Recording the Past: The Historic American Buildings Survey Documents Pennsylvania's Architectural Treasures

Pennsylvania has enjoyed a long and happy relationship with the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), a program of the National Park Service to document America's architecturally significant structures. Begun in 1933 by the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress, HABS was the vision of a young architect, Charles E. Peterson, who was then chief of the eastern division of the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design. Peterson, who would later play a major role in the revitalization of Philadelphia, devised a program which during the Depressions provided work for many unemployed architects and began the nucleus of a repository of information that has been used to maintain, restoring and sometimes reconstruct historic buildings throughout the United States.

During its first thirty-three years, the program was headquartered in Philadelphia, before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1966. In 1969, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) was established as a companion program to HABS to document structures of technological and engineering significance. Together the two programs have recorded more than 20,000 historic structures with measured drawings, photographs and historical research. This information is housed at the Library of Congress and is accessible to the public.


Summer recording teams are at the heart of the HABS/HAER documentation program. Under professional supervision, teams of student architects, engineers, and historians measure, draw and research historic structures selected for inclusion in the program. This summer HABS/HAER has 26 inventory and documentation projects across the country. Two of these projects are in Pennsylvania. One is the Asa Packer Mansion in Jim Thorpe; the other, the Gettysburg National Military Park/ Eisenhower National Historic Site. Recently, Preservation Pennsylvania visited the team spending three months in Jim Thorpe (Mauch Chunk) recording the Asa Packer Mansion.

New Program Benefits Philadelphia's Religious Properties

Philadelphia, a city that began as a religious haven and has, over the centuries, welcomed people of many faiths, now has a special program to help encourage churches and synagogues to preserve their architecturally and historically significant structures. Initiated by the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation (PHPC) in late 1985 with a major grant from the William Penn Foundation, the program was created in response to a call from local religious leaders for assistance in maintaining a growing number of rapidly deteriorating religious buildings. Declining congregations, decreasing funds, aging buildings and rising maintenance costs combined to create a critical problem that the new program has already begun to combat.

The program has three major components:

- A quarterly publication, Inspired, is mailed without charge to congregations throughout the city. Inspired provides useful information on religious architectural history, building repair, maintenance and restoration, as well as sources of assistance. A survey and catalog of all religious structures in the city, estimated to be between 600

MAIN STREET IN THE CITY: Pittsburgh Revitalizes East Carson Street Business District

One local merchant has described it as the best kept secret in Pittsburgh—until recently, that is. The city's South Side and its "Main Street," East Carson Street, are becoming known throughout Pittsburgh and across the country as a good place to live and a good place to do business.

In August 1985, the business district along East Carson Street was selected as one of eight urban business areas nationwide to participate in the National Main Street Center's (NMSC) pilot Urban Demonstration Project (UDP). The NMSC, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has worked successfully since 1980 with small towns throughout the U.S. to improve downtown commercial areas.

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recording the past (continued)

Jim Thorpe, originally called Mauch Chunk but renamed in 1954 to honor the famous athlete, is a small picturesque community on the southern edge of the Poconos. The town's most illustrious resident, Asa Packer, was a nationally known industrialist and politician. Among his many accomplishments, Packer built the Lehigh Valley Railroad, founded Lehigh University, served two terms in the U.S. Congress, served in the State legislature, ran for governor of Pennsylvania and was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president of the U.S. in 1868.

The Italianate villa built by Packer in 1861 is a tour de force of American Victoriania in its architecture and its interior design. Willed to the Borough of Mauch Chunk in 1912 by Packer's daughter and now maintained by the Lions Club, the building retains all of its original furnishings, and remains virtually as it was during Packer's lifetime. The mansion was recently designated a National Historic Landmark in recognition of its architectural value and the major role of Asa Packer in the industrial development of the United States.

The HABS documentation project on the mansion, funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Regional Office and a number of private sponsors, will produce detailed measurements and drawings of the building and its architectural elements. The project is being carried out by a team of four under the direction of Paul Dolinsky, staff architect for HABS in Washington, D.C. Dolinsky is a native of Jim Thorpe and cares deeply about the town and its buildings. His zeal for the project is evident as he describes the town's wealth of historic and architectural treasures. "I hope the Packer Mansion will be just the beginning of documentation work here," he says.

The success of the recording project at the Packer mansion is important not only to Dolinsky and HABS/HAER, but to the town of Jim Thorpe as well. Agnes McCartney, who has been instrumental in revitalizing the community and bringing increased tourism to the area, is eager to tell more people about her town and the delights it has to offer the visitor. She joins Dolinsky in viewing the HABS project and the possibility of future HABS/HAER efforts as potentially important elements in publicizing the town and its architectural and cultural resources.

But at the moment, the four young people at the mansion are concentrating on this summer's enormous task of recording an extremely complex building. Often working more than ten hours a day, the team measures and records every facet of the exterior and interior of the building down to the most delicate carving on the ornate interior wood panelling. After recording the information in extensive field note form, the team will produce a series of meticulously detailed measured drawings in ink.

