HARRISBURG CONFERENCE — "GREAT SUCCESS"

The Fourteenth Pennsylvania Preservation Conference began in the magnificent Chamber of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol and concluded thirty-six hours later at the Harrisburg Train Station overlooking the tracks and waiting for the BROADWAY LIMITED to arrive. In between, nearly two hundred veterans of countless local efforts met to discuss the current state of preservation across the Commonwealth. The tone for the conference was set at the Plenary Session when, following opening remarks by Harrisburg Mayor Steven Reed, a public forum discussed advances made since the watershed year of 1976.

Nancy Webster, preservation planner for Delaware County, saw 1992 as another key year for Pennsylvania preservationists. "This is an exciting and important time for preservation. People want reasonable regulation and they want to plan for their towns." Richard Leonori, board member of Scranton's Architectural Heritage Association, was less optimistic. "Private enterprise has clearly abandoned us; we're losing the war." Leonori and Nancy Bisignani, also of Scranton, spoke eloquently of the demolition of twenty-one buildings covering a 2 1/2 block area in the Lackawanna Avenue Historic District. David Schneider, Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County; Melinda Higgins, Historic York; and Thomas Leonard, Historic Harrisburg, all echoed Leonori's view of developer support of preservation projects and spoke of the 1990s as a decade of change for preservation.

Conference session speakers recognized this call for new strategies and focused on ways to include preservation values and goals in the community planning process. William Sellers of the Brandywine Conservancy stressed the need to link natural, scenic, and historic resource protection in a comprehensive planning package. Mayor Reed said, "a historic rehab has to be part of a bigger picture or it will not happen."

For the first time the conference was cosponsored by the Association for Preservation Technology, Delaware Valley Chapter. APT session speakers addressed technical concerns of interest to preservationists. Michael Henry, a principal of Watson & Henry Associates of Bridgeton, New Jersey, spoke on "Hazardous Materials;" Richard Ortega of Ortega Consulting in Philadelphia discussed the issue of "Microclimates;" David Hollenberg from John Milner Associates in Philadelphia covered "Building Assessments;" and Sam Harris, Kieran, Timberlake and Harris, Philadelphia, addressed issues relating to "Building Materials."

Preservation Pennsylvania and the Bureau for Historic Preservation were also pleased to be joined by a group of local organizations as co-sponsors of the conference. They included the Pennsylvania Society of Architects; Harrisburg Area Community College; the City of Harrisburg; the Junior League of Harrisburg; Central Pennsylvania Conservancy; Historic York, Inc.; Carlisle Preservation Alliance; and Historic Pennsylvania.

continued on page 8
NEW OFFICERS

New officers were elected at the annual board meeting of Preservation Pennsylvania, held in Harrisburg on April 30, 1992. Harley Trice II of Pittsburgh was elected to replace Henry Jordan as president. Mr. Trice is a partner in Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay and specializes in the practice of environmental law. He has served on Preservation PA’s board for five years.

Mary Werner DeNadai, AIA, of Chadd’s Ford was elected as vice president of the board. Ms. DeNadai is a partner in John Milner Associates and also serves as the president of Preservation Action, a national advocacy group, and is an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Lea Hillman Simonds of Pittsburgh was re-elected to

continued on page 8

HUNTINGDON HOSPITAL THREATENED

By Susan Scott Munshower

When renowned New York architect Edward L. Tilton designed the J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital in 1909, on one of the most dramatically elevated sites in Huntingdon, he created the building as an eighteenth-century architect like Filippo Juvarra would have conceived it: axial symmetry combined with a scenographic setting. The building must have been—and still is, even in its sadly altered state—remarkably striking when viewed from the correct vantage point at the lower end of the terraced hillside. The plan of the building, a centralized main block with two flanking wings set at angles like those of a giant bird, has origins at least as far back as the sixteenth century in the architectural treatise of the Italian Sebastiano Serlio. The elevation of the facade was originally emphasized by the greater height of the central block, and the now missing projecting portico created a pleasing focal point for the sweeping wings, accented warmly by the red tile roof. The hillside site was ideal for a design in the Spanish Mission style, one of many eclectic styles popular during the turn of the century.

