Historic Preservation
In Centre County

Centre County and Penn State University
Preserve Historic Landmark Buildings

The Centre County Iron Works, founded in 1792, marks the beginning of the importance of the area in the history of Pennsylvania. Centre County was created in 1800 and between 1800 and 1850 the iron industry in the region grew to the point of producing more than half of all the pig iron smelted in the United States. The importance of the local iron industry brought both wealth and political power to the area; five Pennsylvania governors came from the county seat of Bellefonte between 1850 and 1880. The wealth associated with the iron industry is responsible for many of the fine 19th century buildings throughout the area. With the decline of the iron industry in the mid-19th century, the county responded by lobbying successfully to bring the Farmers' High School, the forerunner of Penn State University, to the valley in 1855.

The University has developed into an education institution of national standing with facilities that provide a distinct contrast to the strongly rural character of the rest of the county.

8th Annual Historic Preservation Conference
Focuses on Central Pennsylvania and the Role of Education in Historic Preservation

The community of State College and the campus of Penn State University play host to this year's statewide historic preservation conference, May 13-15. Co-sponsored by the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and the Bureau for Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and funded in part by a matching grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, the conference brings together preservationists from across the state to learn about new developments in the field and to experience the rich historic and cultural resources of the Central Pennsylvania area. Sessions and special events will highlight preservation efforts in Centre County. The theme of education, appropriate to the conference site on the campus of Penn State, will be explored by leading educators in the field. The conference promises to be an exciting opportunity for the exchange of ideas and information to further the goals of preservation in Pennsylvania.

The following articles highlight preservation activities and the historic resources of Centre County. For more information on the buildings and communities of this area, we recommend the publication Historic Buildings of Centre County Pennsylvania (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University, 1980). Produced as part of the Historic Registration Project of the Centre County Library and coordinated by Gregory Ramsey, the book covers the results of the countywide project to document landmarks for the National Register of Historic Places.

Penn State University has experienced enormous growth since the 1940's. Yet the University retains a number of significant early buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although no official program for the preservation of historic campus buildings exists, according to university archivist Leon Stout, the institution has made a commitment to the conservation of these buildings.

New Publication Offers Statewide Forum for Preservation in Pennsylvania

Historic preservation in Pennsylvania has a new publication for sharing information on projects, activities, and events, and for exploring issues of importance to the future of our irreplaceable architectural heritage. This is the first issue of Preservation Pennsylvania and we hope you will find it a useful publication. Future quarterly issues will deal with subjects ranging from restoration and rehabilitation projects, to Main Street initiatives, to house museums, and other activities of interest to the preservation community across the state. We welcome your comments and suggestions and your help in telling us what is happening in preservation in your region or community. The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania is committed to creating an effective statewide preservation network to support local preservation efforts and Preservation Pennsylvania is a major element in achieving this goal. I look forward to hearing from you as we work together to meet the challenges of preserving the historically and architecturally significant buildings of Pennsylvania.

Susan Shearer
Director, Marketing & Communications
Editor, Preservation Pennsylvania

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structures. Some forty buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Ag Hill complex, listed in 1978, includes the Armsby, Patterson, Weaver and Respiration Calorimeter Buildings. The Farmers' High School/Pennsylvania State College Old Campus Complex, listed in 1980, includes a broad area of the central campus with thirty-four 19th and early 20th century buildings identified as contributing structures. The Centre Furnace Stack, located on campus property, is also listed.

The ironmaster's mansion at Centre Furnace, the site of the founding of the original Farmers' High School, is the headquarters of the Centre County Historical Society. One of the county's most historic buildings, the mansion is undergoing a major restoration. No definite date for the mansion has been established, but records indicate that a log house and kitchen were at Centre Furnace in 1794. While much of the mansion's detailing suggests a later house, half of the downstairs area matches in size the early kitchen. Since restoration work began in 1983, 20th century additions have been stripped away to uncover the mansion's original kitchen which is now used as the Hearth Meeting Room. Archeological investigations in the kitchen area have uncovered artifacts that have helped to document the history of the building and events at the Furnace site. Restoration of the first floor has also been completed and work on the second floor is under way to create additional exhibit space. The evolution of the house, over time, is an important part of the restoration which recognizes the changes from a five-bay Georgian residence to a Victorian mansion in the 1860's and 70's.

