YOU’RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE PENNSYLVANIA’S BEST
2001 PRESERVATION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED MAY 24 IN HARRISBURG
2000 NATIONAL TRUST HONOR AWARD TO BE RE-PRESENTED

The magnificent Tile Room of Harrisburg’s historic Zembo is the setting for this year’s historic preservation awards ceremony to be held at a luncheon on Thursday, May 24, 2001. (For information on ordering tickets to the Awards Luncheon Ceremony, please see page 7.)

The awards are presented by Preservation Pennsylvania in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

This year, in addition to the awards described below, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will re-present the 2000 National Trust Honor Award originally presented at the Trust’s October 2000 conference in Los Angeles.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, is the recipient of the 2001 F. Otto Haas Award for outstanding achievement in historic preservation for his efforts to change the direction of a Pittsburgh development proposal, known as “Fifth and Forbes,” that threatened to demolish a significant number of historic downtown commercial buildings, including those pictured above left.

GREENSBURG & LINCOLN HIGHWAY PREPARE TO WELCOME ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2001 PA Historic Preservation & Heritage Partnerships Conference “Routes of Heritage” convenes May 9-11 at the historic Mountain View Inn in Greensburg, located just east of Pittsburgh on the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor.

Conference cosponsors include Preservation Pennsylvania, PA Historical & Museum Commission, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Heritage Parks Program, PA Heritage Parks Association, National Park Service, Westsylvania Heritage Corporation, Center for Rural PA, AIA Pennsylvania, 10,000 Friends of PA and the PA Downtown Center. For registration information contact Preservation Pennsylvania at 717-234-2310 or visit our website www.preservationpa.org

F. Otto Haas Award
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

Pennsylvania’s highest preservation honor, the F. Otto Haas Award, will be presented this year to Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, for his efforts to change the direction of a proposed development project in downtown Pittsburgh.
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Historic Home & Neighborhood Preservation Bill (HB 90) & Historic Homesite Local Regulation and Tax Assessment Act (HB 91)

Two pieces of state legislation (formerly House Bills 948 and 949), which would provide tax incentives to owners of historic homes in Pennsylvania and which came very close to passage in the last session of the General Assembly, have been reintroduced as House Bills 90 and 91 by sponsors Thomas A. Tangretti (D-Westmoreland Co.) and David G. Argall (R-Schuylkill Co.). The Historic Home & Neighborhood Preservation Bill (HB 90) has already passed the House and has moved to the Senate for consideration.

We encourage you to contact your State Senator to urge support for this important legislation and that it be a priority for inclusion in the budget process. Contacting the Senate leadership is especially critical.

Senate Majority Leaders: Robert C. Jubelirer (R-30) (Blair Co.); David J. Brightbill (R-48) (Lebanon Co.); Jeffrey Piccola (R-15) (Dauphin Co.); Noah Wagner (R-36) (Lancaster Co.); Robert Robbins (R-50) (Mercer Co.); Richard Tilghman (R-17) (Montgomery Co.); Joe Conti (R-10) (Bucks Co.); Mary Jo White (R-21) (Clarinon Co.).


To contact your state senator by mail use the following formula: Senate of Pennsylvania, Senate Box 2030--(the two digits of their district), Harrisburg, PA 17120-30--(the two digits of their district).

If you do not know the name of your state senator, check the advocacy page of Preservation Pennsylvania’s website www.preservationpa.org or call our office at 717-234-2310.

Background on HB90

The Historic Home & Neighborhood Preservation Bill is intended to promote the rehabilitation and preservation of historic homes and neighborhoods in Pennsylvania through a system of tax incentives. The goals of the bill are to:

• expand home ownership
• encourage owner occupancy of residential property in older neighborhoods
• stimulate the revival of declining, older neighborhoods and communities
• enlarge and stabilize the tax base of cities and small towns.

