PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL PRESERVATION AWARDS GO TO FOUR PENNSYLVANIA PROGRAMS

Four outstanding Pennsylvania preservation initiatives are among twenty-eight projects selected for national recognition at ceremonies in Washington, D.C. on November 18, 1988. The two-part awards program honors historic preservation accomplishments since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

In the first group of awards, President Reagan made ten presentations honoring excellence in privately funded preservation. Two of these are to nonprofit Philadelphia organizations, the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation and Preservation Techniques, Inc.

The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation is recognized for its facade easement program which has accepted 117 easements on buildings valued at more than one-half billion dollars. The protected structures range from significant early 20th century office towers to simple colonial houses. In selecting this program, the awards jury commented, "This program is representative of an important contemporary preservation technique... which protects the exterior historic appearance of a building in perpetuity and affords building owners some tax benefits... [this organization] has used innovative management methods to ensure enforcement of its donated easements."

The conservation technology education program created by Preservation Techniques, Inc. was chosen for its work in research and teaching the most cost-effective ways of maintaining and restoring commercial institutional buildings while retaining the architectural integrity of the structures. Preservation Techniques has produced educational videotapes on ornamental painting, plas-

HAMOT HEALTH SYSTEMS AND FUND JOIN FORCES TO PRESERVE ERIE LANDMARK

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania and Hamot Health Systems are looking for a new long-term resident for one of the oldest remaining houses in Erie.

Bayside Development, an affiliate of Hamot Health Systems, plans to rehabilitate the historic Hamot House at 302 French Street in accordance with preservation standards and the new tenant's requirements.

Hamot House was built between 1827 and 1831 by Erie's first brickmason, Peter Gruber, as a private residence for Pierre S.V. Hamot, an Erie business leader and banker. The house at 302 French Street is believed to have been built by Hamot to replace a previous home at State and Second Streets which burned in 1827. As Hamot's family and business interests grew, he constructed a larger house at Front and State Streets. He owned the house at 302 French Street until his death in 1846 when the house passed to his daughter, Mary Hamot Starr. Today, the house is the only remaining residence of P.S.V. Hamot in Erie. Hamot House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The house is a two-story, federal-style, brick building with 3,000 square feet plus a 680 square foot basement. It is currently

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Hamot House (continued from page 1)  

ly zoned C-2 and, when rehabilitated, will provide first-class office space in a historic neighborhood currently enjoying extensive revitalization. The house is near the Hamot Medical Center campus, the Erie Insurance Group and future bayfront development. Parking is available on the site.

The rehabilitation of Hamot House is part of Hamot's plan for the revitalization of the bayfront neighborhood. Through Bayside Development Corporation, a tax-paying affiliate of Hamot Health Systems, this long vacant building will be restored and become a useful part of Erie's reawakening bayfront area - and a tribute to the Erie pioneer for whom Hamot Medical Center is named.

Awards (continued from page 1)  

eter, wrought iron, polychrome slate roofing, and stained glass. They have also offered seminars and lectures on a variety of preservation subjects. The high quality of their information and their efforts in documenting early building craft techniques were specifically cited by the jury.

In the second category of presentations, the National Historic Preservation Awards honor preservation achievements accomplished with Federal assistance. These projects and programs represent the partnership between the private sector and government in promoting preservation in communities across the nation. Two Pennsylvania projects, the First African Baptist Church Cemetery urban archeology project in Philadelphia and the Oley Township rural preservation planning project in Berks County, are among the eighteen recipients of this award.

The site of the First African Baptist Cemetery was excavated, analyzed, and documented after grave sites were discovered by highway construction workers in a section of Philadelphia designated to become part of an expressway project. With assistance from PennDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority undertook this study which has provided significant documentation on the history of 19th-century Black Philadelphians.

Oley Township in rural Berks County is an area typical of Pennsylvania German farming communities. A grassroots, community-based effort, begun in 1980, prepared a pioneering National Register Historic District nomination for the entire township, established an 8,500-acre Agricultural Security Area, completed a U.S. Geological Survey water resources study, produced a natural and cultural resource map, and developed a comprehensive planning study for the township. Oley has become a model for preservation efforts in other rural historic areas.

