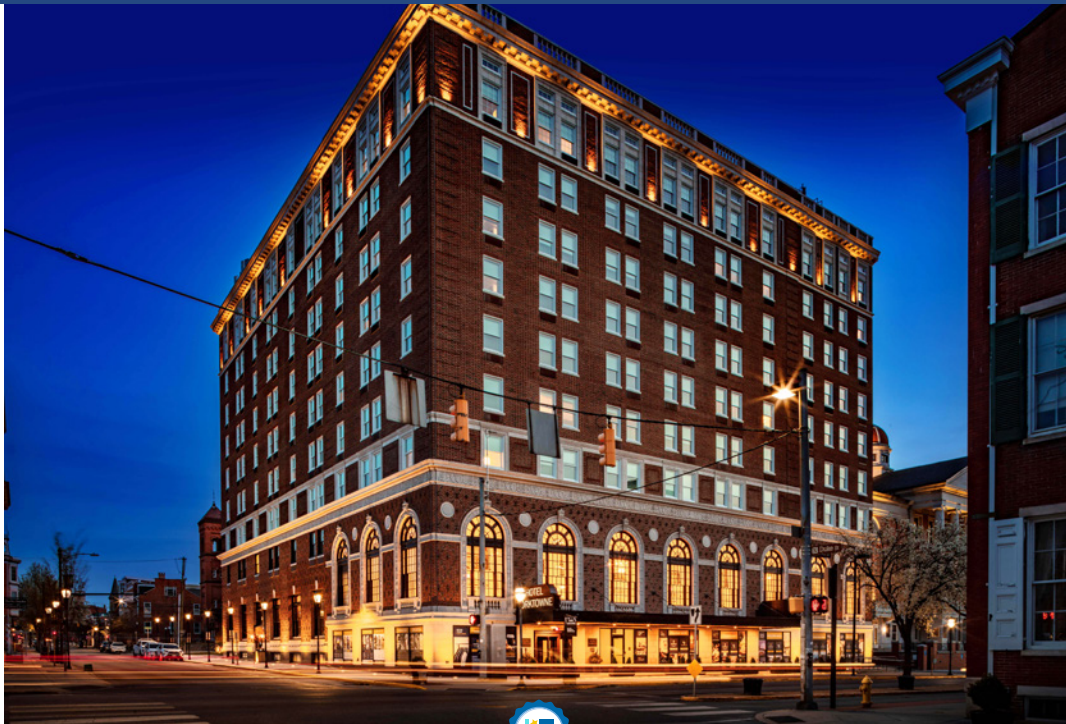
with space constraints. The project team's renovation was mindful of budget constraints while still achieving the goals of preserving the historic character of the building through envelope and interior restoration, reconfiguring layouts to maximize space, and overhauling mechanical systems to provide modern functionality, comfort and accessibility.

Aiming to preserve historic features whenever possible, woodwork, plaster walls, wainscoting and trim were painstakingly restored and repainted in historically appropriate colors. The ceiling in the main hallway, which had been lowered significantly during a previous renovation, was raised to create a grand effect at the entrance.

Unique architectural features presented particular restoration challenges. Repairing the cupola required extensive timber work, and the 1914 roof had been significantly damaged by water infiltration and required replacement.

The completed project has allowed the county to consolidate many functions within a single complex while preserving and celebrating the unique character of each architectural style.

*Façade after renovation, Old Lehigh County Courthouse. Photo credit: Tim Miller*



## THE YORKTOWNE HOTEL

48 E. Market Street, York

(YORK COUNTY)

HONORING

**YORK COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY / NUTEC / JDB ENGINEERING /  
BEATTY HARVEY COCO ARCHITECTS / DELTA DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC. /  
KINSLEY CONSTRUCTION**

This community anchor in the downtown York Historic District was added to *Pennsylvania At Risk* in 2017 after a proposal for partial demolition to remove the upper floors. After extensive behind-the-scenes advocacy work, Preservation Pennsylvania is delighted to honor the rehabilitation project that revived this landmark hotel.

After nearly 90 years in operation, poor management and lack of investment meant entire wings were closed due to leaking ceilings and non-functioning bathrooms. Overall safety issues included electrical wiring, non-functioning HVAC, and a lack of sprinkler systems. When the owner decided to sell in December 2015, the hotel was purchased by the York County

Industrial Development Authority (YCIDA), a nonprofit arm of the York County government.

With a tight budget, the project relied on a collection of state grants, federal and state historic tax credits, public/private partnerships, conventional debt, and local philanthropic funding sources. Work began to bring the beloved but

outdated hotel up to modern guest standards, correcting structural issues, and adding life-safety systems and ADA accessibility.

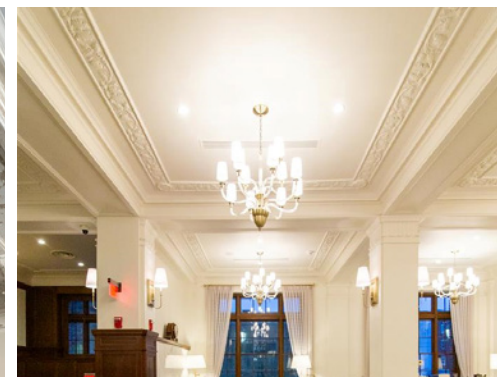
Amid the many challenges were a few welcome surprises. In the main lobby, a mural was discovered behind drywall, painted directly on the terracotta block by Cornelius Hicks



*Top: After being closed for seven years, the Yorktowne reopened in January 2023, creating 90 new jobs and returning to its legendary place as York's hospitality hub. Photo credit: Ryan Hayman, Hayman Studios (Inset shows the building in its "before" state.)*

in 1926. Its restoration was funded by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Removal of lobby carpeting revealed a checkered terrazzo floor that required minimal work to restore its luster.

Important community collaborations included a workforce training program in partnership with the nonprofit Crispus Attucks York, a dozen local art installations in partnership with the Cultural Alliance of York County, and, in partnership with York College of Pennsylvania, the creation of a hospitality project-based learning program to provide training and career opportunities to local residents.



**Top:** The Board of the York County Industrial Development Authority attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony.  
**Second row:** Roof in 2017 (Photo credit: Bonnie Mark, Delta Development Group); and the Graham rooftop lounge in February 2023. (Photo credit: Kinsley Construction)  
**Third row:** Plaster damage in the main lobby, October 2021. (Photo credit: Kim Hogeman, YCIDA); and the restored plaster ceiling in 2023. (Photo credit: Kinsley Construction)  
**Fourth row:** Exterior ballroom window before and after terracotta restoration, masonry repointing, and window restoration. (Photo credit [before]: Bonnie Mark, Delta Development Group; photo credit [after]: James Parker, GF Hospitality)

## HANDMADE HISTORY



Each year, our Honor Awards are handcrafted at the historic Tileworks of Bucks County, a National Historic Landmark. You can tour the Tileworks and adjacent Fonthill, the home of Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer was an American archaeologist, artifact collector, tile maker, and designer of three distinctive poured-concrete structures in Doylestown: his home, Fonthill, the Tileworks, and the Mercer Museum.