How would HB90 achieve these goals? Owners of historic homesites who agree to covenant with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and to use the property as their primary residence for at least five years:

• qualify to receive a 20% credit on personal income tax for rehabilitation costs as long as those costs exceed $1,000. The cumulative credit shall not exceed $6,000 regardless of the number of years over which the qualifying expenditures take place.
• qualify for an exemption from sales and use tax if rehabilitation costs for the project exceed $1,000.

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A Note to Applicants Who Didn’t Win An Award

I recently received a call from an applicant whose project did not win an award. She was disappointed (and a bit angry) over the award jury’s decision. When asked about her application, pride and passion replaced the anger and dismay in her voice. She spoke of her group’s commitment to preserving an important piece of the community’s heritage. She described their efforts to raise the needed funds and the care that they took to ensure that the work was done correctly and well. It was a project worthy of recognition.

However, after reviewing the award list and talking to several of the jury members, it became apparent that the application pool for the 2001 Preservation Award program was one of the strongest in years. The project in question was considered in the context of some extraordinary competition.

The overall quality of the projects and the applications submitted challenged the jury. Its members labored through a six-hour deliberation before finalizing an award list.

The competitiveness of this year’s selection process raised the bar for what constitutes Pennsylvania’s best preservation efforts. It should make Pennsylvania preservationists proud of the work that is being done in the state at all levels. Most of all, it should not discourage those whose projects didn’t make the final list.

To the individuals who served on the award jury, we extend our appreciation for making hard (but wonderful) decisions. To the businesses and groups who submitted award nominations, we give you thanks for the work that you have done to preserve and renew our architectural heritage. And, to the caller who brought to my attention a fine but unheralded accomplishment, rework your application to build-in some of the pride and passion that came through during our conversation and resubmit it next year. Remember, persistence is also part of the preservation process.

Patrick A. Foltz, Executive Director
Preservation Pennsylvania
Awards...continued from page 1

Led by the Muncy Historical Society, volunteers work on the restoration of the 8-Square Schoolhouse in Moreland Township, Lycoming County. The project is the recipient of the Community Involvement Initiative Award.

The project planned for the area known as “Fifth and Forbes”, which was listed in Preservation Pennsylvania’s 1999 Pennsylvania At Risk, would have demolished a significant portion of Pittsburgh’s historic downtown commercial area. Ziegler’s efforts included offering preservation-based alternatives to the developer’s proposal and making personal contacts with civic and business leaders involved in the project.

The November 2000 decision of the developer to withdraw from the project and the mayor’s subsequent call for a new approach to downtown revitalization that welcomes preservationists to the table, are both direct results of Ziegler’s efforts. The 2001 F. Otto Haas Award will be presented by last year’s recipient Thomas Hylton, author of Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania.

Initiative Awards

Community Involvement Award
8-Square Schoolhouse Project,
Moreland Township, Lycoming County

Built in 1872, the building replaced an earlier octagon-shaped schoolhouse, keeping the name “the 8-Square Schoolhouse.” The building was closed as a school in 1958 and until 1980 was used as the township’s municipal building. For 18 years it sat unused and unmaintained until it was offered to the Muncy Historical Society, an entirely volunteer organization, which led a seven-month community-based effort to restore the school. In preparation for the reopening of the school this spring, a program is being developed that will bring to life the education practices of the 19th century for new generations of visitors and for students from area school districts.

Communications Award
The First 300:
The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion

Published in April 2000 by the Lower Merion Historical Society, this 800-page history of Philadelphia’s old Main Line represents a three-year effort by more than 85 volunteer historians, educators, archivists, writers, architects, artists and local residents. Organized around themes such as pioneers, development, communities, schools, and families, the stories of places and people are told in many voices and with a wealth of visual documentation.

Education Award
Richard W. Pencek

While Penn State has more than 4500 courses at the University Park campus, it has had only one featuring hands-on preservation and restoration. American Studies professor Dick Pencek began teaching his popular course in 1985. Since then, he has brought the value of historic preservation to the attention of the Centre County community and the Penn State campus. He has provided guidance to his students while encouraging confidence in hands-on restoration projects that have connected university students with the community through projects at local sites such as Curtin Village and Eagle Ironworks, Boalsburg Heritage Museum, and Centre Furnace Millage.