This semian preservation awards program is sponsored by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of the Interior through "Take Pride in America", a national public awareness campaign to encourage the public to respect and protect the natural, historical, and recreational resources of public lands. Entries were received from forty-five states and Puerto Rico, and represented the full range of preservation initiatives from adaptive reuse of historic buildings to urban planning, archeology, maritime, rural, and bridge preservation.

Beyond recognizing the achievements of the past twenty years, these awards also point the way to the preservation needs and concerns of the next decade and into the twenty-first century. Education is seen as paramount in broadening the successful preservation of our historic buildings, sites, and structures, and in integrating preservation into land use and development planning in both urban and rural areas. With these awards, we see that the tools put in place in 1966 with the enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act are working, but that there is still much to be done.

For more information on Hamot House contact:  
Andrew J. Glass  
Assistant Vice President  
and Director of Environmental Services  
Hamot Medical Center  
201 State Street  
Erie 16550  
814-870-6060  
or Grace Gary  
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For information on becoming a member of The Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact the Preservation Fund.

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The future of the Reading Terminal Market (see Preserving Pennsylvania, In The News, vol. 3, no. 1) came into question recently when plans were unveiled for Pennsylvania's new Convention Center. To be constructed over a four-year period, the Convention Center threatens the continued operation of market during that period, and many fear that prolonged interruption of market activity may bring an end to its almost 100 years of operation. To assist efforts to save the market, the Preservation Fund, through its Philadelphia Intervention Fund, has approved a grant of $10,000 to the Reading Terminal Market Preservation Fund. The grant is being used to conduct a public relations campaign and to provide architectural services relating to the inclusion of the market in plans for the Convention Center construction.

Another Philadelphia landmark facing a significant threat, the Philadelphia Naval Home, has been the subject of development discussions for a number of years. The latest proposal calls for the demolition of one significant building and for new construction incompatible with existing buildings. The Center City Residents' Association will use a Fund grant of $8,500 to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of retaining Lanning Hall, designed by prominent Philadelphia architect John McArthur, and incorporating it into existing plans for development of the Naval Home.

Over Boat House Row, Philadelphia's historic waterfront buildings along the Schuylkill River, are also threatened. Lack of regular maintenance and the resulting deterioration of the buildings has become a major problem. For the first time, the rowing clubs who own the buildings have joined together to solve their mutual problems. A grant of $10,000 from the Intervention Fund will be used to match other funds to conduct a comprehensive architectural and landscape study of this National Historic Landmark, as the first step in developing future plans for the buildings.

A grant of $3,000 has also been approved for critical woodwork conservation at The Woodlands, a National Landmark property built by Andrew Hamilton, the designer of the Pennsylvania State House.

The Philadelphia Intervention Fund was established in 1988 with a grant to the Preservation Fund from The Pew Charitable Trust. For more information on the Philadelphia Intervention Fund, contact the Preservation Fund.

The Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 1989 HAAS AWARD
The Preservation Fund is now accepting nominations for the 1989 Haas Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation. The award, which was created in 1987, honors F. Otto Haas, past president of the Preservation Fund and a leader in the Pennsylvania preservation community. Outstanding preservation efforts by organized groups are eligible for the award. Nominations should be in the form of a letter describing the activity or project and the group being nominated. Supporting material may also be submitted.

The deadline for nominations is March 15, 1989. The Haas Award will be presented at the awards banquet at the 11th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation, Friday, April 28, 1989 in Pittsburgh.
The September-October 1988 issue of **INSPIRED**, a bi-monthly publication on the preservation of historic religious buildings, contains a useful guide to denominational building services. Arranged by the name of the religious body (e.g. United methodist Church, Union of Hebrew Congregations), the guide lists names, addresses, phone numbers, publications, and a description of services offered to congregations seeking information on building maintenance and repair. For a copy, contact: Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation, 1 East Penn Square, 22nd floor, Philadelphia 19107; 215-568-4210.

"Making Waves: Radio Communication in Pennsylvania 1900-1935" is a major new exhibit at the State Museum in Harrisburg. The outgrowth of a donation to the museum of a large collection of early radio equipment by radio pioneer Harry W. Houck of New Cumberland, the exhibit features achievements by Pennsylvanians in science, manufacturing and broadcasting to tell the history of radio from 1900 to the invention of frequency modulation in 1935. The show runs through April 1989 and is open free to the public Tuesday-Saturday 9-5 and Sunday noon-5.

