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.
Each year, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards program offers preservationists an opportunity to get together, celebrate some of the standout projects from the past year, and, yes, give a few high fives over the year’s success stories. Our field includes experts in planning, design, advocacy, research, development and more — yet there’s no real secret to what makes preservation successful. It’s the people. Those passionate and persevering individuals who bring to bear their talents and imagination on behalf of a place they hold dear. They have the vision to see what could be. They have the heart to know the importance of the place. They have the financial means to make a difference or the drive to share the story with others and excite their interest to know more or to get involved.

At this year’s Preservation Pennsylvania annual meeting, our keynote speaker, Randy Mason, asked us to consider whether historic preservation is a professional field or a calling from the heart. If you look at this year’s award recipients, the answer seems clear. An Erie businessman, passionate about architecture, finds ways for his company to rehab and make use of local historic buildings. An ironmaster’s mansion and grounds are restored because one woman had the creativity to see the possibilities and the charisma to enlist others in the seemingly impossible goal. A Pittsburgh resident makes it her mission to tell the history of her extraordinary neighborhood and city, one building at a time and creates a community of informed advocates. A team of bloggers unites to make history leap from archived pages to the Internet where it’s instantly shared with vast numbers of York County residents.

Some people might see a threatened building and say “someone should do something.” Our award recipients rise to the challenge, and their efforts are an inspiration to us all. Throughout the year, Preservation Pennsylvania is honored to collaborate with motivated people like these honorees in communities all across the state. Thank you for your good work and your support of the work we do.

Here’s to passion and preservation!

Mindy Gulden Crawford
Executive Director

Friday, September 25, 2015
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Zembo Shrine Center
2801 N. 3rd St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Prominent businessman Thomas Hagen started out as a part-time file clerk at Erie Insurance Group and became CEO of the company, the only Fortune 500-listed business headquartered in Erie. Currently, he is the non-executive chairman of the board. He has blended his professional career with his lifelong interest in architecture and historic preservation.

Hagen’s accomplishments include service as Pennsylvania’s 28th and last secretary of commerce, and upon departmental mergers became the first secretary of the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) in the administration of former Gov. Tom Ridge. In addition, Hagen was a member of the Governor’s executive board and chairman of the boards of directors of the following agencies: Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA); Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA); and the Ben Franklin/Industrial Resource Center Partnership. His civic contributions include board service for a variety of organizations, including The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, the Erie Philharmonic, the Arts Council of Erie, the United Way of Erie County, the Erie Community Foundation and Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, to name but a few.

Under Tom’s leadership, Erie Insurance Group has made preservation of local historic resources a priority, saving and restoring numerous buildings. When the company rehabilitated the Tibbals House (built 1842) and four neighboring structures, Hagen researched the history of the Tibbals family home and the heydays of Erie for a self-published book that received an award of merit in 2014 from the American Association for State and Local History. The Daniel Webster quote he included in the text is an insight about his perception of preservation as both a mission and a responsibility. “Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world.”

In an effort to broaden impact beyond the Tibbals House cluster, Erie Insurance Group developed and undertook a master plan that included both rehabilitation as well as new construction, effectively transforming and revitalizing the neighborhood. New construction included much-needed apartment housing and a new, hands-on training center: Erie Insurance Technical Learning Center. The 100-year-old C.F. Adams Building was the first headquarters ever owned by Erie Insurance. It has been transformed into the Erie Insurance Heritage Center where artifacts and exhibits will tell the company’s history and highlight the contributions of co-founder H.O. Hirt. By extension, the company’s history is the context for the story of the surrounding community. The company also restored the 95-year-old Pennsylvania National Guard Armory that is a local icon.