The team's field supervisor, Tim Buehner, is a practicing architect in Indiana who has worked on three previous HABS recording projects. The other three team members are architecture students. Two of the students, Eric Zehring from the University of Oregon and Patrick Koby from the University of Michigan, have also worked on previous HABS projects. Sandra Moore, a student at the University of British Columbia, is part of a foreign student program sponsored by the U.S. Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (U.S.ICOMOS). The project is giving the four an opportunity to study closely not only the design and details of one building, but also to gain an understanding of the values and tastes of a time very different from our own.

Paul Dolinsky hopes that the documentation of the Packer mansion will be the beginning of ongoing HABS work in Jim Thorpe that will eventually include St. Mark's Church (1867) by Richard Upjohn, the Dimeck Memorial Library (1889) and the "Stone Row," a group of stone workers' houses built in the 1840s. "I want to establish a good model for an architectural and cultural inventory of a community," says Dolinsky.

Robert Kapsch, chief of HABS/HAER in Washington, D.C., supports his staff and their development of projects, like the one in Jim Thorpe, that present a comprehensive approach to an area and its resources. "I am enthusiastic about this project, and about other current and anticipated HABS/HAER work in Pennsylvania. I think HABS/HAER will have a much greater presence in Pennsylvania," says Kapsch, who noted not only the Gettysburg documentation project, but also a photo recording and documentation project of the East Broad Top Railroad scheduled to begin this autumn, a proposed inventory of significant industrial and engineering sites in western Pennsylvania, and the publication of a HABS Pennsylvania catalog. As examples of projects in which HABS/HAER will be involved, HABS/HAER is committed to producing the highest quality documentation on America's historic architectural and engineering resources, and Pennsylvania's significant structures will continue to be subjects of this important historic preservation program.

All HABS/HAER records are available to the public and are reproducible and copyright free. For more information contact: Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.


New Program (continued)

of Kingsessing at 6800 Woodland Avenue; and the Spruce Hill Christian School at 4115 Baltimore Avenue. A second round will be awarded in late summer and a third in the fall.

The program is the culmination of a dream for a very determined man.

Robert Jeager, Vice President of Program Development for the PHPC, spent two years developing the religious properties program into a comprehensive systematic approach to the problem. "The continuing deterioration of so many of Philadelphia's magnificent buildings is a problem we can no longer afford to ignore," says Jeager.

"We want to provide concrete, useful assistance to parishes and congregations who want to keep their building and are searching for the expertise and guidance to help make it possible."

One of the major problems facing many religious building is the cost of energy, according to the Right Reverend Lyman C. Ogilby, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Ogilby, who serves on the board of the PHPC program, also sees hope for a reversal in the declining attendance experienced by many congregations.

"I see a revival of traditional values in the last six to eight years," says Ogilby, who wants to see the city's religious buildings preserved not as museums but as buildings that continue to be used as places of worship.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1823; architect, William Strickland). One of the first four recipients of technical assistance from PHPC's Historic Religious Properties Program. Photo: PHPC.
New Program (continued)

Jaeger's systematic approach to preserving religious properties should do much to add not just isolated technical assistance, but also bring a new awareness within the community of the importance of these buildings to the city's physical and spiritual life. As the first of its kind in the nation, the program should be a model to other cities and, Jaeger hopes, may also be replicated on a regional or national basis. Jaeger's drive and enthusiasm, backed by the religious community and the city government, should insure the future of the program, as it seeks funding for the continuation and expansion of the technical assistance program and the publication Inpired. Plans for the program also include publishing a guide to historic religious architecture in the city and creating a pool of seed money for actual restoration/rehabilitation work.

Clergy, parishioners, community leaders, and others interested in the preservation of historic religious buildings are encouraged to contact Bob Jaeger at PHPC, One East Penn Square, Suite 2200, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-568-4210.

The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation was founded in 1979 as a non-profit corporation to guide investment dollars into historic renovation projects through tax and other financial incentives. A private corporation, it manages a facade easement program, a revolving fund and education and information programs in addition to the Historic Religious Properties Program.

The Fund at Work

The historic Church of the New Jerusalem at 22nd and Chestnut Streets will not be destroyed. The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and the Church of the New Jerusalem announced on July 24 that the historic sanctuary and parish house, located on a choice piece of Center City real estate, will be sold to the Edward S. Brown Group.

Plans for the property include its restoration and adaptive reuse as a corporate center to be named Emanuel's Court, in honor of Emanuel Swedenborg, whose followers founded the Church of the New Jerusalem. The building will retain its historic appearance and include the addition of office space in a sensitive rehabilitation of the Church and parish house.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania took an option to purchase the property in December, 1985. Working with the Fund, the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia showed the property to prospective purchasers and assisted with the marketing of the project. The Fund and the Coalition responded to approximately 100 requests for information and showed the property to more than 50 prospective buyers.

In June a selection committee comprised of the Fund, the Coalition and the Church reviewed four purchase offers and selected two for development. In early July final contract negotiations proceeded with the Edward S. Brown Group being selected as developer of the project.

The sale of the property will include protective covenants in the deed to insure that the historical appearance of the Church and its salient architectural features will be preserved.

Church of the New Jerusalem, Philadelphia. Drawing of proposed interior renovation.

"The decision to sell the property caps a twenty-year effort by the Church to identify an appropriate disposition for the building," said Frederick Heldring, president of the Swedenborgian Society.

