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For Immediate Release

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HISTORIC STRICKLER FARMHOUSE LISTED ON 2020 PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK

County-owned property dating to early settlers needs new use or new location

Springettsbury Township, York County, PA – The **Strickler Farmhouse** in York County 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.

The Strickler Farmhouse is noted as one of only a few surviving homes built by the Pennsylvania German settlers of Springettsbury Township. The main stone house was constructed c. 1740, with two brick additions in the 19th century. For more than 200 years, generations of Strickler descendants lived here and worked their farm. They sold the property in the 1920s and by the 1940s, it was in the possession of York County.

In 1991, the Strickler Family Farmhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the County undertook a rehabilitation of the building to convert it for use as offices. The work was overseen by Historic York, Inc, a county nonprofit, to ensure that all the work met the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Several agencies used the building as offices over the years, including the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency which moved out in 2013.

Since 2013, the County has explored several possibilities for its use, but none have been feasible. The house has been vacant and suffering from deferred maintenance. No longer the centerpiece of a rural farmstead, the farmhouse is now adjacent to the county prison. The Strickler Family cemetery is located between the farmhouse and the prison.

“Preservation Pennsylvania will work to find potential new tenants or owners for this historic property,” said Julia Chain, Associate Director of Preservation Pennsylvania, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources. “Its proximity to the prison has presented a challenge, but we hope that listing on Pennsylvania At Risk will create new awareness and prevent demolition.”

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

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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.

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