SENATOR BRIGHTBILL PROPOSES
SPRAWL-FIGHTING TASK FORCE

In a move anticipated in his remarks on December 7, 1995 to the Challenging Sprawl symposium in Lancaster, State Senator David Brightbill (R-Lebanon County) has introduced a resolution calling for a task force to study the problem of unplanned sprawl and to recommend changes in state policy to combat sprawl and promote community-building.

“Now our society uses its lands is one of the most important issues that the General Assembly must address,” said Brightbill, who also serves on the board of directors of Preservation Pennsylvania. “As chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, I am concerned with the environmental damage caused by sprawl, but there are many other problems associated with random development.”

Brightbill, who spoke at the conclusion of the December 6-7 symposium on sprawl co-sponsored by Preservation Pennsylvania and a number of other national, state, and local organizations, represents an area of Pennsylvania experiencing unprecedented growth. Citing Tom Hylton’s book, Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania, Brightbill views sprawl as needing our immediate attention. “Sprawl harms the environment by causing increased energy consumption and air pollution from automobile use, water pollution from contaminated runoff and failed septic systems, and pressure to build on wetland and other sensitive areas. Even more importantly, suburban sprawl has contributed to the loss of our sense of community, which is a root cause of many of our social ills.”

Senate Resolution 89, which calls for a five member task force to hold a series of hearings on the issue of sprawl, was referred to the Local Government Committee on January 26, 1996.

“I encourage our members to call or write Senator Robert D. Robbins (R-Mercer County) who is chairman of that committee. I hope that everyone will support this resolution and the formation of the task force,” said Caroline Boyle, executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania.

Other members of the Local Government Committee include: Republicans Roger A. Madigan (Bradford Co.), Earl M. Baker (Chester Co.), J. Doyle Corman (Centre Co.), David W. Heckler (Bucks Co.), Robert C. Jubelirer (Blair Co.), Charles Lemmond (Luzerne Co.); and Democrats William J. Stewart (Cambria Co.), Eugene E. Porterfield (Westmoreland Co.), Jack Wagner (Allegheny Co.), Hardy Williams (Philadelphia Co.).

For more on the December 6-7, 1995 Sprawl Symposium, see page 3

MEMBERSHIP RESPONDS TO STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In 1995, Preservation Pennsylvania began its assessment of preservation throughout the state to determine how we, as an organization, can improve the status of historic preservation through our programs and services.

At the core of this assessment was a survey of Preservation Pennsylvania members. With a questionnaire created with the assistance of Third Sector Partners of Pittsburgh, a consulting firm that works with nonprofit organizations on needs assessment activities, we sought opinions on our organization’s strengths and weaknesses, where efforts should be concentrated, what are the most important preservation issues, and reasons our members give for supporting Preservation Pennsylvania.

Questionnaires were mailed to all 750 Preservation Pennsylvania members in late September. Tabulation of the 234 responses (31.2%) received by late December was completed by Karen Denlinger, an historic preservation consultant located in the Lancaster area.

Results indicate that, overwhelmingly (57.9%), people join Preservation Pennsylva- Continued on page 3
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
PROPERTY RIGHTS, TAKINGS AND HISTORIC DESIGNATION

Property rights continue to hold center stage in the legislative arena as preservationists assess the potential impact of initiatives at federal, state, and now even the local level.

In Washington, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted in favor of the Omnibus Property Rights Act of 1995 (S605). This legislation would virtually discard decades of case law that has attempted to balance the rights of the individual property owner with the rights of the community.

According to a report issued in January 1996 by the Department of Public Policy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Omnibus Property Rights Act of 1995 claims to accomplish four major objectives:

- Required compensation by the federal government to property owners if government action reduces the value of property by one-third;
- Provision for alternative dispute resolution procedures and a change in court jurisdiction for takings claims;
- Federal agencies responsible for Endangered Species Act and section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required to provide for alternative procedures to address takings claims;
- All federal agencies will be required to do a takings impact analysis of regulations and ensure that they select the regulatory alternative that minimizes the taking of private property.

At a time when the mood of the country clearly favors less federal intrusion at the state and local levels, S605 proposes a major new federal program with significant administrative and financial implications. Not only would this legislation insert the federal government into local land use issues, but it would require public payments for "takings" in a vast new entitlement program that would draw its funding from appropriations that would otherwise be used for programs.

For historic preservation programs, S605 poses the threat of takings lawsuits against federal and state agencies when historic preservation requirements restrict or inhibit the use of a property.