The Society also plans to work on the grounds of the mansion this spring to add a screened parking area and a small 19th century Victorian landscape. Jacqueline Melander, president of the Society, describes the restoration as similar to a giant jigsaw puzzle. As the restoration work continues, new pieces of the puzzle are fitted into place.

The Centre County Historical Society is hosting an open house for conference participants on May 13. The mansion, located at 1001 East College Avenue in State College, is also open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1-4 P.M. or by appointment.

A 19th Century Village Flourishes in the Heart of Centre County

A quiet rural village with a wealth of historic buildings and a surprising link to Christopher Columbus and the first celebration of Memorial Day, Boalsburg offers an unexpected glimpse into the past.

The village, located just a few miles to the east of State College, was settled by Scots-Irish in the late 18th and early 19th century. First called Springfield, the community thrived until it was bypassed by the railroad following the Civil War. Although more than a century has elapsed, the 19th century character of the town remains.

The Boalsburg Village Conservancy was founded in 1972 to combat the commercial sprawl that was developing to the north of the village. One of the first acts of the Conservancy was to work with the village to create an historic preservation ordinance. The Village District Ordinance, enacted in 1974, has served the village well during its twelve year existence. The ordinance prohibits all fast food restaurants and coin operated businesses within the village. Only minor changes to the ordinance were made during a ten year review of its effectiveness in 1983-84.

Ruth Cottrel, one of the founding members of the Conservancy and a strong voice for preservation in Boalsburg, describes the Conservancy as an awareness group that acts as a catalyst to preserve the character of the village. The group, whose membership numbers over 300, conducts research on local buildings and sites and works to increase public awareness of the historic resources of the community. In 1976 the Conservancy began placing historical markers on village buildings. The markers are keyed to information on the structures and their history contained in the Conservancy publications, Boalsburg, An American Village, numbers 1 (1976) and 2 (1978). The village was listed as a Pennsylvania historic site in 1976 and as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The recently established Boalsburg Heritage Museum is an offshoot of the Conservancy. Following the interest generated by early research on buildings conducted by the Conservancy, the need arose for a place to house artifacts donated to the organization. The museum building, formerly a private residence, was acquired in 1983. The building is undergoing restoration and will soon be open to the public.
Main Street Project Brings Economic and Visual Changes to Downtown Bellefonte

After only nine months, the Main Street Project in downtown Bellefonte has made striking positive changes to the central business district. The Main Street concept, developed by the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was introduced in Pennsylvania in 1976. Since then, forty communities have been designated to receive assistance through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to implement a four-point program of organization, design, promotion, and economic development. Bellefonte was one of seven communities named to the program in 1984. Administered by Historic Bellefonte, Inc. (HBI) with the representation of twenty-five community residents, the project has added a new element to an already strong preservation awareness in the community.

Bellefonte is the county seat for Centre County and is a delightful Victorian era community. Its central business district and adjacent residential area have been designated a National Register historic district. In addition, since 1971 Bellefonte has had its own local historic district with an Historical and Architectural Review Board to review all changes in the exterior of structures within the district. The Main Street project joins these efforts to preserve and enhance the special character of this historically important industrial and political center.

Kevin Clark, Main Street manager for the Bellefonte project, is enthusiastic about the impact the project has had on the downtown in just a short time. “The project has already had a direct or indirect part in the improvement of at least five storefronts and we expect it to have a direct involvement in an additional 6 to 10 storefronts this year.” As with most preservation projects, initial efforts focus heavily on educating the community about the project and on developing the market studies and building inventories that will form the basis for future work. The more visible work of restoration and rehabilitation are generally slower in coming, but Bellefonte has made significant progress given the time Main Street has been in place and new projects are in the planning stages. Recently, Historic Bellefonte, Inc. and the owners of the landmark 1868 Bush House Hotel reached a formal agreement whereby HBI will provide a pre-development market study analysis and design for the building's eventual restoration.