In cooperation with other local partners, including the Historical Society of Erie County and their new Thomas B. Hagen History Center, Hagen has helped reinvent downtown Erie and prevented demolition of numerous historic structures. In connection with the dedication of the Hagen History Center, former Gov. Tom Corbett has said of Thomas Hagen, “Pennsylvania’s history is an ongoing narrative, and Tom Hagen has written a chapter filled with philanthropy, generosity and civic spirit in our state. His has been a lifetime of contributions to preserve the history, architecture and unique character of Erie. Erie and all of Pennsylvania can thank him every time we reconnect to some part of our rich past.”
Jacqueline J. Melander
Centre County

For more than 30 years, Jackie Melander has been at the forefront of Centre County preservation efforts, evidence of her constant dedication to the historic, cultural and educational enhancement of her community.

When the Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) received the Centre Furnace Mansion in 1978, Jackie oversaw a $400,000 fundraising effort and directed a restoration program for the Centre Furnace Mansion and grounds.

John Ziegler, Professor Emeritus of Food Science, Penn State, and long-time board of governors member of CCHS, said “Jackie is the person who saved the whole thing. She is the person who said the Historical Society needed a home and that we should do this. Jackie pushed us into a lot of things I didn’t think we would be able to do.”

With her gift for marshalling the talents of historians, restoration specialists, landscapers, contractors, fundraisers, legislators and volunteers, the restored mansion and its grounds once again grace the valley as they did when it was occupied by ironmaster Moses Thompson and his family.

Jackie has served on the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations. She’s given time to local and county planning commissions, design review boards, and state and community improvement advisory committees. She’s written numerous presentations and articles on Centre County history, architecture and historic preservation, and is actively involved in preparing nominations for sites and districts to the National Register of Historic Places.

Leon Stout, long-time member of CCHS said: “Her advocacy has been intelligent and effective, never strident or confrontational. Her warm and friendly personality has overcome unnecessary anxiety about formally recognizing our historic properties.”

Through all of her writing, research and community involvement, she brings an institutional knowledge that is invaluable to the Society and to the community. Jackie embodies the ideal of an ambassador – truly understanding collaboration both within and outside of the Society.

East Allegheny Community Council
Allegheny County

The picturesque neighborhood of East Allegheny (also known as Deutschtown) on Pittsburgh’s Northside was settled mostly by German immigrants in the latter half of the 19th century. The neighborhood’s annexation into Pittsburgh city limits, the development of streetcar lines that allowed people to move to the suburbs, and disinvestment and urban renewal in the middle of the 20th century all took their toll on Deutschtown’s population and vitality. A new interstate highway divided the area in two sections and could have been the neighborhood’s death knell. The East Allegheny Community Council was founded in 1978 to revitalize the area. Their primary mission was threefold: encouraging restoration and preservation of housing stock; presenting social, cultural, educational and charitable programming; and enhancing quality of life by promoting public safety, enforcing city ordinances and performing some city services. Their website, deutschtown.org, is a portal that promotes the neighborhood and communicates with stakeholders.

A walking tour highlights the area’s history, illustrating what was there, celebrating all that remains and pointing out how community efforts have contributed to East Allegheny’s revival.

To date, their impressive success story includes acquisition and renewal of 80 historic homes, restoration of two historic commercial spaces, listing the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places as well as gaining local historic district status, new infill development, rezoning to allow for use changes and ensure diversity of housing stock, property conversions, and successful marketing and financing of real estate transactions. Restored houses proudly display plaques showing the year of construction.

Today, thanks to the efforts of the East Allegheny Community Council, the neighborhood is a sought-after place to live, a welcoming merchant environment and a popular visitor destination. Interspersed throughout the neighborhood are restaurants and bars, grocery and hardware stores, clothing boutiques, a post office, a gift shop, hotel, banks, salons, a bakery and more. Among the favorite annual traditions are fall’s Pumpkindest children’s festival, the Deutschtown Music Festival, the German Parade & Car Show, and a weekly farmer’s market.
**Mellon Square: Discovering a Modern Masterpiece**

Allegheny County

**HONORING:** Susan Rademacher, Parks Curator, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

In her book, *Mellon Square: Discovering a Modern Masterpiece*, author Susan Rademacher provides an in-depth account of this noted modern landscape, from its celebrated design and construction as an urban oasis and cornerstone of midtown revitalization during Pittsburgh's first Renaissance, through the Square's decline, and on to its nationally celebrated – and recently completed – restoration.