Government Award
York County Department of Parks and Recreation

Within the more than 4,000 acres managed by the York County Department of Parks and Recreation (YCPD) are a number of significant historic structures for which the YCPD has shown an exceptional level of stewardship and commitment to restoration and preservation. These structures include four Northern Central Railroad bridges, New Freedom Railroad Station, Hanover Junction Railroad Station, Howard Tunnel, Wallace Cross Mill, and the Michael and Magdalena Bixler Farmstead. Through the development of and

The Michael and Magdalena Bixler Farmstead is headquarters for the York County Department of Parks and Recreation, recipients of the Government Initiative Award for their efforts to preserve historic resources within the York County Parks system.
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incorporation of these historic properties into the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, YCYPD has effectively blended historic preservation and recreational opportunities.

Stewardship Award
Capital Area Greenbelt Association, Harrisburg

The Capital Area Greenbelt, designed by Olmstead protege Warren Manning, was conceived in the early 20th century as the "Emerald Necklace" of Pennsylvania's capital city. The Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA) formed in 1990 as a group of area residents interested in protecting and extending the historic park and boulevard system, which had never been completed and had fallen into neglect and disrepair.

Since its founding, this volunteer group has been able to help secure grants from a variety of sources for specific preservation projects. CAGA was also successful in stopping an attempt by McDonald's to build on a key parcel of land within the Greenbelt (Pennsylvania At Risk 1996).

In 1998 the group launched a major effort to complete the remaining 5.6 miles of the 20-mile Greenbelt. 1999-2000 saw acquisition of land and easements by Susquehanna Township that made the greenbelt 80% complete, with another 19% of the remaining land protected by state agency designation, acquisition, donation, or easement agreement. The ongoing effort of the group to nurture and enhance this historic landscape has added measurably to the livability of the City of Harrisburg.

Corporate Commitment Award
Marriott International, Inc.

In a special award category this year, Marriott International, Inc. is recognized for their involvement in the preservation and rehabilitation of significant historic buildings in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Recent projects include rehabilitation of the Reading Terminal Headhouse, Girard Trust Building, and City Hall Annex in Philadelphia, and the Fulton Building in Pittsburgh into Marriott hotels.

The Reading Terminal Headhouse is also the recipient of a construction project award.

Construction Project Awards

Public-Institutional Buildings
Allegheny County Jail, Pittsburgh

The rehabilitation of the Allegheny County Jail for continued use as the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas has secured the future of this National Historic Landmark. Designed by noted 19th century architect H.H. Richardson and completed in 1886, this defining downtown Pittsburgh landmark had outlived its usefulness as a jail by the early 1990s. It faced an uncertain future and significant challenges to reuse including years of neglect and spaces not easily converted to new uses.

Preservation and reuse of the building were accomplished through the design efforts of the architectural firm IKM, Inc. Financially, the project was made possible through a unique arrangement in which the county sold the jail to a developer, Mascaro Construction Company, which leases it back to the county for 29 years, after which ownership will return to the county.

Commercial-Industrial Buildings
Large-scale Rehabilitation Projects
Philadelphia Savings Fund Society (PSFS), Philadelphia

The National Historic Landmark PSFS building, located at 12th and Market Streets in Center City Philadelphia, is recognized as the first International Style skyscraper built in America. Designed by architects George Howe and William Lescace and completed in 1932, the 36-story structure dominated the city skyline with its distinctive sign of 27-foot high letters until the latter years of the 20th century. The closing of the bank in 1992 threatened the future of the building until its recent conversion to a Loews Hotel. Bower Lewis Thrower Architects and Powers & Company, Inc. are among those involved in the rehabilitation project which retained much of the original fabric and detailing including the magnificent 33rd-floor boardroom spaces which were preserved with their exotic woods painstakingly restored.