"We are excited about the prospect of selling the Church for such a creative and appropriate reuse" said E. Bogue Wallin, executive director of the Fund, "this is the kind of project we like being involved with; an exceptional landmark, a clear threat to its future and an opportunity for private investment."

Built in 1883 and designed by Theophilus P. Chandler, the Church is recognized for its English Gothic Revival style and orientation to the intersection of 22nd and Chestnut. An unusual urban garden is framed by the buildings and the streets to give the Church a very distinctive appearance. The Church is built of brownstone and contains exceptional stonework and well-crafted interior woodwork.

Editor's Column

At the first annual membership meeting of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, held as part of the 8th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation, the Fund's executive director, Bogue Wallin, reported on the period of transition for the Fund and outlined plans for the future of the organization. He stressed the Fund's commitment to supporting local preservation initiatives and to building a strong and effective statewide preservation network of organizations and individuals. Your membership in the Fund and your active participation in this network are vital to the continued success of preservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

In recent months we have begun to develop the network by contacting preservation and related nonprofit organizations across the State as the first stage in compiling data for a comprehensive Pennsylvania Preservation Directory that will include information on organizations, businesses and individuals involved in all aspects of historic preservation in Pennsylvania, as well as national and regional resources that can be useful in efforts here. If you are involved with an organization that has received the questionnaire, we encourage you to return it as soon as possible; if your organization did not receive the questionnaire, please contact us and we will send one to you.

The next phase of this project, beginning in the fall, will be to contact businesses and individuals that provide preservation-related services and expertise. The information in this section of the directory will include a summary of areas of expertise and references to completed projects for each entry. This information will be especially useful to the Fund in answering the regular inquiries we receive. We are currently compiling lists of architects, planners, engineers, contractors, craftspeople, and others for inclusion in this section of the directory. If you would like to receive the questionnaire, please let us know and your name will be added to this list.

The network being developed by the Fund and the information being sought for the directory will be two of our most important resources for information and expertise to benefit preservation efforts throughout the State. We urge you to become an active participant in this important aspect of the Fund's work.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, Inc.
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E. Bogue Wallin . . . . . Executive Director
Susan Shearer . . . . . . . . . Editor
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN
Preservation and Education

At the annual conference on historic preservation in May at State College, two sessions were held that related to the role of higher education in historic preservation. The sessions, attended by educators, architects, and preservation professionals, examined how institutions of higher education can support local preservation organizations and how the relationship between organizations and universities and colleges can be improved. Resources identified by colleges and universities that could assist local groups include: assist in research and archeological investigations on specific properties; identify resources for information and expertise; develop and publish information on a specific community or historic property; through course work, develop community awareness regarding an historic district or property; assist in finding volunteer professional services through the network of academic professionals; provide a forum for discussion of local preservation issues; and, identify potential interns to assist local groups.

Recognizing that colleges and universities can provide, on a volunteer basis, considerable professional expertise and support for local preservation efforts, the panel of academics and scholars moderated the sessions recommended that more colleges and universities become involved in local preservation efforts. To facilitate achieving that goal, three recommendations were made. First, local preservation organizations should pursue the development of working relationships with faculty, staff and students at local colleges and universities that have an interest in preservation (e.g. historians, architects, etc.) Second, through the Fund, a resource list of institutions and individuals working with colleges and universities that would have an interest in working with local preservation groups would be prepared and printed for distribution. Third, in the Fund's newsletter, special attention would be given to spotlighting projects that involve a cooperative effort between a local preservation effort and a university or college.

These three recommendations are, in my mind, important, and we at the Fund are anxious to follow through on them. On a broader scale, this kind of panel discussion and constructive suggestions are helpful for the Fund in the development of programs and strategies that will support local preservation efforts. I would like to thank John Milner, not only for his enlightening remarks at the keynote address, but also for his leadership at the symposium panel that yielded these recommendations.

In the near future we hope to put in place the Board of Advisors, which was created in the consolidation of the Fund and the Trust. Nominations for the Board were accepted through June and now the difficult task of going through the nominations and recommending a slate for the Board of Advisors by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors can begin.

The expectation of the Board of Advisors is that it can fulfill a similar role to that of the education panels at the conference: review a need or issue of concern to the preservation community at large, develop a recommendation to the Fund on how to respond to that concern, and assist with its implementation.

I was excited by the education panels at the conference not only for what they recommended but also the process through which the recommendations were made. I hope we can institutionalize that kind of forethought and planning at the Fund while simultaneously, enhancing support of local preservation organizations throughout the State.

Main Street (continued)

using a four point program of organization, design, promotion, and economic development. The three-year Urban Demonstration Project is building on the success of the original Main Street Project by taking the concepts into an urban context and approaching a new set of forces and problems. In addition to its association with the National Urban Demonstration Project, "Main Street on East Carson", as the project in Pittsburgh is known, has also been designated by Pennsylvania's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) as the first urban area to participate in the statewide Main Street program, which also provides a three-year commitment of funds and assistance to an area.

