BRINGS PRESERVATIONISTS TO PITTSBURGH

Called the "Gateway to the West", "Forge of the Universe", and the city Frank Lloyd Wright said could only be improved by abandonment, Pittsburgh is today ranked number one in Rand McNally's list of most livable cities. Yet hand in hand with the city's metamorphosis from industrial giant to corporate headquarters is a rapidly growing sense of the importance of her industrial past.

From April 27-29, 1989, Pittsburgh's historic Westin William Penn Hotel hosts the 11th Annual Conference on Historic Preservation. This year's meeting will explore the industrial heritage of the city and the commonwealth with sessions and special events highlighting our legacy of significant industrial resources, as well as opportunities for reuse and economic revitalization.

Contact the Fund for registration information and join us in Pittsburgh for this timely look at the past and future of our industrial heritage.

SAVING OUR VANISHING INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

What was once MADE IN PA continues to make Pennsylvania great.

The Cambria Iron Company, Altoona's machine shops, Carnegie Steel's Homestead Works...the former grandeur and power of these and other Pennsylvania industries, now silent, are important to an understanding of our history.

Today, Pennsylvania's appreciation of our industrial heritage is expanding as efforts across the state seek to rescue, renew, and reuse these significant historic sites, buildings, and artifacts.

America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP) encompasses a nine-county region of southwestern Pennsylvania. With national funding, a regional commission of community leaders, and staffing by the National Park Service, AIHP is surveying industrial resources and planning for a growing public/private partnership to increase tourism and economic development focused on the area's industrial legacy.

In another example of an effective public/private partnership, the Allegheny County Steel Industry Heritage Task Force has, during the past ten months, developed a preliminary plan to protect, preserve, acquire, and develop specific historic steel industry sites.

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NEW ORGANIZATION FORMS TO HELP PENNSYLVANIA DOWNTOWNS

The Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) opened recently with a full agenda and a strong commitment to the preservation and revitalization of the commonwealth’s downtowns. In close cooperation with the Pennsylvania Main Street Program and with the full endorsement of Governor Casey, the Center, which is headquartered in York, plans to serve as an information clearinghouse and provide technical assistance to both new and existing local downtown efforts.

Announcing the opening of the Center, Casey said, “The Pennsylvania Downtown Center is a unique reflection of this administration’s commitment to the economic renaissance of Pennsylvania communities through a partnership among business and labor, higher education, state and local government.”

The Center’s board of directors is headed by Caroline Boyce, director of Pittsburgh’s South Side Local Development Company. Other board members include business, preservation, and downtown leaders from across the state, including the Preservation Fund’s executive director, Grace Gary. The Center’s director is Beth Proper Spokas, former Main Street manager in Bloomsburg.

The first annual meeting of the PDC will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference on Historic Preservation in Pittsburgh. Both members and nonmembers are encouraged to attend. A brief business meeting will be followed by presentations on the activities of the Center, to date, as well as plans for the upcoming year.

For more information on the Center and its services, contact:
Pennsylvania Downtown Center
17 West Market Street
York, PA 17401
717-843-5703

Industrial Landscape (continued from page 1) and structures in the greater Pittsburgh area.

A Pittsburgh History Center, to interpret the role of the Pittsburgh region in forging America’s industrial society, is being developed by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Along the Monongahela riverfront at Station Square, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation is creating an “Industrial Artifact Riverwalk” to display major artifacts of the iron and steel industry, river transportation, nonferrous metals, heavy machinery, and electrical manufacturing.

In the eastern part of the state, the recent designation of the Delaware-Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and Philadelphia’s survey of the city’s industrial resources are two important initiatives that will certainly lead to other efforts to preserve and interpret our industrial past.

This year’s annual preservation conference is an opportunity for concerned citizens, public officials, private industry and preservationists to meet and move forward in forging a future for our industrial heritage.