The American Society of Landscape Architects named the book one of its “Top 10 Books of 2014,” an annual selection of outstanding publications in the field.

Completed in 1955 from a design by the acclaimed landscape design firm Simonds & Simonds and architects Mitchell & Ritchey, Mellon Square capped underground parking and functioned as an urban oasis that provided downtown office workers with a much-needed respite from the city’s infamous smoke pollution. Now, more than six decades later, Mellon Square has undergone a major restoration led by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the City of Pittsburgh, and lead designer Patricia O’Donnell of Heritage Landscapes that has restored this urban garden and spurred major revitalization in downtown Pittsburgh. Featuring new photographs and archival material, the book showcases the development of this iconic mid-century urban landscape.

Author Susan Rademacher is parks curator for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, preserving, enhancing and promoting the cultural significance of parks through master planning and project design. Previously, she was president of the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy and assistant director of Louisville Metro Parks. Her published books include *Bold Romantic Gardens; Outdoor Living Spaces; and Garden Design: History, Principles, Elements, Practice*. A former editor in chief of *Landscape Architecture* magazine, she was also a founding editor of *Garden Design* magazine. Rademacher was a Loeb Fellow of Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design and is a graduate of Miami University.

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**YorkBlog.com**

*York Daily Record*

York County

**HONORING:** Joan Concilio, June Lloyd, Jim McClure, Scott Mingus, Stephen H. Smith, *York Daily Record*

For those who love and live in the York County area, the online blogs at YorkBlog.com serve as both an information outlet and a platform for discussion of community news, politics, lifestyle, sports – and especially the area’s rich local history. The website features blogs by *York Daily Record/Sunday News* staff members as well as community blogs by York County residents. In “York Town Square,” *York Daily Record* editor Jim McClure shares his passion for local history and journalism and “proves that all roads do lead to York.” Lifelong Yorker Joan Concilio talks about all the things that make York County unique – and sometimes weird in her blog “Only In York County.” The “Cannonball” blog allows author Scott Mingus to explore York County’s rich Civil War heritage, while Stephen H. Smith shares a hodgepodge of explorations in “York’s Past.” Finally, in “Universal York,” historian June Lloyd looks at how things have converged on the town, past and present.

Collectively, these blogs inform residents about obscure history that might be forgotten otherwise, highlight new historical research resources available to local residents, and create a forum for discussion of current community preservation issues. No other newspaper in Pennsylvania has reported on historic preservation in such a consistent and positive manner. For 10 years and through approximately 8,000 posts, the history blogging team has placed a bright spotlight on local preservation efforts and a colorful kaleidoscope of York County’s rich history.
Catholic Chaplain’s Office, Eastern State Penitentiary
Philadelphia County
HONORING: Eastern State Penitentiary, City of Philadelphia, J&M Preservation Studio, Material Conservation Collaborative

Eastern State Penitentiary was once the most famous prison in the world. Its vaulted, sky-lit cells held many of America’s most notorious criminals, including Al Capone. It was the world’s first “penitentiary,” a prison designed to inspire penitence, or true regret, in the hearts of convicts.

The first seven cellblocks were constructed between 1823-1836, with periodic major additions ending in 1959 with the opening of “Death Row.” It closed in 1971 after 142 years of consecutive use and reopened as a historic site in 1994, exploring both historic and modern issues of incarceration.

Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site (ESPHS) identified as a restoration priority the two rooms of the Catholic Chaplain’s Office that contain unique evidence of a prisoner’s faith – 23 murals painted by inmate Lester Smith in 1955. Smith was a self-taught artist who converted to Catholicism in prison before coming to Eastern State. The chaplain invited him to apply his talents to decorate the offices where he met with and counseled inmates. Smith covered the walls with Catholic imagery. Most striking is the kneeling prisoner – probably a self-portrait – seeking reconciliation through confession, the Penitent Prisoner.