Pittsburgh's South Side, once an area of industrial activity, is a neighborhood with strong family, religious, and ethnic traditions. Described proudly by residents as an area that has never suffered severe economic decline, the South Side has, however, faced increasing economic pressures and demographic changes. The beginning of economic problems for the area can be traced to the late 1970s and early 1980s when the mills began to close. In addition, the area's population has declined by more than twenty-five percent since 1970 and studies indicate that the percentage of older residents is greater here than elsewhere in the city.

The South Side Local Development Company (LDC), the group spearheading the revitalization of the area, recognized the need to increase the population base, attract new business and work with existing businesses to rejuvenate the neighborhood. The LDC, with the city, submitted the application to the Urban Demonstration Project and the LDC functions as the umbrella organization for the project. Cliff Berger, president of the LDC, is enthusiastic about the impact the project has already had on the area. He cites the favorable response of merchants and the fact that new businesses are moving into the area. Berger also stresses that this is not just a three-year project for South Side. "We are creating an institution," he says, "the project will be a permanent fixture on East Carson Street."

Caroline Boyle, director of "Main Street on East Carson," is working with local merchants, neighborhood groups, the LDC, the city, the state, and the NMSC to construct the framework for long-term commercial revitalization in the neighborhood. In this process, the NMSC functions as a consultant, providing teams of experts to assess the needs of the area and recommend actions that the neighborhood Main Street Advisory Board can incorporate into overall planning for the area. Plans are underway for Business Assistance Teams (BATs) to provide direct technical assistance to local merchants; a revolving fund will be established to stimulate local investment; and a recommendation has been made to concentrate certain types of activities in specific sections of the commercial area.

Finding the money to accomplish all the goals of the project will be a challenge, but the national publicity combined with the support of the neighborhood, the city, and the state will be strong positive factors in the ultimate success of these efforts.

Richard Wagner, of the NMSC, is very optimistic about Main Street on East Carson. "Of all the neighborhoods in the UDP, Pittsburgh's is the most progressive in developing the public-private partnership," says Wagner, who looks at Pittsburgh as one of only two of the pilot communities to approach the project as a model that will continue after the end of NMSC involvement.

The NMSC is also interested in the differences between small towns and urban neighborhoods, and Wagner cites the interest and concern of local residents for what happens in the commercial area as being much more prevalent in the urban context. This concern is evident in South Side. The involvement of local residents and merchants is clearly a major element in the success of the project to date and optimism for the future. Enthusiasm marks the majority of responses to the project, and where a concern exists it is concerned with the speed of change and not with the change itself.

Continued on p. 5
Main Street (continued)
Ernie Reinhold, owner of the Fort Necessities Convenience Mall has been in business in the neighborhood for eight years; his family has been associated with the South Side for twenty-four years. Reinhold, who chairs the Economic Restructuring Committee of the local advisory board, understands the area and the changing economic and demographic base. He is concerned about rapid, cosmetic changes to the buildings without well-planned programs to give the area a solid economic base for the future. "Just making something look nice doesn't make a vital community," warns Reinhold, who also sees the need for more involvement by the local business people in the program.

Both the UDP and the DCA Main Street programs are three-year commitments to the neighborhood. At this point, the NMSC has not made a decision on continuing the UDP beyond the first eight communities and the DCA will have to assess Pittsburgh's success before designating any additional urban areas under its Main Street program. But James Hilliard, community development consultant for the Pittsburgh regional office of DCA, believes that the information gained from the experience in South Side will be useful to other cities throughout Pennsylvania.

South Side's strengths lie in its people and their commitment to their neighborhood. These strengths give every indication that the revitalization of the area will be a success. Both residents and merchants realize that revitalization will not come easily, but they are eager to work together toward a positive future for the neighborhood. "I'm here for the next twenty years," says Ernie Reinhold, "and I'm going to have to live with it, good or bad, so I have to be involved."

### Pennsylvania Is #1 In Use of Historic Rehab Tax Credits

The State of Pennsylvania ranks first in the United States in all aspects of use of the twenty-five percent investment tax credit (ITC) for rehabilitation of historic buildings, according to figures compiled by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Using the National Trust's computerized database PRIME, the Trust's Division of Research estimates that private investment in more than 11,700 historic buildings has been generated nationwide by the ITC from fiscal years 1982 through 1985. Of this total, $1.053 billion—almost double the amount spent in the next highest ranking state—was spent in Pennsylvania on a total of 871 projects. Pennsylvania is also first in the number of housing units rehabilitated, 6,225; and in the number of jobs created, 45,025 person years of work.

Individual statistics for leading cities in the State for the period January 1, 1981 through June 12, 1986, as compiled by the Bureau for Historic Preservation are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>$728,058,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>125,154,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>23,707,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36,357,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28,718,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15,149,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7,778,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allenwood</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>12,490,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsport</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4,924,866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,283,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Chester</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23,163,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norristown</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6,803,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontiac</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,086,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16,008,354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information has been instrumental in the continuation of the rehabilitation tax credits in both the House and Senate versions of the proposed new federal tax legislation. The following comparison, prepared by the National Trust, summarizes the rehabilitation-related aspects of the bills that must be reconciled by the conference committee:

### House bill

**Changes for Property Placed in Service After DECEMBER 31, 1985:**

- Two-tiered credit:
  - 20% for certified historic rehab
  - 10% for non-historic buildings built prior to 1936
- Full adjustment to basis for all historic rehab
- Depreciation set at 30 years using the straight line method
- 75% wall test eliminated for certified historic rehab; alternative test for non-historic rehab