The hospital was founded by Kate Fisher Blair, widow of Huntingdon industrialist J. C. Blair, in memory of her husband, a gift to a growing community that was intended to serve the public regardless of their ability to pay. Since the completion of the building in 1912, three enlargement and expansion programs have resulted in the construction of wings and new additions to the rear and sides of the original building. At present, the 1912 building is used only for offices—even at some risk—because the heating, plumbing and electrical systems are antiquated and unsafe. There is no steel reinforcement in the structure, a condition that also severely limits any plans for future use and, in spite of efforts on the part of the Board of Trustees to find alternative solutions, the venerable old hospital is now slated for demolition.

Careful restoration of the original building as part of a total plan for reorganization of the entire complex would preserve this uniquely designed hospital as an architectural “figurehead” for the modern additions behind it. A large-scale fund raising campaign to rescue this fine piece of architecture is surely warranted.
STATE PRESERVATION AWARDS

RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

A significant change in the awards program was the creation of several new categories of awards from Preservation Pennsylvania. The new awards categories and their recipients are:

Local Government Initiative Award—Presented to Delaware County Planning Department for developing the first county inventory and management plan in Pennsylvania to aid a county government in evaluating, managing and protecting archeological resources which remain in Delaware County.

Media Coverage Initiative Award—Presented to Thomas Hine, architectural critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer, for his consistent and insightful reporting on the 1991 Pennsylvania Supreme Court Decision which declared the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance to be unconstitutional.

Institutional Stewardship Initiative Award—Presented to PA Department of Transportation for recognizing that Pennsylvania's 216 covered bridges, the largest number of any state, are an irreplaceable asset and for completing a study designed to assist covered bridge owners—from local government to state

continued on page 9


Grace Gary.......................Executive Director

This publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the Department of Interior. Regulations of the Department of Interior prohibit discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, Department of Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127. Additional support is provided by membership dues and contributions. Portions of the newsletter that are not copyrighted or reprinted from other sources may be reprinted provided proper credit is given. ISSN: 0888-7306

Presevation Award recipient Hyman Myers

HAAS AWARD PRESENTED TO HY MYERS

There were several important changes this year in the annual preservation awards program. The most important change was the merger of the “Preservationist of the Year” award and the Haas Award of Preservation Pennsylvania. The new Haas Award is now Pennsylvania’s pre-eminence recognition of outstanding achievement for historic preservation. The first recipient of the newly reconstituted award was Hyman Myers, RA, of Philadelphia. Myers, senior vice president of Vitetta Group, is an internationally-known restoration architect whose many projects include:

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; the National Gallery of Art; Gloucester County, New Jersey Courthouse; the Bellevue Hotel; Pennsylvania State Capitol; and Philadelphia’s Academy of Music.

Although Myers’ work as an architect was recognized in his nomination, he was chosen for the Haas Award for his numerous and significant contributions as a volunteer for many preservation causes and organizations. Of particular note was his tenure as Pennsylvania advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation; his service as a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission Designation Committee; his terms as a member of the state Preservation Board; and his service as a member of the boards of Preservation Pennsylvania, the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation.

Hyman Myers’ contributions to the preservation of the Commonwealth’s heritage have been outstanding and numerous. He is a worthy recipient of the Haas Award.

Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Harley N. Trice III/President • Mary Werner
- DeNadai/Vice President • Lea Hillman
- Simonds/Secretary • Nora Mead Brownell/
- Treasurer • Otto Haas/Advisory Committee
- Louis J. Appell, Jr./Advisory Committee • William
- Alexander • John A. Bonya • John Connors
- Eugene DiOrio • Cynthia Giles • Dr. Burt
- Glass • Richard S. Gtin • Thomas Hagen
- Henry A. Jordan • John Kazmier • Christine B.
- Lang • Richard Lundy, Jr. • Nancy McFall
- DeCourcy E. McIntosh • John Milner • D.
- Thomas Mistick, Jr. • Michael H. Ranck • Lynda
- S. Waggoner • Margaret Wallis

Design/Typesetting: Greiner + Herr + Company, Systems Design Group
Printing: Graphic Works

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE CLUB
F. Otto Haas
Thomas B. Hagen
Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Joseph McEwen
Mrs. Henry S. McNeil
Air Products
Bell of Pennsylvania
Caniel Foundation, Inc.
Dentsply International
Erie Insurance Group
General Accident Insurance
Huston Foundation
Christine B. Lang
Meridian Bancorp, Inc.
Mutual Assurance Company
Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association
Phoebe Haas Charitable Trust
The Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation
Stockton Rush Barthol Foundation
Sun Company, Inc.
Susquehanna-Paltzgraff Foundation
Tighe Industries

For information on becoming a member of The Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact Preservation Pennsylvania.
IN THE NEWS

- The National Park Service has just published The Preservation And Repair Of Historic Log Buildings (Preservation Brief Number 26) which was written by Bruce D. Bomberger of the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It is the first Preservation Brief conceived and written by a staff member of a state historic preservation office.