The severely deteriorating murals were stabilized in 1996 while fundraising garnered more than $900,000 to complete the building restoration, infrastructure improvements and the paintings’ conservation.

Now open for guided tours, the Catholic Chaplain’s Office is a moving testament to the story of one inmate who underwent a powerful change while in prison. Using these artifacts allows ESPHS to develop educational programs and deepen the storyline regarding inmates’ spirituality, a fascinating aspect of the daily life of inmates and prison operations. Like the restored Synagogue that opened to the public in 2009, the Catholic Chaplain’s Office allows visitors to experience the same spaces that were havens for inmates seeking solace through religious practice.

Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church
Franklin County
HONORING: Franklin County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Rocky Spring Church was founded in the early 18th century by Scottish and Irish settlers. The simple brick meeting house where the congregation once worshipped was built in 1794 by Walter Beatty, its construction date recorded in glazed headers laid into one gable end. Though by the time of its centennial celebration the church was reported to have fewer than a dozen aged members, crowds numbering in the thousands traveled to the “grand old historic spot” to pay tribute.

Addressing the crowd, Rev. Samuel Wylie remarked on the church’s extraordinary preservation:

“This church interior, as your fathers saw it in the autumn of 1794, so you see it today. No painter’s brush or carpenter’s hand has been laid on it for a century . . . . A souvenir, a keepsake from your fathers. . . . This church as it is now, with its almost perfect roof, walls and foundation would stand for another century.”

The original features from this rare surviving “relic” from the 18th century include original pews, pulpit and sounding board, precentor’s lectern, brick flooring, cast iron heating stoves and stove pipes, communion tables and benches, and other details. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. As the Rev. Wylie predicted in 1894, the church has stood for more than another century. Since the congregation dissolved, the site has been cared for by the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring, Chambersburg, on behalf of the owner, the Presbytery of Carlisle, and the Franklin County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which has helped care for the church and adjoining cemetery since 1919. The DAR purchased the property in 2007 and now oversees interpretive efforts to share the site with the public and works with Michael Albert of Historic Preservation Services in Chambersburg to ensure the property’s continued survival.
Veterans Memorial Bridge Lighting Project
Lancaster and York Counties


The mile-long Veterans Memorial Bridge has spanned the Susquehanna River and connected the towns of Columbia and Wrightsville since 1930. Part of the historic transcontinental Lincoln Highway, it is believed to be the longest, multiple-arched, concrete span in the world and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over the bridge's 80-year history, original features were removed, including toll booths and light fixtures.

By 2005, local partners launched the Veterans Memorial Bridge Lighting Project to restore and preserve the historic authenticity of the bridge. Since the bridge traverses three municipalities, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) requested the Boroughs of Columbia and Wrightsville and West Hempfield Township to enter into an agreement to establish responsibilities for the design, construction and maintenance of the new lighting system.

A foundry in Phoenixville produced lanterns that approximated the appearance of the old fixtures, and the two columns that once stood at each bridge entrance were restored to their original appearance with two hanging fixtures. A community ribbon-cutting celebration was held by Rivertowns PA USA that included a parade of 1930s-era cars.

The work revealed that a pent eave was originally located across the east gable-end of the building, and it was restored to its original configuration. A new pent roof was constructed on the east block, continuous across its south, east and north facades, between the lower and upper windows.

As restored, the Webb Farmhouse’s materials, architectural style and relationship to its setting exemplify what is known as “The Brandywine Aesthetic.” Inside, exhibits in the West Gallery highlight the meadow’s seasonal beauty, while the East Gallery presents a variety of historical documents and objects within the context of the restored “Hearth Room” with its impressive walk-in cooking fireplace.

Webb Farmhouse at Longwood Gardens
Chester County

HONORING: Longwood Gardens, John Milner Architects, Jonathan Alderson Landscape Architects

Longwood Gardens is a renowned landscape in the Brandywine Creek Valley that today features over 1,000 acres of fountains, formal gardens, woodlands and meadows. The Webb Farmhouse, set in the new 86-acre Meadow Garden, has been preserved as part of the site’s history, a link to the farmers who originally cleared and farmed the land.