The Bellefonte business district, as well as the adjacent residential areas, will be the focus of a study tour offered as part of the annual historic preservation conference on Thursday, May 15.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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For the last seven years people involved or interested in historic preservation in Pennsylvania have convened annually for a statewide conference. This year is no different as we plan to gather at State College for two days of seminars, tours, and the presentation of the annual historic preservation awards from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

But this year two important changes have occurred. First, and with the hope of establishing a precedent, the Fund is co-sponsoring the annual conference. Traditionally, the Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP) took sole responsibility for the planning, convening, managing and direction of the conference. This year the Fund was responsible for creating a local steering committee and working with them diligently since last fall to develop a program, line up speakers, work out the all important logistics of meals, transportation, etc., and publicize the conference to attract attendees. The managing of the actual conference will be shared by the Fund and the BHP.

Second, this year’s conference has a theme—Preservation Education—which is appropriate for the site of the conference on the campus of Pennsylvania State University. The conference steering committee, the BHP and the Fund selected a theme for several reasons: to provide more of a focus on an important and common issue facing historic preservation across the state; to identify a local issue which could be highlighted as a part of the conference; and to include people and organizations that have not, in the past, been a part of an annual preservation conference.

We are optimistic that preservation education as a conference theme will be successful. Sessions span a variety of topics from educating the general public to higher education programs in historic preservation. John Milner, adjunct faculty in the historic preservation program at the University of Pennsylvania will deliver a keynote address on preservation in education and moderate a symposium on the role of preservation in higher education.

We at the Fund are looking forward to this year's statewide conference sponsorship and encourage members of the Fund (which includes members of the former Pennsylvania Trust for Historic Preservation) to take advantage of their membership benefits and attend the conference. The Happy Valley in May is a spring worth seeing.

F. Bogue Wallin
F. Otto Haas Named Preservationist of the Year

F. Otto Haas, President of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and former Chairman of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, has been named Preservationist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Dr. Haas has had a long and distinguished career as an industrialist, a civic leader, and a philanthropist. As a preservationist he has worked agrressively in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania in support of historic preservation objectives and the conservation of specific buildings.

Dr. Haas' many involvements in historic preservation have included serving as a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; as a member of the Cliveden Council, which oversees the management of Cliveden, a National Historic Landmark in Germantown. Through his involvement with the William Penn Foundation, Dr. Haas was instrumental in the restoration and continued operation of the Walnut Street Theater; he assisted in the formation of the Friends of Conversation Hall and played a major role in the restoration of one of the most elegant rooms in City Hall and its return to Philadelphia as a public space. He has served as director of the Old Philadelphia Development Corporation and the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation. As chairman of the Philadelphia Historical Commission from 1972 to 1986, he provided the leadership for many preservation successes within the city, most recently the 1985 passage of a significant new historic preservation ordinance. Richard Tyler, historian for the Philadelphia Historical Commission cites the importance of Dr. Haas' role in the passage of the ordinance, "Otto Haas provided the continuity of perspective, the leadership and the personal commitment to historic preservation, the Historical Commission and the City that resulted in this renewal of concern and consequent legislation."

On a statewide level Dr. Haas has guided the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania through a time of transition as the Fund consolidated with the former Pennsylvania Trust for Historic Preservation to become the only statewide nonprofit organization for preservation in Pennsylvania. According to F. Bogue Wallin, executive director of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, "Otto Haas' commitment and leadership of the Fund has been instrumental in establishing the Fund's statewide presence and its effectiveness."

Larry Tise, executive director of the PHMC, praises the efforts of Dr. Haas on behalf of preservation in Pennsylvania, "Dr. Haas deserves to be recognized for the breadth and variety of his participation in historic preservation. His longterm leadership of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and his involvement with the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania have been critical to successful preservation efforts in Pennsylvania."

The Preservationist of the Year award recognizes the outstanding achievement of an individual in the field of historic preservation and is based on the magnitude and the quality of the achievement. Dr. Haas will receive the award at the PHMC's annual awards banquet held at the historic preservation conference in State College on May 15.