Four Pennsylvania institutions and three individuals are among 112 recipients of special recognition from the American Association for State and Local History. The 1988 awards were presented at the AASLH annual meeting in Rochester on September 15. Awards of merit went to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, for the exhibit "Pieces of the Past: Archeology in Pittsburgh"; the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, for "The Creolization of New Orleans radio program"; and Robert C. Alberts, Pittsburgh, for contributions to state and local history. Certificates of commendation were presented to the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation for preservation and interpretation of Fort McIntosh history; to Nancy Shedd and Jean Harshbarger for contributions to the preservation of Huntingdon County history; and to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania for the exhibit "Homewood-Brushton: A Century of Community Making."

Six Lancaster County nonprofit organizations have formed an alliance dedicated to the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the county's character and way of life. The Lancaster Heritage and Environment Alliance, which includes the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, plans to develop consensus policies on land use issues and to work with planners, developers, citizens and local governments to deal with the demands of rapid growth on the county's fragile historic and environmental resources.

**Mellon Bank's 1988 Community Fund** will be distributed to 53 local economic development groups in southwestern Pennsylvania. Totaling $80,000 for 1988, the fund is in its fifth year of assisting the efforts of local nonprofit organizations. The groups selected for 1988 funding have taken a variety of approaches to economic development, from technical assistance for new and expanding small businesses to promoting downtown business districts. A number of this year's awards are to designated Main Street communities, including Charleroi, Midland, and Pittsburgh's South Side.

1992 will mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the new World—and Pennsylvania plans to be ready for the celebration! The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recently completed a survey of Columbus statues and memorials throughout the state. Eleven statues and busts of Columbus were identified: Scranton (Washington St. at Spruce St.); Pittsburgh (Schenley Dr.); Bryn Mawr (Lancaster Pike at Bryn Mawr Ave.); Hazelton (Church St. in Memorial Park); Philadelphia (S. Broad St.); Chester (3rd Ave. and Avenue of the States); Bridgeport (4th St. and DeKalb Pike); Conshohocken (8th Ave. and Fayette St.); Reading (Perkiomen Ave. in City Park); Easton (Riverside Park at Larry Dr. and Church St.). As part of the 1992 celebration the state plans a publication on the history of the Italian experience in Pennsylvania, two exhibits to open in 1989 at the State Museum, and a television documentary on ethnic history in the state. For more information on these and other activities associated with the celebration contact John Kraft at the PHMC, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026, 717-783-8599.

The history of efforts to preserve the village of Fallsington is a case study of a community's 55-year commitment to saving a small, but significant piece of local history. Located in eastern Bucks County, across the river from Trenton, New Jersey, Fallsington has faced tremendous development pressures since World War II. Now the story of the fight to preserve this community of over 90 historic buildings from the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, will be documented and used to communicate the value of preservation to visitors. A nine-month project, funded in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will culminate in the creation of an audio-visual program that will be used to orient visitors to the community. Jacqueline Prior, executive director of Historic Fallsington, also sees the project as producing an important record of the social and cultural impact of sudden, large-scale industrial and housing development on a community, as well as insight into why preservation efforts began and why they should continue.

Two Pennsylvania communities are featured in recent issues of national publications. The fall 1988 issue of **LIFE** magazine, which celebrates 150 years of photography, illustrates residents of Wellsboro from the years 1895 to 1915. **Brookville**, a lovely Victorian Main Street community in Jefferson County, is the subject of an article in the October issue of **Victoria** magazine.

The **Chester County Historical Society** is expanding. The society recently purchased the old YMCA building, adjacent to the society's headquarters on North High Street in West Chester. CCHS plans to "restore and renovate" the
SIX PROPERTIES AND TWO DISTRICTS LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER

The National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects significant in the history and culture of the United States, recently added the following Pennsylvania places.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Fireside Historic District, part of the historic Monongahela Wharf in Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle, is a block of largely intact commercial buildings from the late 19th and early 20th century. These warehouses stored the goods from the extensive river trade during the years that Pittsburgh was the world's busiest inland port.