The Preservation Brief series addresses common architectural preservation problems in a concise, illustrated technical bulletin, written for the layman. Brief 26 contains a capsule history of America’s log-building tradition, including a survey of some of the many types of log buildings that reflect cultural adaptations to the nation’s different regional environments. It also covers the basic construction techniques, including corner notching, chinking and daubing. Finally the major portion of the Brief discusses structural assessment and preservation treatments in broad introductory terms.

Bomberger was prompted to suggest and write the Brief by the great number of inquiries the Bureau for Historic Preservation receives on log buildings. He felt that Pennsylvanians needed general guidelines for beginning the process of rehabilitating a log structure. Brief 26 has answered that need very well.

Brief 26 can be obtained free of cost in limited numbers by contacting the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.

- Conservation Easement legislation is currently being considered by the Pennsylvania House Conservation Committee chaired by Representative Camille George. Currently, conservation easements are created under case law without any statutory guidance. In essence, that means that there are no statewide standards for the creation or enforcement of easements. In the past, there have been instances of local courts disregarding conservation easements. The proposed legislation (H.B. 176, PN 182) would correct that.

- The Lancaster Farmland Trust, a non-profit dedicated to the preservation of Lancaster County’s farmland, received a national award for “Local Model Land Protection” from the American Farmland Trust, whose Agricultural Conservation Awards honor “individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to protect our nation’s agricultural resources.” In bestowing the award, AFT noted “The farmland in Pennsylvania is among the nation’s most valuable. Thanks to the Lancaster Farmland Trust, efforts to protect it are also among the nation’s best.”

- Elliot J. Rothschild, AIA, has accepted the American Institute of Architects’ appointment as Preservation Coordinator for Pennsylvania. A member of the Institute’s Historic Resources Committee since 1984, Mr. Rothschild states that he’s “interested in helping preservation groups use the power of the National Landmark designation to protect Pennsylvania’s most valuable buildings. The AIA’s liaison role with the National Park Service can help with this process.”

Mr. Rothschild is a principal with the Philadelphia architectural firm of Cassway, Albert & Associates. He can be contacted at (215) 928-9200.

- Jane L. S. Davidson of Chester County has been appointed to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by President Bush. An independent federal agency, the council is the primary policy advisor to the president and Congress on historic preservation. The Council’s main function is to review and comment on federal and federally assisted and licensed projects that affect properties listed in the National Register. The Council is made up of nineteen preservationists and public officials.

Davidson is the Chester County Historic Preservation Officer and a former board member of Preservation Action and Preservation Pennsylvania. She has also taught local history and genealogy research at West Chester University.
ENDANGERED PROPERTIES LIST UPDATE

Lackawanna Avenue Historic District, Scranton

At a little after ten o’clock in the morning on April 5, Control Demolition, Inc. of Baltimore simultaneously imploded five buildings in the Lackawanna Avenue Historic District in Scranton. Seven years of effort on the part of Scranton’s preservation community to save the buildings and to defend the integrity of the National Register district ended with the demolition. Ironically, the headline in the next day’s Scranton Tribune read “Buildings Destroyed, Memories Created.”

West Market Street Historic District, Danville

In Danville, the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the Danville-Riverside Bridge replacement project has asked SEDA-Council of Governments to organize and facilitate meetings of an Independent Design Task Force. While the Task Force must deal with several issues, its primary purpose is to “obtain meaningful public involvement related to the design of the bridge alternatives,” according to Thomas Grbenick, of SEDA-COG. One of the proposed alternatives would have a profound impact on the West Market Street National Historic District in Danville. Preservation Pennsylvania has been asked to work with the Task Force.

more properties on page 7
What Are Pennsylvania’s Most Endangered Historic Properties?

Let us know.

Pennsylvania is losing properties to the bulldozer and vandals faster than ever. In recent months important buildings have been razed in Scranton and Pittsburgh. Preservation Pennsylvania is planning to publish regularly a list of Pennsylvania’s Most Endangered Historic Properties in order to bring public attention and pressure for their preservation. This list will be distributed statewide so that the public’s awareness of the loss of our state’s heritage will be enhanced.