Brookville Main Street Project Receives 1986 Preservation Initiative Award

The Brookville Main Street Project is the recipient of the BHP's 1986 Preservation Initiative Award. Brookville, the county seat for Jefferson County, was chosen as a Main Street Community in 1982 as part of the expansion of the statewide Main Street network by the Department of Community Affairs following the original demonstration project in 1980. With its rich heritage of 19th and 20th century commercial and residential architecture, and the commitment of the community to the preservation of these resources, Brookville has become a leader in Pennsylvania and nationally in implementing the Main Street approach to downtown revitalization. David Taylor, project manager, has served as a consultant to other communities across the country to share with them the success of Brookville's efforts.

Although the project, which is administered by Historic Brookville, Inc., concentrates on downtown commercial structures, Main Street activity has also been a catalyst in promoting sensitive rehabilitation throughout this community of 4,500 residents. The most ambitious project to date is the 1984 rehabilitation of the Philip Taylor House, a once-abandoned and threatened 1850's mansion that was given a $300,000 facelift and now serves as housing for twenty elderly residents. The Main Street concept has also been instrumental in generating investment in the downtown surpassing $2 million; in the completion of more than forty exterior rehabilitation projects; in the creation of thirty new businesses and more than sixty new jobs; and in the listing of the 90-acre Brookville Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Future plans include the $250,000 rehabilitation of the former Central Hotel, an 1876 landmark, for low and moderate income housing. Historic Brookville, Inc., also has a tentative agreement with the owner of the Martin Opera House to study the possible restoration of this 1883, 900-seat performing hall.

In announcing this year's recipient, Donna Williams, director of the BHP, praised (continued)
Brookville (continued)

Brookville, "We're very proud of the Brookville Main Street Project. They've demonstrated that good leadership combined with strong local interest and support can achieve economic development and high quality preservation..."
The National Main Street Center, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation selected Pennsylvania as one of six states to participate in the first national Main Street Program in 1980. Tom Lutz of the National Main Street Center enthusiastically endorses the Brookville Main Street project, "Brookville is certainly one of the premier projects in Pennsylvania and unquestionably one of the finest nationally. With top leadership and a commitment to quality, the project is working effectively using all four points of the Main Street approach: organization, design, promotion, and economic development."
The Preservation Initiative Award is given annually to a special nonconstruction preservation project, initiative or service performed by an individual, organization, community or group. The award will be presented at the awards banquet at the annual conference.

BHP Announces 1986 Historic Preservation Award Finalists

From 18 projects nominated for preservation construction project awards, 10 have been selected as finalists. Projects will be considered in the four categories below, and award winners will be announced at the annual conference in State College. Construction awards honor projects as either the best restoration or rehabilitation in their respective category.

Multi-dwelling Residential
400 Block of Schuylkill Avenue, Reading, Berks Co.
Senator Hotel, Market Street, Harrisburg, Dauphin Co.
Wayne Hotel, Wayne, Delaware Co.

Commercial
Prieon Building, East Main Street, Lock Haven, Clinton Co.
Sticker Hardware Building, Penn Square, Reading, Berks Co.
Byrne's and Keefer Building, Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co.

Institutional
Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Market

Lock Haven, Prieon Building
Street, Harrisburg, Dauphin Co.
Poos School, Douglas & Weiser Streets, Reading, Berks Co.

Other
Waterville Bridge, Swatara State Park, Lebanon Co.
Archeological Excavations, First African Baptist Church Cemetery, Philadelphia

BHP Makes Tentative Grant Project Selections

In anticipation of federal budget cutbacks, BHP has selected fiscal year 1986 survey projects conditional upon the availability of federal funds. The following projects will be funded in the order listed below as funding becomes available with a tentative start up date of July 1, 1986.

1. Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania
2. Operation of Statewide Revolving Fund
3. Reconnaissance Survey and Management Plan, Clemsons Island Prehistoric Cultural Resources/Penn State University
4. Somerset County Survey/Somerset County Planning Commission
5. Thematic Survey of Works of Pittsburgh Architect Frederick Sheiber and Southwestern Pa. Steel Sites/Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation
6. Clinton County Survey/Clinton County Commissioners
7. Berks County Survey/Berks County Conservancy
8. National Road Survey/California

University of PA
8. Montgomery County Survey/Montgomery County Commissioners
9. Cumberland County Survey/Cumberland County Historical Society
10. Erie County/Erie County Department of Planning
11. Jefferson County Survey/Jefferson County Commissioners

BHP congratulates these projects' sponsors and wishes them success.