**Transition Rule:** Property qualifies for transition relief if:

- rehabbed pursuant to binding contract on 9/25/85 OR
- purchased or under binding contract to purchase before 9/26/85 AND
- rehabbed pursuant to written contract binding on 11/22/85 OR
- Parts 1 and 2 filed before 11/23/85 OR
- lesser of $1 million or 5% of rehab costs incurred before 11/23/85 (or required to be incurred pursuant to written contract binding on 11/22/85)

AND placed in service before 1/1/94

Upon qualification for transition, the following apply:

- reduced credit: 25% to 20%; 20% to 15%; 15% to 10%
- full adjustment to basis
- 19-year depreciation

**Passive Loss Rule:** No provision

### Senate bill

**Changes for Property Placed in Service After DECEMBER 31, 1986:**

- Two-tiered credit: same as House
- Full adjustment to basis for all historic rehab (same as House)
- Depreciation set at 31.5 years for commercial buildings and 27.5 years for residential, using the straight line method
- Wall tests: same as House

**Transition Rule:** Property qualifies for transition relief if:

- rehabbed pursuant to binding contract on 3/1/86
- purchased under binding contract to purchase by 3/1/86 OR
- rehabbed pursuant to written contract binding on 3/1/86
- Parts 1 and 2 filed before 3/1/86 OR
- lesser of $1 million or 5% of rehab costs incurred before 3/1/86 (or required to be incurred pursuant to written contract binding on 3/1/86)

AND placed in service before 1/1/94

Upon qualification for transition, the following apply: same as House

**Passive Loss Rule:** For taxpayers who do not materially participate (e.g., limited partners), the rehab credits cannot be used to offset income from salary, portfolio, or other business interests. Can only be used to offset income from other "passive investments."

The results of the conference committee and information on the final version of the bill as it relates to historic preservation will appear in the next issue of Preservation Pennsylvania, with a more detailed review of the use of tax credits in Pennsylvania based on a comprehensive survey undertaken by the Bureau for Historic Preservation and the Chester County Historic Preservation Office in cooperation with the Chester County Commissioners.
NEW FACE FOR LOCAL LANDMARK: Northumberland Library Initiates Major Rehabilitation Project

When the Priestley-Fosyth Memorial Library in Northumberland first considered working on the exterior of the early 19th century building that has housed the town's library since the 1920s, they planned only to repaint. But after consulting with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and a number of local preservation consultants, they were convinced that it was possible to do more.

The building had eight to ten layers of paint, and chemical cleaning was recommended as the method best suited to the situation. "We found out that we shouldn't sandblast," says librarian Ann Renn. She and the library board learned that sandblasting, which has been used on many of Pennsylvania's historic brick structures, is anathema to preservationists because it permanently destroys the hard protective surface created during the brick firing process; the result, over time, will be the erosion of the brick. As the investigation of other possible courses of action proceeded, the library received a major bequest. The bequest provided the funds for the library to plan an extensive restoration/rehabilitation program, the first stage of which would include the exterior chemical cleaning of the building.

Library after cleaning:

People in Northumberland are equally pleased with the results of the cleaning. "Only one person missed the blue paint (the color of the building before the cleaning)," says Ann Renn. "The cleaning has made a difference for us. We've heard so many favorable comments and use of the library has increased." The publicity generated by the work has also brought increased donations and Northumberland National Bank will feature the library on the cover of their 1987 calendar.

The cleaning and exterior repair of the building have helped to give the library a new presence in the community. With the exterior now in good condition, the library is developing a five-year plan that will include interior renovations to make more efficient use of the space and to create a sense of the Victorian character that the interior would have had during the years the Priestley family lived in the building. Northumberland has an architectural and historic landmark that is receiving the attention and the care it deserves.

The Priestley-Fosyth Library is located at 300 King Street, Northumberland 17857, 717-473-8201, Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 to 4; Tuesday, Thursday 1-9.

Chemical cleaners: Listed below are three major producers of chemical cleaners. Use of these materials should be based on careful evaluation of the building materials to be cleaned and use by an experienced contractor. Advice on the use of these materials is available from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Diederich Chemicals Restoration Technologies, Inc.
300 A East Oak St.
Oak Creek (Milwaukee), WI 53154
414-361-2591

PerKoCo, Inc. (Sible Klean Restoration Cleaners)
333 Hamilton Boulevard, P.O. Box 191
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
201-364-4400

KRC Research (Back-2-Nu)
315 Washington Ave.
Mooresville, NC 28118
316-733-3060

Detailed information on the issues involved in building cleaning and repainting, the following publications are available for $1 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402:
- Preservation Briefs #1, The Cleaning and Waterproofing of Masonry Buildings.
  Stock no. 024-003-00879-2
- Preservation Briefs #2, Repairing Mortar Joints in Historic Buildings.
  Stock no. 024-003-00878-1
- Preservation Briefs #6, Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings.
  Stock no. 024-003-00882-9

FUNDING SOURCES

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP) is currently funding applications from Certified Local Governments for federal fiscal year 1986 funding. More than $64,000 has been made available for grants-in-aid through the Department of Interior, National Park Service. Eligible activities include: survey and planning projects; National Register nomination preparation; historic architectural review; education/training programs; historic preservation outreach/publications. Only certified local governments may receive funds. A 50% match is required, but donated (in-kind) goods and services may be substituted for cash. Application forms and instructions are available from the Bureau for Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, 17088-1026. Governments that are not certified are encouraged to contact the BHP for information about and assistance with the certification process.

