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For Immediate Release

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JOHN COLTRANE HOUSE LISTED ON 2020 PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK

The jazz great's Philadelphia home is looking for love

Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA – The **John Coltrane House** (1511 N. 33rd Street), a National Historic Landmark, has been named to Preservation Pennsylvania's annual list of endangered historic properties. 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.

John Coltrane, a jazz composer and one of the most influential saxophonists in music history, purchased a Philadelphia row house in 1952 and lived there until 1958. In a second floor bedroom, he kicked his heroin addiction with a window view of the railroad tracks leading to New York City and his future. Sharing the house was his cousin Mary, to whom he dedicated a track on his groundbreaking album "Giant Steps." Mary Lyerly Alexander is described in the album's liner notes as "a very earthy, folksy, swinging person."

Alexander perpetuated Coltrane's legacy, founding the John W. Coltrane Cultural Society, a nonprofit organization that operated out of the house. The group organized jazz workshops and master classes in public schools. She hosted a concert series in the backyard that featured big name Coltrane friends as well as up- and-coming musicians. She would host tours of the house, proudly displaying original music and paintings done by Coltrane. Recognizing the house's value as a touchstone to Coltrane and Philadelphia's jazz history, she achieved National Historic Landmark status for the house in 1999.

When ill health forced her into nursing care, the house was sold to a new owner who wished to continue the Coltrane legacy. His unfortunate passing created an uncertain future for the house.

In 2013, working with the owner and stakeholders, the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia developed a plan that outlined possibilities for the use, interpretation and rehabilitation of the Coltrane House and adjacent property (under the same ownership).

"Preservation Pennsylvania hopes to work with the owners and supporters in the local preservation and jazz communities to find a way forward for this property," said Julia Chain, Associate Director of Preservation Pennsylvania, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources.

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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.

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 or contact Preservation Pennsylvania at 717-234-2310.