Built using stone from the fields that surround it, the earliest part of the Webb home dates from 1730. In the early 1800s, a new addition doubled the size of the house. In 2014, the exterior of the farmhouse was restored by John Milner Architects of Chadds Ford to reflect its appearance at the end of the 18th century.

Elements of the exterior restoration included removal of stucco covering the fieldstone, replacement of existing entry stairs with historically accurate versions, installation of reproduction windows and doors, recreations of the original wood roof, restoration of gutters and downspouts, infill of a door opening and window sills to match the existing stonework, restoration of broken-off stone flashing, replacement of a basement entry door with a board and batten wood door with reproduction hardware, and more.

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Sustainability in Historic Preservation

LSC Design
Corporate Headquarters
York County

HONORING: LSC Design, Kinsley Properties

LSC Design’s new corporate headquarters is located in the former Thomas Somerville Building, a 1920s warehouse. The conversion of the building from open warehouse space to design and production studios with leasable street-level storefront space followed the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and achieved LEED Platinum certification.

The building’s character-defining brick walls had little to no insulation, so energy modeling was used to determine the maximum amount of exposed brick wall that could be left uninsulated yet still achieve exemplary insulation R-values throughout the building.

Abundant natural light was enhanced with lights and shades controlled by a daylight harvesting system. Ductwork for a high-efficiency mechanical system was concealed along the historic crane rail on the warehouse interior.

New high-efficiency, low-flow plumbing fixtures treat 50% of the facility’s wastewater on site. Overall, water conservation efforts have reduced water consumption by 45% above code requirements.

Industrial features such as elevator doors, cranes and signage were repurposed. On the exterior, an historic crane was retained as a landscape feature. Landscaping was designed to include native and drought-tolerant species so there would be no need for irrigation systems.

The rehabilitation project was awarded LEED Platinum certification in October 2014. The final result is a building that positively impacts the environment, conserves energy and materials, and retains the industrial characteristics of the past.

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

Carol Peterson
Allegheny County

Carol Peterson’s three decades of grassroots preservation efforts have joined individuals, preservation organizations, government officials, neighborhoods and businesses in an ongoing conversation about Pittsburgh’s historic resources.

Carol moved to Pittsburgh in 1983, when the city was still reeling from the collapse of the steel industry and vacancy was on the rise in many historic neighborhoods. In 1989, she began researching the histories of houses in her community, which led to the launch of her business. To date, she has brought to life over 1,700 house histories that answer common questions and illuminate the history and design of Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods.

On Facebook, she rallies the community (including local government officials and news reporters) around pressing preservation issues, whether soliciting nominations for the local listing of endangered resources, calling out politicians or encouraging participation at Historic Review Commission hearings.

Her passion for Pittsburgh’s historic buildings led her to complete a survey of the Lawrenceville neighborhood, resulting in a determination of eligibility for the district. Since then, she has successfully nominated four additional properties to the local register.

Carol also invests her own resources in historic preservation. Over the past 25 years, she sensitively rehabilitated more than 10 houses in her community, one of Pittsburgh’s largest and most historic neighborhoods.

In 2013, Carol teamed up with Dan Rooney (north sider, chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and NFL Hall of Famer) to write Allegheny City: A History of Pittsburgh’s North Side. The narrative is a “highly engaging history of the cultural, industrial and architectural achievements of Allegheny City, from its humble beginnings to the present day.”

Finally, in 2015, as a testament to her commitment to the City of Pittsburgh and its preservation, her knowledge of its architecture and history, and her stature as a rallying force in the community, Mayor Bill Peduto appointed Carol to serve as a member of the Historic Review Commission.
The William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives (also known as the State Museum of Pennsylvania and Archives)  
Dauphin County  
HONORING: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  

The William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives, designed by Harrisburg’s Lawrie and Green and dedicated on October 13, 1965, was a forward-looking home for Pennsylvania’s history. Decidedly modern in design, based on the modernist tenet “form follows function,” the complex featured a plain drum-shaped building to house the museum and tall sleek tower for the archives. The museum’s cast concrete structure lent itself to a plan that could be configured as necessary for exhibits while the archives’ tower height utilized a limestone-clad steel frame.  