Historic Preservation funding for fiscal year 1987 (starting October 1, 1986) is still uncertain. The administration's budget, once again, requests no funding for grants to the State Historic Preservation offices. There appears to be a fair amount of sentiment in Congress for continuing the program but the deficit and Gramm-Rudman Balanced Budget Act passed last year are compelling Congress to make more difficult choices than ever before. To continue program functions, BHP will again solicit grant applications in anticipation of federal funding. Individuals and organizations interested in applying for fiscal year 1987 funds should contact the Bureau for more information.

Funding Sources

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) administers the Historic Preservation Grant Program to assist in the identification, registration and protection of historic properties in Pennsylvania. This includes surveys to locate and describe previously unknown or unrecognized properties and preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Grants are generally awarded to local governments, planning commissions, historical societies, preservation organizations and institutions.

All grants are matching reimbursement grants. The deadline for submission of a letter of intent for fiscal year 1987 funding is September 1, 1986. For more information contact: BHP, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026, (717) 783-8946.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) Museum Assistance and Local History Grant Program. The PHMC has published a booklet outlining criteria and application procedures for museum assistance, local history and historic preservation (described above) grant programs. Application deadlines for Museum Special Project and General Operating Support Grants are June 1, 1986 for Museum Technical Assistance and Local History Grants, July 1, 1986. For more information contact: PHMC, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026, (717) 783-7296.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, is looking for house museums in the five Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia to receive assistance in solving problems related to running a house museum. The Trust will assign a team of professionals to each site to work with staff, board and volunteers on their specific problems. This three-year program has been created thanks to a grant of $538,800 from the William Penn Foundation of Philadelphia. Information and application forms are available from Janet S. Klein, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 6401 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144, (215) 438-2868.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Design Arts Program will award 1987 grants for projects that focus on the broad theme of urban design. Individuals and organizations in all design disciplines are welcome to apply and collaborative projects are encouraged. Grants range from $5,000 to $40,000 with the exception of matching grants of up to $100,000 for design competitions of national significance. Application deadlines for individuals are September 2, 1986 and March 10, 1987, for organizations, deadlines are May 30, 1986 and December 10, 1986. For more information contact: Design Arts Program, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506, (202) 582-3532.
Conferences and Workshops

Preserving Historic Districts, a one-day training program on historic preservation ordinances in Pennsylvania is being offered on Saturday, June 7 at the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford. Designed for Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB) members, residents of local historic districts, architects, lawyers, government officials and anyone interested in starting a local preservation program, the workshop will cover the elements of municipal historic preservation ordinances and programs including the identification and designation of historic districts, design review issues, how to deal with threats of demolition, legal issues related to historic preservation, and working with property owners, local government and the media.

On Friday, June 6, Frank Gilbert, who directs the Historic District Commission Office at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Citherly Widell, executive director of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, will be available for free individual consultations on specific preservation problems.

The workshop is sponsored by the National Trust in cooperation with the Brandywine Conservancy, West Whiteland Township and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions with funding assistance from the Bureau for Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Registration fee is $20 plus an optional $5 box lunch. For further information and to arrange for the free consultation contact: Frank Gilbert, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1783 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 673-4214.

Rural Preservation in Pennsylvania. A conference on the conservation of open space and the maintenance of agricultural and farm land will be held on Saturday, May 24 in Stahr Hall, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster. Sponsored by the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust and the Agricultural Law Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Agriculture Committee of the Pennsylvania House and Senate, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the one-day program will address philosophical and political issues, legal and practical techniques, as well as environmental considerations affecting the future of the rural landscape.

Registration fee is $55 and includes morning and afternoon sessions and a luncheon. Contact: French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc., Box 360, R.D. 2, Pottstown, Pa. 19464, (215) 469-0150.