Marriott International is also the recipient of an initiative award for their corporate commitment to preservation in this and a number of other hotel projects in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Reading Terminal Headhouse, Philadelphia

Originally constructed in 1893 to house the Philadelphia passenger station and one of the offices of the Reading Railroad, the Reading Terminal Headhouse suffered from many years of neglect and decay until its recent conversion to a Marriott Hotel. Abandoned in the early 1980s, the building was acquired by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority in 1993. Through use of the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit and a long term agreement with the Marriott Corporation, the building has been returned to a place of prominence and productive use in Center City. Through the design and preservation efforts of Cope Linder Architects, Bower Lewis Thrower Architects, and John Milner Associates, the building's exterior was meticulously returned to its 1893 appearance, using original construction drawings, historic postcards and photographs. 210 guestrooms and 4,000 square feet of meeting space now occupy the interior.

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Small-scale Restoration Project
Second Bank of Meyersdale,
Somerset County

Built in 1909, extensively remodeled in the 1930s and again in the 1970s, the Second Bank of Meyersdale is a prominent building in this rural southwestern Pennsylvania community. The building ceased to be a bank in 1980 and for many years housed borough offices before being restored by the Somerset Trust Company as their Meyersdale banking facility. Returning the building to its original function as a bank included removing non-historic elements such as a suspended ceiling and later wall coverings, and replacing the original 1909 teller stations and stenciling. The final restoration, which was led by the Lettrich Group Architects/Planner, Inc. of Greensburg, is a hybrid of the 1909 and 1930s designs, and the reopened banking facility is part of a broader revitalization effort underway in the community.

Small-scale Rehabilitation Project
Sewing Factory, Gettysburg

Located within the Borough of Gettysburg and the National Register Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District, the Sewing Factory was built in 1899 as the local cottage industry of sewing moved into the industrial age. Over the years, the classic brick structure suffered from unsympathetic, structurally compromising modifications until, by the 1970s, it ceased to function as a factory and became a storage facility.

David and Jane English purchased the building in 1997 and, with project architect Gary Shaffer, began the process of returning the building to its original appearance and adapting it as office space. The exterior was gently cleaned and completely repointed. A significant amount of original fabric was meticulously repaired and restored. When replacement was necessary, it was done with similar material and scrupulous attention to detail. This historic, yet technologically modern building now houses 15 employees and has had a positive impact on the streetscape of this industrial area of Gettysburg.

Special Historic Properties
Union Canal Tunnel, Lebanon
North Portal Project

The Union Canal Tunnel is the oldest transportation tunnel in the United States. Built between 1825 and 1827, the canal declined in use when railroads began to provide faster and more efficient commercial transportation, though it continued to be used locally into the early part of the 20th century. In 1970 it was designated a National Civil Engineering Landmark and in 1994 a National Historic Landmark.

Maintenance on the tunnel, over the years, was limited. By the 1990s the north portal face and stone arch just inside the portal entry were deteriorated, and the east and west stone walls were completely collapsed into the canal in front of the portal. 2100 tons of stone and rubble blocked the tunnel entrance.

Through the Friends of the Union Canal Tunnel Park, an arm of the Lebanon County Historical Society which has maintained the south side of the tunnel as a recreation and park area since 1958, the restoration of the tunnel and the canal is becoming a reality. With funding and technical assistance from numerous state agencies and with the help of Carol Hickey of Kaufman Hickey Architects, Lancaster, and a team of consultants, the preservation of the north portal has been completed. The complex process of investigation, repair, stabilization, and rebuilding of the tunnel and towpath have resulted in a significant preservation achievement for this central Pennsylvania landmark.

Register Now to Attend

2001 Historic Preservation Awards Luncheon
May 24, 2001
Noon – 2 p.m.
at the Zembo,
Third and Division Streets,
Harrisburg

please complete the form on page 7 and return it with your check to Preservation Pennsylvania.
YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE VOICE FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S HERITAGE

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Individual $25
☐ Household $35
☐ Nonprofit Organization $40
☐ Associate $50
☐ Patron/Professional $100
☐ Supporter $250
☐ Benefactor $500
☐ Pennsylvania Heritage Club $1,000
☐ Keystone Society $2,500

Also enclosed is my additional contribution of $ ________ to further the work of Preservation Pennsylvania. I would like to designate this contribution for ________. Please call me to discuss including Preservation Pennsylvania as a beneficiary under my will.