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) offers consultant services to provide practical and technical assistance to historical agencies and museums. The cost of consultations is supported in part by a grant to AASLH from the National Museum Act; organizations pay an amount based on their operating budgets. Pennsylvania organizations that have benefited from this program include the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society in Wilkes-Barre. For more information contact: AASLH, Education Division, 172 Second Ave., North, Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37201.
August 1, 1986

Dear Members:

Three and one-half years ago I came to Pennsylvania to be the first employee and Executive Director of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania. This fall, September 30th, I will be resigning from the Fund to pursue private for-profit development opportunities. On October 1, 1986 my successor, Grace Gary, current Director of the Mid-Atlantic regional office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will assume the duties of the Executive Director.

With your help, the last 3 1/2 years have seen this organization grow from a "good idea," as a nascent organization, to a mature and effective statewide non-profit historic preservation organization. At last count, our work has spawned over $5 million of investment in preservation projects statewide. Our staff has grown to three full-time employees, and we have assimilated the former Pennsylvania Trust for Historic Preservation into our ranks which has given rise to a growing membership program, sponsorship of the annual statewide conference and our quarterly newsletter. I have enjoyed not only getting to know the State and learning of the many preservation concerns throughout, but also getting to know many of this Commonwealth's dedicated preservationists.

At the Fund we have worked hard to fulfill our mission of preserving historic buildings and supporting local preservation initiatives. With this transition, I am confident that the work of the Fund will not only continue under Grace's leadership, but also strive and innovate to serve the greater Pennsylvania preservation community better. Clearly Grace's work at the Trust is evidence of that commitment. Before her current position at the Mid-Atlantic office, Grace worked as the Assistant Director of the Mountain Plains regional office of the National Trust in Denver and Oklahoma City. Originally from Tennessee, a graduate of Randolph Macon College and with a Masters in Architectural History from the University of Virginia, Grace is a well-qualified successor, and I wish her luck in her new venture.

Sincerely,

F. Bogue Wallin

A Statewide Revolving Fund and Membership Organization for Historic Preservation
BHP Announces Outstanding Construction Award Winners

The Bureau for Historic Preservation presented its Annual Outstanding Construction Awards to five properties at a banquet held on May 15 at the 8th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation in State College.

The winner in the commercial/industrial category was the Prien Building, owned by John and Joyce Gummo. Constructed in Lock Haven in 1875 and remodeled in 1895, the structure was slated for demolition. During rehabilitation of the property, architect David Strack removed the 1960s commercial first floor facade, restored the pressed metal ceiling of the ground floor interior which is now used as a restaurant, and designed banquet facilities for the second floor and apartments for the third.

The recipient of the public/institutional award was the Pennsylvania Railroad Station in Harrisburg. The Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority has revitalized this 1887 station's passenger building, yard sheds, and surrounding site. The resulting Harrisburg Transportation Center now handles rail and bus traffic in the city. The station has also been honored as one of sixteen preservation projects nationwide to receive the biennial Historic Preservation awards for exemplary solutions to problems involving transportation and historic preservation presented by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In the multiple-dwelling residential category, the 400 block of Schuykill Avenue in Reading was selected. Developed in the 1890s, this collection of Queen Anne and vernacular houses had become, at best, derelict by the 1970s and the block was scheduled for demolition before the city of Reading decided to renovate the houses for moderate-income families from the community. Joseph Schuchman accepted the award on behalf of the Reading Marketing Association.

Two projects were cited in the Special category: the excavation of the First African Baptist Church Cemetery and the relocation of the Waterville Bridge.

The First African Baptist Church Cemetery archaeological project required the complete excavation of the cemetery that was used by the church between 1824 and 1842. Located in Smith's Alley between 8th and Chester and Race and Vine Streets in Philadelphia, the church was founded in 1809 by nine free black members of Philadelphia's First Baptist Church. The cemetery was uncovered in 1980 during construction of a new center city commuter tunnel. Subsequent environmental studies for the I-95/Vine Street Expressway project required further intensive investigation and data recovery. Between 1982 and 1983, this multi-disciplinary project involved archaeologists, physical anthropologists, osteologists, medical scientists, historians and a variety of public agencies in the planning, excavation, and analysis of data recovered from the cemetery's 140 burials. The principal research goal was to learn as much as possible about health and nutritional conditions of 19th century blacks. Other goals were to study burial customs to determine the extent to which African cultural practices continued among 19th century Philadelphia blacks, and to develop a public education program about archaeology. The award was presented to Daniel Roberts of John Milner Associates and to Joseph Ramsey, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

The Waterville Bridge, a 221-foot single-span lenticular truss bridge, was built in 1859 by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of East Berlin Connecticut, a prominent bridge building firm. Few examples of this bridge type remain in the U.S. The bridge originally carried Route 44 across Little Pine Creek in Wyoming County at Waterville. The project involved moving the bridge from its original site to Swatta State Park in Lebanon County where it has been reassembled for use as a pedestrian bridge. The bridge is one of the largest truss spans ever moved for historic preservation purposes. Accepting the award were Kenneth Lusing, Department of Transportation, and Gene Cominos, Department of Environmental Resources.