Celebrate Historic Places ♦ Our Past for Our Future

Preservation Week ♦ May 11-17, 1986
National Trust for Historic Preservation

News Briefs

National Historic Preservation Week is being celebrated across the country during the week of May 11-17 with the theme “Celebrating Historic Places—Our Past for Our Future.” In a letter to the National Trust, Ronald Reagan praised the work of the organization and preservationists throughout the nation, “To respect the graciousness of the past, to preserve it, restore it, and keep it fresh, is the splendid aim of National Historic Preservation Week. I heartily endorse your work. It is something we all have a stake in.” Many local organizations throughout Pennsylvania are planning events to celebrate the week, which also commemorates the 20th anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. State and local preservation organizations, as well as the National Trust, encourage your participation in this annual salute to the important work of preserving our architectural heritage.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has awarded Preservation Services Fund grants to the following Pennsylvania organizations: Easton House Tavern Association, Easton has received $1,000 for an historic structures report on the Easton House Tavern (1754, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) to study its use as a tourist and cultural center; French and Pickeing Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc., Pottstown has received $1,000 for a feasibility study for reuse and landscape restoration at the Trust’s Coventry House property (mid-17th century, listed in the National Register).

The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County is celebrating its 20th anniversary. During the twenty years since its founding, the Trust has been an effective advocate for preservation in Lancaster County. The Trust’s recent publication Our Present Past is a culmination of the Lancaster City and County architectural surveys completed by the Trust between 1978 and 1985, and represents the kind of systematic research and recording work necessary to the continued success of the preservation movement.

Preservation Action, the national citizens lobby for historic preservation has produced a program of 80 slides, credits and a script describing a diverse geographical cross-section of rehabilitation projects. The show is an excellent introduction to a variety of projects that have used the 25% Investment Tax Credits (ITC); it could be used to stimulate local interest in the use of the credits and can easily be supplemented with additional slides of local projects. Pennsylvania projects featured in the show are the Metropolitans Apartments in Philadelphia and Northside Properties in Pittsburgh. The show is available for purchase ($50) or rental ($25). Contact: Preservation Action, 1700 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 659-0915.

Restore Philadelphia has available videocassette tapes on a variety of restoration techniques; ornamental plaster; ornamental metalwork; graining and marbling; roofing; marble; glazing; electrical; carpentry; heating/ventilating/air conditioning; flooring; plumbing; brick and stone. Cassettes are accompanied by illustrative handbooks. For more information contact: Restore Philadelphia, 1924 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and the Bureau for Historic Preservation have announced the selection of York as the site for the 9th annual statewide historic preservation conference to be held in April, 1987. Historic York, Inc. as well as other local groups and individuals will be involved in planning for the conference which will highlight preservation achievements in the city and surrounding York County.

Notices of news items and upcoming events should be sent to the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania one month prior to publication. Deadlines for upcoming issues are July 1 (Summer issue) and October 1 (Fall issue).
The Fund at Work

SWEDENBORIANG CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA In November of 1985 the Fund took a six month option to purchase the Church of the New Jerusalem. The Fund was asked to get involved in the preservation of the 1883 church by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and also designated a local historic landmark by the Commission. The Church was threatened with demolition in two ways; first, the congregation is dwindling in numbers and getting progressively older, like many urban churches; and, second, the church is situated on a desirable tract of land. To avert the possible sale of the property for development, the Fund worked with the congregation to facilitate the sale of the property to a preservation-minded buyer.

In December the Fund began an aggressive marketing campaign to promote the availability of the church and seek out a buyer willing to acquire and adaptively reuse the sanctuary and attached Parish house. As of April 1, the Fund had 78 inquiries which yielded almost 50 visits to the church. Currently the Fund has narrowed the field to 5 prospective purchasers and hopes to have selected a purchaser, in conjunction with the congregation, by the 15th of May. Those interested in viewing the church should contact either the Fund or the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia which has been serving as a local contact for the Fund in Philadelphia.

The Preservation FUND of Pennsylvania

Yes, I want to support the preservation of Pennsylvania's architectural heritage. Enroll me as a member of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania.