In keeping with modernist thought, ornamentation of the building was kept to a minimum, and fine materials such as limestone, granite, travertine, walnut, brushed aluminum and terrazzo were featured throughout the complex.  

A central plaza, originally the entry point to the museum, featured planters and sunken courtyards in an interplay of solid and void. It served a functional purpose; masking the fact that the museum and archives were one building, it concealed offices, work areas and a garage below.  

Time and weather have exposed preservation issues distinct to modern architecture. Constructed when the use of stone cladding was still fairly new, the long-term performance of fastening systems was not well understood, and corrosion is now an issue. Code upgrades to elements such as elevators are difficult without large-scale interventions. Modern expectations of environmental conditions in museum spaces are also difficult to achieve without adequate insulation and vapor barriers.  

The State Museum and Archives, marking its 50th anniversary and celebrating its listing in the National Register of Historic Places, is focused on balancing stewardship and current museum requirements in this significant modernist work. Work to refresh and restore the building has begun with smaller cosmetic campaigns focused on finishes and furnishings and will continue with larger projects to address life-safety and infrastructure issues.

Dana and David Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships  
Philadelphia County  

Creation of the Dana and David Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships involved the adaptive reuse of three structures that were combined into a new university outpost providing community support services (academic outreach services, wellness center, law clinic and other programs) to the surrounding Powelton and Mantua neighborhoods. The property includes a two- to three-story Italianate-style mansion of stucco-coated stone, built c. 1850 with c. 1860 and 1921 alterations; a two-story brick carriage house built c. 1860 with 1921 alterations; and a modern school building constructed in 1959.  

Project goals included restoring the historic character of the building exteriors through repair and replacements of damaged and missing elements; maintaining and bringing back intact historic interiors where possible; careful insertion of new building systems, and elimination of additions and unsympathetic exterior elements.  

Significant features preserved in the mansion included the wood paneling in the dining room, ornate plaster crown moldings throughout much of the first floor, wood trim, interior shutters and carved wood mantelpieces with ceramic tile hearths. In a second floor parlor room, additions were removed to reveal historic wood shelving. Transformation of the carriage house included reversing alterations to window openings and replacement of the slate roof.  

Construction of a new addition with a fire stair and elevator allowed the project to meet code requirements for egress and accessibility. New heating and cooling units were installed throughout all buildings, allowing for the elimination of all window units. The HVAC system is fed by a new underground mechanical piping loop with a campus-wide boiler and chiller located in the renovated non-historic school building.  

Certified historic by the National Park Service, the project qualified for tax credits and achieved its overall goal of creating a functional, modern institutional facility, while keeping as much of the historic fabric as possible.
Maria Hall, Villa Joseph Marie High School  
Bucks County

**HONORING:** Villa Joseph Marie High School, Daniel T. Campbell, AIA, Twining Construction Company, Inc.

“Maria Hall,” an Italianate villa built in 1860, was purchased by the Sisters of St. Casimir in 1932 to become the principal building for the newly-created Villa Joseph Marie School for Girls. Through most of the 20th century, the building served the school’s educational and administrative functions, becoming less utilized as the school expanded into modern buildings.

In 2012, a fire that began in the basement boiler area burned for nearly 2½ hours. Flames entered the three-story center stair hall, consuming portions of the walls, decorative woodwork, plaster cornices and stair components. The decorative colonnade and Moravian tile floor at the north end of the dining room (an early 20th century addition), and the structural floor framing in the dining room, stair hall, and parts of the northwest rooms were lost. Approximately half of the building’s window sashes were broken, and much of the oak strip flooring was destroyed or buckled from the heat and water damage. The entire building suffered intense heat, smoke and water damage.

