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COLEBROOK GRIST MILL LISTED ON 2019 PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK LIST

Future is Uncertain for Local Landmark

PALMYRA, LEBANON COUNTY, PA -- The **Colebrook Grist Mill** represents the intersection of two industries – iron and agriculture – that were the foundation of Pennsylvania’s early industrial economy. The grist mill was established in 1793 and operated until the early 20th century as a local business and community gathering place. Later, it played a role in the early years of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Initially, the mill operated as part of the Colebrook Iron Plantation, milling grain to support the workers at the Colebrook Furnace and earn extra income from surrounding farms. The mill and the nearby Colebrook Iron Master's House (listed on the National Register), and two worker houses are all constructed out of the same type of red sandstone. Together, they make up all that is left of this industrial site. After the furnace closed, the mill continued to serve the local agricultural community for most of another century, until the internal combustion engine made the water-driven system obsolete. After several changes of ownership, the Pennsylvania National Guard used it from 1910-1920.

The iconic old mill structure still features the stone, thick wood beams, and original steel overshot waterwheel. The immediate threat to the mill building is physical deterioration that could lead to demolition. The property is owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which does not maintain the building since historic properties do not fall under its mission.

“The local community regards this building as an important local landmark,” said Julia Chain, Program Director at Preservation Pennsylvania. “It offers great potential for reuse, surrounded by an area that has been recognized by the township for its scenic landscape and recreational opportunities.” The building is near State Route 241 and recreational resources formed by the juncture of game lands, the Conewago Creek, the Horse-Shoe Trail, and the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.

Preservation Pennsylvania will work with the South Londonderry Township Area Historical Society and the South Londonderry Township Historical Commission to negotiate a way forward with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

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2019 Pennsylvania At Risk

Preservation Pennsylvania has listed the following places to the 2019 Pennsylvania At Risk and will offer free preservation assistance through the year.

Farmhouse at the Carlisle Indian School (Cumberland County)

A coalition of Tribal representatives and local organizations seek to preserve a farmhouse that was part of the Carlisle Indian School. They hope to transform it into a place of healing and education.

Woodburne Mansion (Delaware County)

This empty mansion designed by architect Horace Trumbauer for a noted family offers vast potential. It's surrounded by a historic natural landscape that's poised to become a valuable recreational resource that would benefit the residents of several nearby townships.

Colebrook Grist Mill (Lebanon County)

Local advocates hope to save, restore and find a new use for the long-vacant landmark.

Morton and Lenore Weiss House (Montgomery County)

A mid-century residence designed by one of the world's greatest 20th century architects is threatened with demolition by neglect and development.

Camp Archbald (Susquehanna County)

Local Girl Scout councils across the country, with approval from national leadership, have put up for sale more than 200 camps in 30 states. Camp Archbald, one of the oldest camps in the country, under review for potential sale.

About Pennsylvania At Risk

Since 1992, Preservation Pennsylvania has published the *Pennsylvania At Risk* list to draw statewide attention to the plight of Pennsylvania's historic resources; promote and support local action to protect historic properties; and encourage funding and legislation that supports preservation activities.

Helping people to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's endangered historic properties is a top priority for Preservation Pennsylvania. The organization is committed to engaging with people interested in working to preserve and rehabilitate these significant historic places.

This year's list was chosen from nominations submitted by groups and individuals. Submissions are evaluated by several criteria, including historic significance, the extent of the threat and the community's commitment to preserving the resource.

Founded in 1982, Preservation Pennsylvania is the commonwealth's only statewide, private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources. For more information, visit the website at www.preservationpa.org or contact Preservation Pennsylvania at 717-234-2310.

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