We need your help in identifying endangered historic properties for our listing. Please give us as much information as possible on property in your area and return the form to Preservation Pennsylvania.

Property 1

Name of Property: ___________________________ County ___________________________
Address/Location __________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Is there an architectural survey or other written information about the property? __________________________
Is the property on the National Register or in a National Register Historic District? __________________________

Approximate Construction Date __________________________
Owner(s) __________________________
Owner’s Address __________________________ Telephone ( ) __________________________

How is the property endangered? __________________________
May we use your name when contacting owner(s)? __________________________

Property 2

Name of Property: ___________________________ County ___________________________
Address/Location __________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Is there an architectural survey or other written information about the property? __________________________
Is the property on the National Register or in a National Register Historic District? __________________________

Approximate Construction Date __________________________
Owner(s) __________________________
Owner’s Address __________________________ Telephone ( ) __________________________

How is the property endangered? __________________________
May we use your name when contacting owner(s)? __________________________

Your name: __________________________ Telephone ( ) __________________________
Address: __________________________

Please return to Preservation Pennsylvania, 2470 Kissell Hill Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.
The Park Home, Williamsport

Located at 800 W. Fourth Street in Williamsport, the Park Home is a large Italianate-style brick hotel constructed around 1865. The hotel was established by Peter Herdic, a prominent local businessman, and was designed by Eber Culver, Williamsport's best-known 19th century builder-architect. The building was severely damaged by fire in 1940. Only two of its original four stories were saved and re-used as the Park Home, a residential facility for the elderly. Despite this alteration, the Park Home retains the aura of a grand Victorian-era hotel. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a "contributing" building in the National Register-listed Millionaire's Row Historic District.

The company that manages the Park Home has proposed demolishing the building in order to construct a more-modern facility. The Historic and Architecture Review Board in Williamsport recommended that the demolition permit be denied and that further studies be undertaken on the reuse of the property. Negotiations are currently underway between the mayor, city council and local preservationists for the future of the property.

The Stegmaier Brewery, Wilkes Barre

The Stegmaier Brewery, a group of brick industrial buildings constructed between 1890 and 1940, is located four blocks southeast of the public square in Wilkes Barre. It was the largest brewery in the Wyoming Valley and one of the largest in the state. When Stegmaier closed in 1974, it was the third largest brewery in Pennsylvania, ranking behind C. Schmidt and Sons of Philadelphia and the Pittsburgh Brewing Company. The Stegmaier brewery is also impressive from an architectural standpoint with one of its principal features an imposing, six-story, Romanesque Revival brew house constructed in 1894. In recognition of its historical and architectural significance, the Stegmaier Brewery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Purchased by the City of Wilkes Barre as part of a redevelopment project more than a decade ago, the brewery has been vacant and deteriorating ever since. The property is threatened by deterioration and demolition for lack of an appropriate use.
serve a second term as secretary to the board. She is the owner of the Golden Calf, a Pittsburgh antique and art gallery. Nora Mead Brownell, Philadelphia, was also elected to serve a second term as treasurer. Ms. Brownell is vice president of Meridian Bank’s Community Relations Department and also manages the Meridian Community Partnership.

Six directors completed their terms this year. They are Anne Genter of Sewickley; Ed Weintraub of Harrisburg; Hyman Myers of Philadelphia; Charles Uhl of Pittsburgh; Frances Holland of Pittsburgh; and, Miles Katzen of Philadelphia. Meyers, Uhl, Genter, and Weintraub were among the founding directors of Preservation Pennsylvania. Each of the retiring directors has given generously of time and talents to preservation issues and each will be missed.

Six new directors were elected to Preservation Pennsylvania’s board at the April meeting.

William Alexander of Hummelstown is the chairman of H. B. Alexander Enterprises, Inc., a general contracting firm for industrial projects. He is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy and has a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, Alexander serves on the board of Pennsylvania Blue Shield, Dauphin Deposit Corporation, and the Harrisburg Area Community College Foundation.

Cynthia Phelps Giles of Edgeworth is the founder and chairman of Edgeworth Preservation. She traces her interest in preservation to personal experience with the “inadequate foresight and poor planning” that “changed forever the character” of her native Tucson. A Pennsylvanian for six years, Giles has restored an important Alden and Harlow property outside of Pittsburgh, Muottas, and is currently leading efforts to enact a preservation ordinance in Edgeworth.