Comments Sought on BHP Funding Priorities

Because federal funds are expected to decrease substantially in the future, grant competition for the BHP's subgrants for survey and planning activities will become even more intense. The BHP is revising its selection criteria for fiscal year 1987 survey and planning grants and invites public comment in this process.

Priorities for 1986 grants were:

- Surveys of historic or prehistoric resources: including surveys to identify threatened properties; thematic or other surveys of Commonwealth owned/administered properties; and thematic surveys on a statewide or regional basis.
- Archaeological survey proposals relating to annual objectives of the State Archaeology Program: the completion of statewide cultural resource surveys is mandated by the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places: including projects which will produce multiple resources, historic district or thematic nominations; projects in communities where historic district nominations will assist commercial revitalization efforts; projects to nominate resources from areas in which comprehensive historic site surveys have been completed.

In considering the above priorities the BHP has used the following selection criteria:

1. Qualifications and capacity of applicant to accomplish the project and meet federal and state fiscal and other requirements.
2. The amount of cash match contributed by the applicant is considered an indication of the applicant's commitment and ability to complete the project.
3. Degree to which project meets BHP goals for resource identification, evaluation and protection.
4. Clarity of project goals and ability to achieve goals with stated methodology, timetable, and budget.
5. Extent to which project increases or creates an awareness of preservation within the community.
6. Extent to which project contributes to the economic development and/or community conservation objectives of the State.
7. Extent to which the grant is critically needed by the project.
8. Capacity of project to establish or assist in establishing an ongoing and self-sustaining preservation mechanism.

Send comments on the above priorities and selection criteria to: Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.
REHAB RIGHT

Answers to your technical preservation questions

by Christopher Flagg

Q. Our church roof is in need of repair. Where can we find tapered or wedge-shaped terra cotta tile (red Spanish tile) for this roof? Can you give us any clues as to where we might begin our search? Also, is there any way to repair broken or cracked tile so that the bond will be as strong as the original tile?

—Eugene F. Jagemann, Vandergrift

A. Although the number of manufacturers producing terra cotta has declined since the early 1920s, terra cotta tiles are still available and are becoming more readily available as demand increases from historic rehabilitation projects. (A list of manufacturers and roofing tile suppliers is available, on request, from Chris Flagg at the address below.)

In response to your second question, regarding the possibility of repairing broken or cracked tile, this is generally not feasible. The problem is not the obtaining of a sufficient strong bond, but rather obtaining a material which responds to changes in temperature and environmental conditions in a manner similar to the tiles. Moreover, the cost of obtaining replacement pieces is usually less expensive, and the product more reliable, than an acceptable epoxy or other adhesive. Substrate materials, such as cast stone (a type of concrete) or fiberglass, are frequently used to replace damaged terra cotta pieces on exterior walls; however, their use as replacement roof tiles is not recommended because of the roof’s greater exposure to solar radiation, weather and atmospheric pollution.

Q. A year ago, I purchased a house in West Chester that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Sometime between 1800 and the present, the exterior was coated with stucco. I would like to remove the stucco to restore the original logs but I’m not sure how to treat the logs once they are exposed. Perhaps you could shed some light on what could be done in this type of restoration.

—Jon Baldwin, West Chester

A. The question in your letter should be preceded by the question: why is it necessary to remove the stucco? Log houses were generally constructed to provide shelter until a wooden frame house or some other more substantial residence could be built. Sometimes clapboards were applied over a log house to give it the appearance of a wooden frame house; stucco may have been applied to this house to make it appear more substantial or to bring it up to date stylistically. If it is necessary to remove the stucco in order to repair deteriorated sections of wood, then treating the logs with a preservative may be warranted. Any new section of wood that is used to replace a deteriorated sill should be “pressure-treated”; make sure that the chemical used is approved for residential construction. Logs above the sill should not require a preservative. However, if you feel that this is necessary, a mixture of 30% boised linseed oil and 70% turpentine is recommended. (For further reading on this and other aspects of log construction see: “Log-building to Last,” by Alasdair Wallace in Fine Homebuilding no. 14, pp. 52-5; published by Taunton Press, Newton, Conn.)

Ultimately the best treatment would be to make any necessary repairs to deteriorated logs and then patch and repair the stucco finish using a high lime mix.

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 National Trust for Historic Preservation has given their extensive library, a major component of the Trust's educational programs since the founding of the Trust in 1949, to the University of Maryland. Now housed within the university's architecture library on the College Park campus, the preservation library is the most comprehensive collection of material on historic preservation in the United States. Many of the volumes in the collection were donated to the National Trust by state and local preservation organizations.

