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For Immediate Release

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## **HISTORIC LOCK RIDGE FURNACE LISTED ON 2020 PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK**

Lack of funding creates challenges for beloved park and buildings that connect a town to its founding

Alburtis, Lehigh County, PA – The **Lock Ridge Furnace** has been named to Preservation Pennsylvania’s annual list of endangered historic properties. The 60-acre park in the town of Alburtis offers recreational opportunities and a connection to the town’s founding. The iron works here were once the largest employer in the area. However, time and weather have taken a toll on the historic buildings and a 2019 engineering study estimated the cost for repairs will exceed \$1 million.

Spot repairs to leaky areas have reduced the problem, but a complete replacement is necessary. Deterioration of the trusses and structure will continue until funds are acquired to completely replace the roof and the deteriorated supporting trusses. Once the work has been completed, the interior areas of the cast house and furnace can be reopened for public access to provide visitors with an understanding of the furnace and its importance to the Alburtis community. Without a complete roof restoration, further deterioration could result in even more limited public access due to safety concerns and potential demolition of the furnace and cast house building.

“For many people living in Alburtis, this park is part of their history and identity,” said Julia Chain, Associate Director of Preservation Pennsylvania, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources. “Listing on the 2020 Pennsylvania At Risk will help draw attention to the project and Preservation Pennsylvania will assist with identifying potential funding sources and helping to publicize ongoing fundraising efforts ”

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### **2020 Pennsylvania At Risk**

Preservation Pennsylvania has listed the following places to the 2020 Pennsylvania At Risk and will offer free preservation assistance throughout the year.

#### **ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

##### **Croatian Fraternal Union, 3441 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh**

Local preservationists urge the University of Pittsburgh to incorporate the former Croatia Fraternal Union building into its plans for a new innovation center, rather than demolishing the ornate Flemish Gothic-style building.

##### **Firstside Historic District, 100-102 Market 104 and 106-108 Market Street, 209 First Avenue, Pittsburgh**

A National Register Historic District that represents Pittsburgh’s wharf trade history with architecturally significant buildings is threatened with the potential demolition of a block of buildings for which the owner has provided no indication of a redevelopment plan or financing.

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## LEHIGH COUNTY

### **Lock Ridge Furnace**, 525 Franklin Street, Alburtis

A local park and its buildings tell the story of the region's industrial history and a town's founding, yet repairs to secure and reopen the buildings will be a budget strain.

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

### **Meadows Road Bridge**, Meadows Road at Saucon Creek , Lower Saucon Township

A beloved and historic stone bridge provides an important connection to the past — and to two sides of a township. Locals want to see it repaired instead of replaced.

## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

### **John Coltrane House**, 1511 N. 33rd Street, Philadelphia

National Historic Landmark designation can't save this jazz great's home from slow decline, but if the owners are willing to work with a caring community, it may be possible.

## YORK COUNTY

### **Strickler Farmhouse**, 1205 Williams Road, Springettsbury Township

National Register-listed farmhouse located on the county prison property needs to be moved or it may be demolished.

### **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](http://www.preservationpa.org) or contact Preservation Pennsylvania at 717-234-2310.

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