John Kazmaier of Hollidaysburg serves as the assistant vice president and community development officer of Mid-State Bank in Altoona. He is also chairman of the Altoona Sesquicentennial Heritage Commission, treasurer of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, and serves on the state Transportation Advisory Committee. In 1991, Kazmaier was chosen as the Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International.

John Connors of Philadelphia is the Philadelphia partner in charge of Brickstone Realty. From 1985-1989, Connors oversaw the acquisition of three major Philadelphia historic properties—the former Lit Brothers Department Store, The Wanamaker Building, and City Hall Annex. He has supervised the award winning rehabilitation of both the Lits and Wanamaker buildings. He serves on the board of directors of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Market Street East Improvement Association, and the Foundation for Architecture.

Lynda S. Waggoner of Farmington is the curator and administrator of Fallingwater, the Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece at Bear Run, PA. A native of Uniontown, Waggoner is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. Her other professional activities include serving as a member of the board of directors of the Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy, vice-president of the board of the Greater Pittsburgh Museum Council, and as a member of the America’s Industrial Heritage Commission.

Margaret B. Wallis of Wyndmoor is the former director of annual giving programs for the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Hospital (HUP). She has also served as associate director for the Morris Arboretum and is the former executive director of the Chestnut Hill Historical Society. In addition, Wallis served as executive secretary of the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion from 1977-1981. She currently serves as a member of the Tyler Hall Restoration Committee of Bucks County Community College.

Preservation PA is delighted to have been chosen by the Commission to provide technical support to grant applicants. “We view this as an excellent partnership for us. It will enable Preservation PA to increase its outreach in western Pennsylvania, and enable us to increase our knowledge of the area’s needs,” said Preservation PA president Harley Trice II.

Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Preservation Pennsylvania is especially grateful to Historic Harrisburg, which hosted the opening reception at the John Harris Mansion and provided invaluable local insight throughout the planning process.

Mission Statement
Preservation Pennsylvania, through creative partnerships, targeted educational and advocacy programs, advisory assistance, and special projects, assists Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future.
Recipients (continued from page 3)

agencies—in making decisions about how to repair and preserve these unique features in Pennsylvania’s rural landscape.

Preservation Publication Initiative Award—Presented to Kieran, Timberlake and Harris of Philadelphia for the preparation of the “Eastern State Penitentiary Assessment and Stabilization Plan” prepared for the City of Philadelphia’s ongoing study of Eastern State.

The Bureau for Historic Preservation Construction project awards were also presented at the awards banquet. They were presented to the following projects:

Institutional Building Category

1st Place: Project Architects Leung, Hemmler and Camayd of Scranton for the restoration of the Regina Hall Dome at Marywood College, Dunmore. The project re-established Regina Hall’s structural and architectural integrity, preserving it as the campus focal point.

2nd Place: 12th and Walnut Street Associates, Philadelphia, for the rehabilitation of the Episcopal Church House on Walnut St., Philadelphia.

As part of the project, the significant Gothic revival interior spaces have been restored.

Public Building Category

1st Place: Dominic J. Marziani, Newtown, for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Lower Makefield Township Community House, Yardley. This project resulted in the conversion of the abandoned community house into new real estate offices.

Commercial Building Category

1st Place: Widener Associates Limited Partners, Philadelphia, for the rehabilitation of the Widener Building, Penn Square, Philadelphia. The project resulted in the substantial reconstruction of the original features removed during years of inappropriate alteration.

2nd Place: 123 South Broad Street Corporation for the restoration of the Fidelity Trust Company Building, Philadelphia. This project resulted in the comprehensive cleaning, repair and conservation of the building’s exterior and the restoration of the entrance lobby.

Single Residential Building Category

1st Place: Weinstein, Goss, Katzenstein, Schlieffer and Eisenberg for the restoration and rehabilitation of 1634 Spruce St., Philadelphia. Converting this property to law offices preserved and re-established major interior finishes, stenciling and materials.

Multiple Residential Building Category

1st Place: Vincent Rivera of S.R.K. Architects, and David Hollenberg of John Milner and Associates Architects, both of Philadelphia, for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Manor Complex at Alden Park, Philadelphia. The project has revitalized the three wing, nine story high apartment tower and pool buildings. The work serves as a model for preserving the entire Alden Park development.
The Delaware Valley Chapter of APT announced the creation of two awards honoring Nicholas Gianopoulos and Penelope Baechler.

John Milner Associates were the proud recipients of two awards.

The restoration of the Regina Hall Dome at Marywood College, Dunmore received the first place award in the Institutional Building Category.