CHESTER COUNTY

Williams Deluxe Cabins were a popular overnight stop for auto travelers along the Lincoln Highway during the late 1920s and 1930s. Auto camps like Williams, which featured cabins, offices, and service stations, boomed during this era of new mobility as more Americans acquired automobiles. Overnight tourists have now been replaced by weekly bor-

ders and the name of the complex has been changed to the Tudor Motor Inn, but the property still conveys its original sense of a 1920s Tudor-Revival-style motor court.

The Tudor Revival style was also popular for Chester County residences during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Pickwick, West Whiteland Township's best example of a home in this style, was designed by Sherman G. Coates of Berwyn for the socially prominent John Kent Kane Jr.

Also in West Whiteland, Woodledge is another significant example of the large-scale period revival homes built in this part of Chester County at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Designed by West Chester architect Ralph P. Minich for Park L. Plant, a prominent Lancaster County industrialist, Woodledge is a virtual "vocabulary house" of the Colonial Revival, displaying an abundance of historic architectural elements associated with this popular period style.

SURVEY AND PLANNING GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Bureau for Historic Preservation announces the following grant awards for fiscal year 1989:

Clarion University of Pennsylvania. For archaeological testing on 20 proposed boat ramp sites along Pennsylvania rivers.

University of Pittsburgh. To conduct a cultural resources inventory of Lake Erie.

Berks County Conservancy. To prepare a National Register nomination for historic ironworks in Berks County.

Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. To nominate the Homestead Historic District to the National Register.

Lancaster County Parks Department. To conduct an industrial history survey of Chickies Rock County Park.

Bucks County Conservancy. For an architectural/historical survey of 2 boroughs and 5 townships in central Bucks County.

Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. To prepare National Register nominations for the commercial and industrial buildings of architect C. Emlen Urban, and for the 1880-1940 resources of Lancaster City's tobacco industry.

Historic York, Inc. For an architectural/historical survey of 10 townships and 2 boroughs in western York County.

For more information on state historic preservation programs contact:
Bureau for Historic Preservation Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
717-783-8946

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FAYETTE COUNTY

Stately homes in the Colonial Revival style were also built in the western part of the state during the early years of the 20th century. The John P. Conn House, considered one of the finest early Colonial Revival homes in Uniontown, was constructed in 1906 for a locally prominent carpenter-turned-contractor and real estate broker.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

The T.M. Kurtz House in Punxsutawney is another example of the Colonial Revival in western Pennsylvania. Theodore M. Kurtz, a leading politician in the area, hired architect H. C. Park to design a grand residence that has had little alteration since its completion. Of special note are the house’s more than fifty art glass windows.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

The town of Nazareth was established as a carefully planned religious community for Moravians, a German sect that emigrated to Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s. The historic district contains a large collection of mid-19th century to early 20th century buildings important in the religious, social and economic life of the community.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Dobson Mills, located in the East Falls section of Philadelphia, is one of the largest and most impressive industrial complexes surviving from the city’s 19th century heyday as the nation’s workshop. The six mill buildings, occupying 500,000 square feet of space, were constructed over three quarters of a century between 1858 and 1928 by English immigrants John and James Dobson. At its height, Dobson Mills was the largest individually owned woolen firm in the United States.

Established by the National Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register safeguards designated properties from federally funded or assisted projects which may endanger them. Listing also makes owners who rehabilitate certified historic commercial properties eligible for federal tax benefits. Pennsylvania has, to date, approximately 2,000 entries in the National Register, more than 190 of which are historic districs. Several districts include hundreds of buildings, both residential and commercial.

Contact the Bureau at the address/telephone on page 5 for additional information on the Commonwealth’s historic preservation program.

Grant awards (continued from page 5)

Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission. For an architectural/historical survey of industrial resources in Lackawanna County.

In The News (continued from page 4)

building for use as additional office and program space. The architectural firm of Frens and Frens of West Chester has been hired to design the new spaces within the building.

Historic York, Inc. is looking for a new owner for their current headquarters building. The two-and-a-half-story Cooke House was built in 1761. It has been the headquarters of Historic York since its restoration in 1980. HYI is leaving the building to consolidate their activities in their architectural warehouse on North George Street in downtown York. For more information on the Cooke House contact Olive Padden at 717-854-9242.