A Gallup poll recently conducted for the Urban Land Institute, a developers' research organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., found that people support historic preservation and the tax incentives available for the rehabilitation of historic structures. The poll surveyed 1,008 people to evaluate opinions on the current condition and future of American cities. Questions were posed on a range of issues including municipal services, housing, planning and zoning, and environmental issues. Those questions directly related to historic preservation found that 69% supported tax deductions for restoring historic residential property; 55% supported deductions for rehabilitating commercial buildings. 97% said they should have a strong voice in preservation issues in their communities.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has published its 1985 annual report which covers the reviews and actions taken under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The report also describes other national, state and local preservation activities. Single copies are available free from ACHP, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004, 202-786-0503.

Restore Philadelphia has changed its name to Preservation Techniques. The name change indicated a broadened geographical area and expanded services. For further information on membership, services, and upcoming events, contact Preservation Techniques, 1224 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-567-0547.

John Herbst, a founder and the former executive director of the American Labor Museum of Paterson New Jersey, has become the new executive director of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. Herbst has been the recipient of many awards for his work in the field of history and its interpretation. He has served as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation from the State of New Jersey and from 1979 to 1982 was director of education at the New Jersey Historical Society. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania looks forward to the development of new and innovative education programs under Herbst's leadership.

The Foundation for Architecture, Philadelphia offers walking tours of many historic areas in the city. For a brochure describing the areas and a schedule of dates and times contact: The Foundation for Architecture, Suite 1560, One Penn Center at Suburban Station, 1617 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-569-3187. The Foundation also has a membership program open to anyone interested in the architecture of Philadelphia. Benefits of membership include invitations to lectures, exhibitions, tours, workshops and films sponsored by the Foundation.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and the Bureau for Historic Preservation are considering locations for future annual historic preservation conferences. Communities/historic preservation organizations interested in hosting an annual conference should contact the Preservation Fund. The 9th Annual Conference will be held in York, May 1-2, 1987.

Yes, I want to support the preservation of Pennsylvania's architectural heritage.

Enroll me as a members of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania.

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone: Home
Work

All membership contributions are tax deductible. Please make check payable to The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, 2470 Kissel Hill Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.
CALENDAR

August 23
Charles E. Peterson, founder of the Historic American Buildings Survey and one of Philadelphia's leading preservationists, celebrates his 80th birthday. A fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the winner of virtually every major award for achievement in the field of historic preservation, Peterson has been a strong voice for the preservation of historic buildings throughout his distinguished career.

September 4-6
Main Street: National Town Meeting, the first annual conference on downtown revitalization sponsored by the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the North Carolina Arts Council, will be held in Winston-Salem, N.C. The conference will bring together leaders in downtown revitalization throughout North America. Keynote speaker for the conference is William H. Whyte, nationally-known urban expert and social scientist. For registration information contact: National Main Street Center, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-673-4219.

7-28
Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation will conduct a series of four tours focusing on the architecture of the East End of the city. Tour highlights will include the Carnegie-Mellon campus, the interior of notable landmarks in Oakland's Civic Center, the architecture and engineering landmarks of Schenley Park, and the work of architect Frederick G. Schindler, Jr. For more information contact:

PHLF, 450 The Landmarks building, One Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, 412-471-5808.

Sept. 13
Philadelphia's Third Annual Restoration Fair will be held at the First Bank of the U.S. at Third and Chestnut Streets. Co-sponsored by the Maxwell Mansion and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, the event will feature booths, literature and programs on restoration techniques and supplies. The Fair is free to the public. For more information on the fair or services offered year-round by the co-sponsoring organizations contact either the Maxwell Mansion at 215-438-1861 or the Preservation Coalition at 215-733-4701.

Sept. 29-Oct. 1
The Association for Preservation Technology (APT), an international organization dedicated to the science and technology of the preservation of historic resources, will hold three training courses immediately preceding its annual conference in Austin, Texas. This year's course offerings are: Methods and Standards for the Conservation of Historic Bridges; Manufactured Building Hardware, 1840-1920; and Preservation is Maintenance. For more information about the courses and the conference, which will be held from Oct 1-4, contact: APT Austin 86, P.O. Box 2593, Austin, Texas 78768-2593. For membership and publications information contact: APT, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario KIP 5W6, Canada.

Oct. 3
The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) will hold its 46th annual meeting in Oakland, Calif. The program includes topics of interest to preservationists, historical societies and others involved in history-related disciplines. For detailed program and registration information contact: AASLH, 172 Second Ave. North, Suite 102, Nashville, Tennessee 37201, 615-255-2971.

October 15-19
The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its 40th national preservation conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme of the conference, "Preservation 20/20: A Focus on the Past and Future," will be addressed by a series of business sessions and workshops on a wide range of topics. For program and registration information contact: National Trust, National Preservation Conference, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

December 2-4
The First National Conference on Rehabilitating Windows in Historic Buildings will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the National Park Service, the Old House Journal, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and a number of state preservation offices, the conference will bring together an expert faculty of architects, manufacturers, contractors, developers, building managers, public officials and conservators. A concurrent trade show will feature manufacturers and suppliers of window products for historic buildings. For further information contact: The Window Conference, P.O. Box 27080, Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20038.

Notices of new items and upcoming events should be sent to the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania one month prior to publication. Deadlines for upcoming issues are October 1 (full issue) and January 1 (Winter issue).

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania
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