Name __________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

City ___________________ State ______ Zip _________

Telephone: (h) _______ (w) ______

E-mail address ____________________________________

New Renewal Change of Address

Please make check payable to:

Preservation Pennsylvania
257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Preservation Pennsylvania is officially licensed as a charitable organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Questions about Preservation Pennsylvania should be addressed to 717-234-2310. All membership contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

2001 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2001, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
THE ZEMBO, THIRD & DIVISION STREETS, HARRISBURG, PA
Presented by
Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc. in partnership with Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Please complete form below and return by May 15 to Preseration Pennsylvania

Please reserve _______ tickets @$25 per person for the 2001 Awards Luncheon

Enclosed is my check for $________ payable to:

Preservation Pennsylvania Phone: 717-234-2310
257 North Street Fax: 717-234-2522
Harrisburg, PA 17101 Email: sshearer@preservationpa.org

Name __________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

City ___________________ State ______ Zip _________

Daytime phone ___________________ Email ___________________

Special requirements (e.g. disability, vegetarian entree) ___________________

All tickets will be held at the door
CALENDAR

April 19 South Central Assembly for Effective Governance, Summit IV: Our Environment and Social Change. Contact: SCAEG, Penn State Harrisburg, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057; 717-948-6464; www.southcentralassembly.org


April 23 Interior Spaces of Downtown Pittsburgh Landmarks, walking tour. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: University of Pittsburgh, Informal Program, 412-648-2560.

April 25 (Meadville) and April 26 (Greensburg) PA Downtown Center workshop: Funding Your Downtown Revitalization Program. $50, members; $75, nonmembers. Contact: PDC, 412 N. Second St., Harrisburg, PA 17101; 717-233-4675; fax 717-233-4690; www.padowntown.org


May 1 Deadline for nominations for National Preservation Honor Awards. Contact: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036; phone 202-588-6236; fax-on-demand service 202-588-6444 (document #9005); awards@nhtp.org; www.nationaltrust.org

May 3-5 Westsylvania Outdoor Heritage Festival, Huntingdon County Fairgrounds, Huntingdon. Contact: Westsylvania Heritage Corporation, PO Box 565, Hollidaysburg 16648; 814-696-9380 or 800-898-3636.

May 9-11 2001 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation & Heritage Partnerships Conference Routes of Heritage
Mountain View Inn, Greensburg
Contact: Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-234-2310; www.preservationpa.org

May 13-19 National Preservation Week. Theme: Restore, Renew, Rediscover Your Historic Neighborhood Schools! Contact: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202-588-6000; www.nationaltrust.org

May 19-20 Union Canal Days, Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon. Come visit one of this year’s preservation award winners and a National Historic Landmark! Free admission. Contact: Lebanon County Historical Society, 717-272-1473.

May 26 Buggy Day Festival, Mifflintown. Contact: Mifflintown Buggy Museum, 523 Greet Street, Mifflintown 17844; 570-966-1355; www.lycoming.org/buggy

June 1 Deadline for nominations to Scenic America’s Last Chance Landscapes: Places of beauty or distinctive character with both a pending threat and a potential solution. Contact: Scenic America, 801 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20003; 202-543-6200; www.scenic.org


July 27-28 Balancing the Protection and Promotion of Historic Roads conference. Cumberland, MD. Contact: National Road Alliance, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Eastern Reg. Office; PO Box 284, Cambridge City, IN 47327; phone 765-478-3172; fax 765-478-3410; hilfiero@infcom.com

September 6-8 Restoration & Renovation Exhibition and Conference. New Orleans, LA. Contact: EGI Exhibitions, 129 park St., North Reading, MA 01864; 800-982-6247 or 978-664-8066; www.restorationandrenovation.com