A special exhibition of what farming was like in Chester County from 1800 to 1850 is now open at historic Springton Manor Farm in Glenmoore. A cooperative venture between the Chester County Historical Society and the county’s Parks and Recreation Department, the exhibit illustrates the relationship of the farmer to his market, the techniques of making the land produce and the farmers’ response to changing technology in the first half of the 19th century. For more information contact the Chester County Historical Society, 215-692-4800.

Drive-in theaters are a dying breed, according to a recent Associated Press report. Richard Fox, president of Fox Theaters which once owned 14 drive-ins in eastern Pennsylvania, says that the romance with the car during the 50s and 60s that spawned American drive-ins with their often flamboyant roadside marquees is gone. While the number of indoor screens increases, the multi-acre sites that once hosted hundreds of cars on warm summer Saturday nights are being turned into shopping malls, office complexes and trailer parks. On a weekend this summer at the Port Drive-In near Williamsport, only three cars came to see the feature. Another artifact of our recent past seems to be fading into the sunset.
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- Nonprofit Organization $35

*Includes special membership benefits. For information contact the Preservation Fund.

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FUNDING SOURCES

At long last, a publication on historically designed products for the building professional! Brought to you by Clem Labine, creator of the Old House Journal, TRADITIONAL BUILDING is a bimonthly newspaper with articles on specialized products, indexed advertising for easy access to product information, and other special features of interest to those working in the rehabilitation/restore industry. For a complimentary copy and subscription information write: Traditional Building, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

The National Trust’s Forum information series has just released “Design and Development: Infill Housing Compatible with Historic Neighborhoods.” Written by Ellen Beasley, the booklet explores issues such as zoning considerations, the need for a project program, selecting an architect, how to structure a development team, and the role of the review process in creating compatible infill design. Case studies of four projects are used to illustrate the options and solutions outlined. Available for $5, including postage and handling (ten or more copies of the same title are $2.50 each) from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington DC 20036, Attn: Regional Services.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has reprinted the 1876 edition of the Atlas of the County of Allegheny to mark the bicentennial of Allegheny County. The atlas contains maps based on a mid-19th century survey of Allegheny County and depicts townships, businesses, owners, homesteaders, roads and natural features as they were more than a hundred years ago. The reprints also contains an introductory essay by Dr. Edward K. Muller from the University of Pittsburgh. Available from the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh 15213; 412-681-5533.

The Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, with the help of a grant from the Preservation Fund’s Intervention Fund, has launched a new monthly publication UPDATE. Designed to develop a much-needed preservation network among Delaware Valley groups and individuals, the newsletter will report on preservation activities in the five-county, greater Philadelphia area. If you have news of preservation in your community or if you would like information on receiving the newsletter, contact: The Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, 250 S. 16th St., Philadelphia 19102; 215-546-0531.

The Institute of Museum Services is an independent federal agency that offers grants programs to all types and sizes of museums, including historic houses and sites. Grant categories and remaining deadlines for fiscal year 1989 are:

Conservation Project Support provides a one-to-one match of funds, generally up to $25,000, for collection care and management projects.

Museum Assessment Program provides a one-time grant of $1,400 for a professional assessment of a museum’s programs and operations.

Museum Assessment Program II provides a one-time grant of $1,400 for a professional assessment of a museum’s collections management activities.

For more information on these programs, contact: Institute of Museum Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Room 510, Washington, DC 20506; 202-786-0539.
Calendar

1988


1989


March 31-April 1
Hotel Atop the Bellevue Gala Weekend. Contact: Preservation Fund.


May 5-6 Black History in Pennsylvania annual conference. Contact: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, 17108; 717-783-5376.


1988 HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

December

Christmas in Bethlehem. Moravian holiday traditions, with events throughout the month. For complete schedule contact: Bethlehem Area Chamber of Commerce, 215-868-1513.

Dec. 5-16 Washington County Historical Society's "A Victorian Christmas". For schedule of events contact: WCHS, 49 E. Maiden St., Washington 15301.

Dec. 8-10 Historic Germantown Preserved Christmas Tours. Contact: 215-848-1777.

Dec. 11 Holiday Tour of Burtner House (1821), the Rachel Carson Homestead (1870), Neville House (c. 1797), and Old St. Luke's (1852). Contact: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 412-471-5808.

Christmas in Bethlehem. Photo: Tim Gilman