Duquesne Works, Pittsburgh. Photo: Associated Photographers

PENNSYLVANIA DOWNTOWN CENTER
ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 28, 1989
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Allegheny Room
Westin William Penn Hotel
Pittsburgh

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE CLUB
James Biddle
F. Otto Haas
Thomas B. Hagen
Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Joseph McEwen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLean
Antonia and Philip Mitman
Vivian Weyerhaeuser Piasecki

Air Products
ALCOA Foundation
Anonymous
ARCO Chemical
Barra Foundation
Bell of Pennsylvania
Brocker Manufacturing & Supply Company
C-Tec Corporation
CIGNA Corporation
Clainel Foundation, Inc.
Dentsply International
Dover Historic Properties
Erie Insurance Group
Fidelity Bank
General Accident Insurance
Graphic Works, Inc.
Hamot Health Systems
Huston Foundation
John Milner Associates
Lord Corporation
Meridian Bancorp, Inc.
MSK Associates, Inc.
Mutual Assurance Company
Muscle 1957 Charity Trust
Penn Advertising, Inc.
Penn Savings Bank
Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association
Phoebe Haas Charitable Trust
Reading Eagle
Rodale Press
Rohm & Haas
Rouse & Associates
Smith Kline Beckman Foundation
Stockton Ruah Bartol Foundation
Sun Company, Inc.
Susquehanna-Pfalzgraff Foundation
Tighe Industries

For information on becoming a member of The Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact the Preservation Fund.
FUND RECEIVES GRANT TO STUDY BLASTING EFFECTS ON MEASON HOUSE

The Preservation Fund has received grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to fund a study of the effects of surface mine blasting on the Meason House, one of western Pennsylvania's most historic houses.

The Meason House, located in the midst of southwestern Pennsylvania's coal region, is an architecturally significant late high Georgian house. A permit for surface mining near the property was filed, as required, with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER); and DER requested a review of the application by the Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP).

Because neither DER nor the BHP have the staff expertise to assess the effects of this type of blasting on historic properties, the Preservation Fund has contracted with a qualified consultant for the preparation of an independent report. Both DER and the BHP have indicated a willingness to give the report serious consideration.

GRANTS MADE FOR EMERGENCY HELP TO TWO IMPORTANT PHILADELPHIA BUILDINGS

The Preservation Fund, through its Philadelphia Intervention Fund, has approved grants to assist in the preservation of two significant Philadelphia buildings.

The Fairmount Park Commission received $2,000 to stabilize the Centennial Guard House. Constructed in 1870, this small but significant building stood at the Green Street entrance to the Park until 1975 when it was moved to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. In 1986, after repeated vandalism, the Guard House was taken to the Centennial Arboretum to await restoration. Budget limitations postponed restoration work, deterioration continued, and the building was seriously threatened with collapse. The Intervention Fund grant is being used to stabilize the building until funding can be secured for a complete restoration.

St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, on the corner of 24th and Green Streets, across the Parkway from the Philadelphia Art Museum, is part of the Spring Garden National Register Historic District. A recent engineering-architectural survey of the 1894 Romanesque Revival building revealed that interior pillars are in urgent need of repair and represent a potentially serious threat to the safety of parishioners. The Fund grant of $4,500 will allow scaffolding to be erected around the pillars so that close inspection can be made of the damage and repair work determined.

The Philadelphia Intervention Fund was established in 1988 with a grant to the Preservation Fund from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The Intervention Fund provides money to deal with preservation crisis situations in Philadelphia County. For more information and application materials contact the Preservation Fund.
The bill creating the Delaware-Lehigh National Heritage Corridor was passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan in late 1988. Co-sponsored by U.S. representatives Don Ritter and Peter Kostmayer, the legislation creates a 21-member commission and authorizes $350,000 for each of the next five years for the protection and restoration of the 106-mile waterway between Jim Thorpe and Bristol. The designation is expected to bring new businesses and increased tourism to the area.

This historic Millersburg Ferry has won a reprieve. Threatened with closing this winter on the retirement of Captain Jack Dillman, the ferry, which dates to at least 1817 and is the last operating ferry on the Susquehanna River, has been leased to a Lancastrian who plans to continue making the one-mile run between Millersburg on the east shore of the river and Perry County on the west. The twenty-minute crossing on this historic wooden stern wheel vessel is a unique voyage into the past and gives travelers a very special view of the river. For ferry buffs, the Millersburg Ferry is the cover illustration on Ferries of America by Sarah Bird Wright (Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1987), a comprehensive guide to operating ferries in North America. It was also featured in articles in National Geographic in July 1950 and March 1985. The ferry accommodates four cars and sixty passengers on its regularly scheduled runs; it is also available for private parties. For more information contact: 717-444-3200.

Four new Pennsylvania Main Street communities have been designated by the Department of Community Affairs. Altoona, Chambersburg, New Kensington, and West Chester join the more than forty communities that have received assistance in revitalizing their downtowns through this popular program.