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City ______ State ______ Zip ______

Membership Categories:
__ Individual $15
__ Family $25
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__ Sponsor $100
__ Patron $250
__ Benefactor $500 and above
__ Nonprofit Organization $35
__ Business/Professional $100

All membership contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make check payable to the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, 2470 Kissel Hill Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

FREDERICK RAPP HOUSE, HARMONY

The Fund is currently offering the Rapp House for sale with the intention of finding a buyer willing to preserve this National Historic Landmark. Built in 1803 as the residence of Frederick Rapp, son of the founder of the Harmonist Utopian Religious Society, the house is the oldest remaining structure of the Harmonist Society in North America. The house has fallen on hard times and suffers from neglect. Although currently rented, the property includes two income producing apartments. The house can be seen by contacting the Harmony Historical Society in Harmony which is serving as the local contact for the Fund. The house is on the square in Harmony and only 45 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh.

Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania Announces Formation of Board of Advisors

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania is establishing a Board of Advisors to work with the Fund to promote an ongoing exchange of information on preservation activities, issues and techniques across the state; to represent the Fund in an area or region of the state; and to alert the Fund to the needs and concerns of local preservation groups. Advisors will be selected by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Fund. Selection will be based on geographical distribution and on experience in local preservation issues.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Advisors or would like to nominate someone to serve, please complete the following and return it to the Fund by June 15, 1986.

I am interested in serving as an advisor to the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania

I would like to nominate the following person as an advisor to the Fund

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City ______ State ______ Zip ______
Daytime telephone ______
Organizational affiliation ______
Areas of preservation interest/expertise:

Return by June 15, 1986 to:
Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania
2470 Kissel Hill Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
REHAB RIGHT

Answers to your technical preservation questions
by Christopher Flagg

Q. I am planning to insulate the walls of my wood-frame house; are there any special precautions I should take?

A. Yes, there are several. First, assess critically the actual benefit to be gained from insulating the walls of your home, versus the insulation of other areas. In northern climates, by far the greatest percentage of heat loss is through uninsulated or under-insulated ceilings, attic spaces and poorly sealed doors and windows. Insulating these areas is likely to produce a greater savings in heat loss than insulating walls. Second, an essential but often overlooked component of insulation is the vapor barrier. A vapor barrier prevents condensation within the insulated space. Without a vapor barrier, insulated walls become saturated over time, reducing the thermal performance of the insulation as well as creating the potential for rot.

Another concern is the type of insulation. The dangers of urea-formaldehyde foams are generally recognized; however, those of cellulose are less well known. Cellulose is generally treated with a fire-retardant and it is the retardant chemical that causes problems, not the cellulose. Ammonium and aluminum sulfate are two retardants that corrode most metals, including plumbing and electrical wires. If cellulose is used, boric acid should be specified as the retardant because it will not harm adjoining building materials or occupants.

Given the potential problems and the relatively small benefit to be achieved by insulating walls, the practice should be approached cautiously.

Christopher Flagg is director of architectural services for the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania. Under contract with the Bureau for Historic Preservation, he reviews rehabilitation projects for compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards. Chris has a masters degree in historic preservation from the University of Oregon.

Send your questions about building rehabilitation or restoration to: Christopher Flagg, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.

The Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has announced the names of new Main Street communities for 1986: Clearfield, Danville, DuBois, Jenkintown, Lansdale and York; Pittsburgh's South Side business district has also been designated an urban demonstration project and is one of eight projects selected nationally by the National Main Street Center in Washington D.C. to determine the effectiveness of the "Main Street" concept in an urban environment. Main Street towns, with the exception of the urban demonstration community, are selected on a regional basis from municipalities with populations under 50,000; this year's communities range in size from 4,900 (Jenkintown) to 44,000 (York). The 1986 Main Street towns join the existing network of thirty-three towns, the first of which were selected in 1980. The newly designated towns are in the process of hiring Main Street managers to coordinate efforts locally. Persons interested in applying for these positions may contact Diana Kerr at DCA (717/787-4255) for additional information.

The National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has published a new manual. The National Main Street Center Urban Training Manual, a 181-page looseleaf handbook, provides a comprehensive strategy for improving and managing neighborhoods and downtowns in mid-sized cities. Cost: $45 for non-Trust members; $41 for Trust members or organizations; $34 for National Main Street Network members. Order from National Main Street Center, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 673-4219.