The key goals for this project were to return the building to pre-fire condition by replicating character-defining features, meeting current code requirements for mechanical, electrical and fire-suppression systems, and making upgrades to accessibility and amenities. Measured plans, elevations and section drawings, including detailed drawings of surviving woodwork and archival research, helped guide the work.

Damaged Moravian tile was replaced with identical tiles, which are still produced in nearby Doylestown. The colonnade was replicated by copying its surviving twin. Windows were returned to their two-over-two configurations to the exact profiles of the original sashes. Inappropriate alterations, such as a mid-20th century enclosure on the south elevation, were removed, while a glass enclosure on the north elevation was recreated based on archival research.

Maria Hall’s safety and usefulness are secured for another century.

Merchants’ Exchange Building  
Philadelphia County

**HONORING:** Independence National Historical Park/National Park Service, Mills + Schnoering Architects LLC

The Merchants’ Exchange Building, designed by William Strickland, is considered the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in North America. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to Independence National Historical Park, and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. The majority of the building is constructed with Pennsylvania blue marble, a naturally soft and porous material. The column capitals on the east and west elevations are carved from Carrara marble. Due to their composition, weathering, temperature fluctuations and pollutants, both types of marble had deteriorated significantly.

The National Park Service initially retained the project team to inspect the existing conditions of the projecting marble elements, review prior restoration work, and develop schematic documents for the stabilization and re-securing of marble elements in danger of failure, such as cornices and capitals. The marble’s severe deterioration threatened the safety of building visitors, occupants and passersby.

One of the key components of the building is the antefixes that were set on the ledge of the upper cornice at the east elevation. A mock-up process was recommended and carried out that involved removal of a sample antefix, recordation with laser scanning and conservation. The conservation work was done on site in a public area where visitors could watch and learn about the process. The tested methods were then incorporated into the schematic documents that guided the subsequent work. Areas identified as being in danger of failure were re-secured; the cupola was rehabilitated; antefixes were removed, conserved and reinstalled; and the stabilization of deteriorating marble elements was completed in an effort to slow the rate of future loss. These interventions protect both the building and the safety of the public and occupants, and allow Strickland’s original design intentions to be preserved.
Mellon Square
Allegheny County

HONORING: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Heritage Landscapes LLC, Pfaffmann + Associates, PC

May 2014 marked the official reopening of Mellon Square and the completion of a six-year effort to restore the historically and architecturally significant downtown park.

When it opened in 1955, the 1.37-acre plaza was the country’s first urban green space designed and constructed as an integral project with a subterranean parking facility and ground-level retail space. It was hailed as a keystone of Pittsburgh’s fabled first Renaissance, a time when civic leaders fostered economic growth through efforts to clean the smoky city’s air, land and water. With its “Rustic Venetian” terrazzo paving, majestic fountains, dynamic lighting, and granite planters with more than 35 varieties of trees, shrubs and ivy, the plaza provided Pittsburgh with an island of beauty and serenity. The space deteriorated over time as a lack of resources for maintenance allowed weather, use and vandalism to dim its luster. Eventually, mechanical, electric and plumbing systems failed, and the fountains went dry.

In 2009, following successful efforts to generate public support and funding for a restoration effort, a preservation, interpretation & management plan was developed. Work focused on returning the square to the original design intent of its principal creators, John O. Simonds (of Simonds & Simonds), one of the 20th century’s most influential landscape architects, and James A. Mitchell (of Mitchell & Ritchey), Pittsburgh’s leading modern architect, while solving persistent issues of decline and addressing the needs of park users.

Today, the magnificent Central Fountain is beautifully lit, and the canopy of trees, newly restored planters, terrazzo paving, and thriving flowers and grasses have recreated a welcome escape amidst the towering skyscrapers that rise along the park’s border.