The National Park Service reports that historic rehab investment was down again in 1988. Since the restructuring of the investment tax credits in 1986, historic rehab projects have declined steadily, and experts continue to look for signs that the decline is leveling off. For a copy of the NPS report contact: Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service, Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013.

John Claridge, a leader in preservation efforts in Erie and statewide, retired from his position as director of research and publications for the Erie County Historical Society at the end of December. An active preservationist for many years, he served on the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Review Board from 1980-1986 and is currently the president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations.

David L. Parke, Jr. is the new executive director of the Hershey Museum of American Life. Before coming to Pennsylvania, Parke was executive director of the New Haven Colony Historical Society in Connecticut and associate director of the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

A new National Center for the Stewardship and Preservation of Religious Properties has been formed. An outgrowth of efforts spearheaded by the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation, the new nonprofit is lead by A. Robert Jaeger, former senior vice president of PHPC, and Diane Cohen, former associate director of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Center provides information and assistance through publications, workshops and conferences, and direct technical assistance to clergy, laypeople and preservationists across the country. For more information contact the Center at One East Penn Square, 23rd floor, Philadelphia 19107; 215-568-4210.

The PA Department of Community Affairs is looking for qualified architects to provide design assistance to communities continued on page 7
FOUR DISTRICTS AND TWELVE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER

Dating from the late-18th to the mid-20th century, the most recent Pennsylvania additions to the National Register of Historic Places display the range of building types, architectural styles, and historical associations within our Commonwealth that have received recognition through listing in the national’s official record of buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects deemed worthy of preservation by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Campbell Building, Crafton. 1911 Colonial Revival style commercial building.

BERKS COUNTY

Hamburg Public Library. 1903 late-Victorian building endowed by Andrew Carnegie.

BUCKS COUNTY

Amos Palmer House, Langhorne. Early Georgian farmhouse (ca. 1760) with 19th and 20th century additions.

Oscar Hammerstein II Farm, Doylestown. Mid-19th century farm; home of noted musical theater author from 1940-1960.

CHESTER COUNTY

French Creek Farm, Kimberton. Ca. 1800 stone farmhouse and outbuildings.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Henry Smith Farm, Middletown. 19th century brownstone farmhouse and outbuildings.

John Todd House, East Hanover Township. Late 18th century simple Georgian style stone house.

DELWARE COUNTY

Collen Brook Farm, Upper Darby Township. 18th century Quaker farmstead with 19th century carriage house.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Strawbridge and Clothier Store, Jenkintown. 1931 Art Deco style suburban department store.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Northumberland Historic District. Houses and commercial buildings from the late 18th to the early 20th century including the Joseph Priestley House, home of the discoverer of oxygen in the last years of his life.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Haddonfield Historic District. Early 20th century commercial and residential center along the Market Street Elevated Transit Line.

For more information on nominating properties to the National Register or on properties already listed in the Register, contact the Bureau for Historic Preservation at the address below.

NEW STAFF AT BHP

Michel R. Lefevre, formerly with the City of Reading Historic Preservation Office, has joined the staff of the Bureau for Historic Preservation. Lefevre will assist in administering the Certified Local Government (CLG) program grants and provide information and assistance to local governments in developing and administering local historic districts.

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Engineering historian Donald C. Jackson, a participant at the upcoming statewide preservation conference in Pittsburgh, has written a fascinating guide to more than 300 of the most important and best-known bridges and dams in the United States. Great American Bridges and Dams (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1988. 360 pp.), presents an overview of bridge and dam history in this country, followed by a regionally organized guide to these engineering masterpieces. From Pennsylvania's own Fairmount Dam across the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia to California's Golden Gate, the book is an adventure in discovering our engineering past.

Before we built bridges to span our waterways, or when bridges were not practical, ferries were often the only transportation from one point to another along America's rivers and lakes. Although many have disappeared, Sarah Bird Wright chronicles 270 operating ferries in Ferries of America: A Guide to Adventurous Travel (Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1987. 547 pp.). Also arranged geographically by region, this guide offers travel with a distinctly different view and different pace from the interstate. Pennsylvania entries include the Erie-to-Presque-Isle Little Toot, describes as "a jaunty fifty-foot diesel-powered boat...with ornamental smokestacks and ornamental fretwork around the bridge"; the Fredericktown (Washington County) crossing to Fayette County across the Monongahela River; and the Millersburg Ferry (see In the News).

GUIDES TO HISTORIC SITES

Guidebooks to individual states and cities give the traveler an opportunity to explore the special character of a particular place. Now, for those with an interest in visiting sites on a similar theme, the following guides are offered as two examples of the growing number of specialized publications, highlighting historic sites and structures, for the adventurous traveler.