A new elevated terrace overlooking Smithfield Street, based on a historic but unbuilt design concept, solved a persistent problem and increased usable public space. Mellon Square is helping to spur a new wave of economic development around its perimeter, just as it did when Pittsburgh first reinvented itself 60 years ago.

East Broad Street Bridge
Schuylkill County

HONORING: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 5-0, Ammann & Whitney Pennsylvania, Inc., Skelly and Loy, Inc.

The 1890’s East Broad Street Bridge over the Little Schuylkill River is a contributing element of both the national and local historic districts in Tamaqua, a historic coal mining town. Rehabilitation of the three-span stone masonry arch bridge and sidewalks that were added in 1933 required an innovative approach.

In-depth inspections helped guide plan development, which focused on uncovering, rehabilitating and reintroducing structurally sound masonry arches while replacing the sidewalks with a new system that complemented and honored the bridge’s historic arch core. The bridge also needed to be protected from future flooding.

Sequencing arch construction to address environmental concerns required careful planning and approvals. The team created a schedule and logistics plan that allowed restoration work to continue without disrupting the twice-yearly stocking and natural migration of trout. Coffer dams were utilized to protect the stream while each arch was restored, which was done individually utilizing centering to support the arch structure during repointing and replacing of the bridge system above.

The team worked collaboratively with the Tamaqua Borough so the bridge incorporated the downtown beautification design including brick pavers and streetlights on Broad Street and a suitably decorative protective railing on either side of the bridge.

The stone arch restoration necessitated complete closure of the bridge for the construction duration. This was a major concern for businesses and residents since Broad Street is a significant access road to the business district. Understanding the importance of access to the downtown, the project was completed two months ahead of schedule and was a feature of the 30th Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival and the Halloween parade in October 2014.

The preservation and rehabilitation of the bridge was successfully completed through the joint effort of the entire project team, PennDOT District 5-0, Tamaqua Historical Architectural Review Committee representatives and consulting parties. The project successfully models the union of historic preservation and modern materials to create a showpiece structure that will last into the next century.
Old Main, The Pennsylvania State University
Centre County

Old Main is the most treasured building on the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) campus and has come to symbolize the university as a whole. Opened in 1930, it served as a multi-purpose building, housing the president’s and other university offices, as well as social spaces for students. Today, Old Main houses only administrative spaces, including the president’s office in its original location.

Artist Henry Varnum Poor, whose work can be seen in federal buildings in Washington, D.C., painted the “Land Grant” frescoes between 1940-1949. They are among the largest works of their kind on any campus and pay tribute to the establishment of PSU and publicly funded agricultural and technical educational institutions.

Over time, the character of the lobby and its artwork were compromised. Rich colors and delicately-applied wall, ceiling and column finishes were whitewashed, original lighting was replaced with poorly-placed and visually-discordant fixtures, and the frescoes suffered deterioration due to various factors, identified in a study by Michaels Conservation (AMCI). AMCI recommended that the university enlist the services of an architect with historic preservation expertise. In 2007, PSU engaged Ann Beha Architects to prepare a preservation and renovation master plan that addressed the architectural and building systems issues and established overall goals for preserving the historic character of the building and its setting on campus.

Paint and finish analysis determined the original color palette. Absent light fixtures were reconstructed to restore the lobby’s historic character, and inefficient and incompatible modern lighting was replaced by discrete, energy-efficient lighting to highlight the fresco walls. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, many of which were original to the building, were replaced with energy-efficient systems. New temperature and humidity control in the lobby stabilized the environment and protects the frescoes. A multi-phased approach allowed the building to remain occupied during the work.

Conservation work in progress

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: www.preservationpa.org > Programs > At Risk to download a nomination form.

Complete the nomination form, and submit it to Erin Hammerstedt at 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, November 6, 2015. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Erin Hammerstedt at (814) 571-2444 or 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.
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Built in 1891, the English Center Bridge is a one-span, hybrid suspension and truss bridge. With a main span of 300’, it is the only bridge of its type in Pennsylvania. Currently, M&M is completing the Rehabilitation Feasibility Study Phase of this project.
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