State News (continued from page 5)

Robert Wall has been hired as archaeologist in the Environmental Review and Compliance section of the BHP. Wall, who holds a PhD in anthropology, is responsible for review of state and federal environmental projects, for preparing archaeological research reports, and for coordinating the Bureau's archaeological program with both professional and amateur organizations.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT MANDATES STUDY OF HISTORIC SCRANTON BUILDINGS

In continuing discussions over Scranton's proposed large-scale downtown shopping mall that threatens a number of historic buildings, a memorandum of agreement was signed in December 1988 by the city, the developer (Scranton Mall Associates), the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the state historic preservation officer. The memorandum requires the city to hire an expert to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of incorporating the historic buildings into the mall plan and to consider seriously the report's recommendations. The historic buildings are in a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are also adjacent to Steamtown, a National Park Service site. After completion of the consultation process mandated by the agreement, the city may still choose to proceed with extensive demolition and new construction.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Preservation Services Fund (PSF) grant program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has received a boost in funding from an increased Congressional appropriation for fiscal year 1989. The PSF awards matching grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to fund consultant services ranging from building reuse studies to preservation education programs. Awards range from $500 to $5,000. Annual application deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 1. Applications for Pennsylvania projects should be made to the Trust's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Cliveden, 6401 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia 19144, 215-438-2886.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Field Surveyor. Grant funded position. Responsible for survey of historic resources in Bucks County. Degree in architectural history or related field, photographic experience, knowledge of southeastern Pa. architecture and history. Send resume by June 1 to Director of Historic Preservation, Bucks County Conservancy, 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA 18901.
In the News (continued from page 4)

receiving DCA assistance in downtown revitalization. Architects will be reimbursed for their travel costs at state rates and for their design assistance at $20 per hour. For more information contact: DCA, Municipal Training Division, Attention: Teri Foster, P.O. Box 155, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0155; 717-787-5177.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has launched a heritage tourism demonstration program to promote the link between tourism and historically significant sites and buildings. Specifically, the program plans to increase awareness within the tourism industry of the importance of preservation and historic buildings; to provide training and information to preservationists to help them establish stronger ties with the tourism industry (see Calendar, page 7, for conference listing) and to establish a number of model demonstration projects in specific communities. For more information contact: Heritage Tourism, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia announce the 1989 Charles E. Peterson Prize, established in honor of the founder of HABS. The prize is awarded annually for the best set of measured drawings donated to HABS by students of architecture. Drawings donated before June 30, 1989 will be considered for this year's competition. Acceptable entries will be transmitted to the Library of Congress. First, second, and third place winners receive cash awards. Contact: Charles E. Peterson Prize, HABS, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

Calendar

1989


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

April 1 Architecture and the Landscape: Second Annual Conference on Rural Life, Mercyhurst College, Erie. Contact: Erie County Historical Society, 417 State St., Erie 16501; 814-454-1813.


April 6-7 Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations annual meeting, Carlisle. Contact: Federation, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026; 717-787-3253.

April 8 7th Annual Trans-Susquehanna Conference for Museum Guides. Contact: Historical Society of York

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Calendar (continued from page 7)

April 11 Citizens Preserving Pennsylvania's Past. Oil City Library, 2 Central Ave., Oil City; 10:00 a.m.-noon. See March 30.


April 29 Citizens Preserving Pennsylvania's Past. Ramada Inn, Somerset; 1:30-3:30 p.m. See March 30.

April 29-May 7 Yellow Springs Art Show. Contact: Historic Yellow Springs, Box 627, Chester Springs 19425; 215-827-7414.


May 14-20 National Preservation Week: Celebrating Historic Preservation and Places to Live. Look for schedule of local activities in your area.


June 3 Old House Fair, Carlisle. Contact: Carlisle Economic Development Center, 114 N. Hanover St., Carlisle 17013; 717-245-2648.


August 28-30 Managing Main Street's Resources conference, Philadelphia. Contact: National Main Street Center, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-673-4219 for information on this and other NMSC workshops.

Sept. 4-9 Association for Preservation Technology annual conference, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: APT, P.O. Box 8178, Fredericksburg, VA 22404; 703-373-1621.

Sept. 8-10 Mountain Craft Days, Somerset. Contact: Somerset Historical Center, R.D. 2, Box 238, Somerset 15501; 814-445-6077.


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