While Pennsylvania state initiatives in Harrisburg are still on hold, Pittsburgh City Councilman Alan Hertzberg stunned the preservation community by announcing on February 12 the introduction of legislation in Pittsburgh City Council that would alter significantly the city’s historic designation process. The ordinance, as proposed, would give property owners the right to make a claim for loss in value under the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Code, if they object to historic designation.

Preservation Pittsburgh is leading an effort to petition city council to hold a public hearing on the ordinance after council has received a report and recommendations from the Board of Code Review. This would allow time for review of the effects such an ordinance would have on the city’s historic resources and historic preservation programs.

Brenda Barrett, director of the Bureau for Historic Preservation, has reviewed the ordinance and questions its legality. "I have real questions about rewriting Pennsylvania case law and the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Code by passing a city ordinance," Barrett said.

While the debate over property rights and takings continues at the federal, state and local levels, the Heritage Partnerships Conference in Pittsburgh in April plans a plenary session on this issue for Tuesday morning, April 30 from 8:30-10:00. Keynote speaker will be Jerold Kayden, Harvard University, with commentary by Davitt Woodwell, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; and Henry Ingram, Esq., Buchanan Ingersoll. Joel Aaronsen, Esq., with the firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw & McClay in Pittsburgh, will moderate the session. For conference registration information contact Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-234-2310.

Additional information on the property rights/takings issue is available from the American...
SPRAWL SYMPOSIUM 
FOCUSES ON ACTION, FORMS COALITION

Representing virtually every region of the state, more than a hundred attendees met in Lancaster on December 6-7, 1995 to address the issue of sprawl and how, together, we can revitalize our communities, preserve our rich heritage and plan for future growth. The symposium was conceived and coordinated by Preservation Pennsylvania as an opportunity for organizations, agencies and individuals concerned with the effects of sprawl on the environment to meet and begin formulating an agenda for change.

Participants represented county and regional planning commissions, local municipalities, citizen groups, developers, heritage organizations, state legislators and government agencies. For those involved, the opportunity for dialogue proved to be paramount to the success of the meeting.

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offered the opening keynote address on December 6, with an admonition to the Commonwealth to improve initiatives to combat sprawl. “Pennsylvania, unfortunately, lags behind (other states), with the result that sprawl in this state is reaching crisis proportions,” said Moe.

Advocating the development and implementation of comprehensive statewide land-use planning similar to efforts already underway in states like Oregon, Vermont and Georgia, Moe urged participants to form an effective network of Pennsylvanians who will insist on - and assist in - the development of an integrated statewide framework for decisions and regulations that knit communities together instead of tearing them apart.”

Comparing today’s battle against sprawl to historic preservation’s classic rise to prominence through opposition to urban renewal in the 1960s, Moe believes this is clearly a fight with a role for historic preservationists.

Small-group roundtable discussions on the relationship and impact of sprawl to heritage issues, public infrastructure, regional planning and zoning, rural resources, and urban issues were followed by full-group discussions to identify key issues and strategies. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants agreed to form a coalition to begin working on the agenda developed during the day and a half in Lancaster. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, which has recently formed 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, has agreed to coordinate taking discussions to the next level. For more information on becoming involved in the process contact the Council at the following locations: in Philadelphia, Andy Johnson or Kathy Klein at 215-563-0250; in Pittsburgh, Davitt Woodwell at 412-471-1770; in Harrisburg, Anna Breitich at 717-230-8044; in Wilkes-Barre, Russ Griner-Johnson at 717-831-4997.

Preservation Pennsylvania will continue to be involved in these discussions and in historic preservation-related efforts against sprawl. Copies of proceedings of the “Challenging Sprawl!” symposium are available for $5 from Preservation Pennsylvania, 257 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

“Challenging Sprawl!”, initiated and convened by Preservation Pennsylvania, was co-sponsored by the Bureau for Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Center for Rural Pennsylvania; Countryside Institute; Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County; Lancaster County Citizens for Responsible Growth; Lancaster Farmland Trust; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Natural Lands Trust; Pennsylvania Downtown Center; and Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Additional funding was provided by The Channel Foundation.
PLACES

The King of Prussia Inn, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and on Preservation Pennsylvania's Pennsylvania at Risk 1993, is being made available at no cost by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Located on U.S. 202 in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, the stone building is an excellent example of an eighteenth century public house.

The inn was built at this important early crossroads in 1719 and enlarged to its present form in 1769. It operated as an inn or tavern for over 200 years.

Isolation of the inn on the median strip of U.S. 202 poses a threat to its preservation and there is agreement that it should be moved. Anyone interested in taking the building must have a suitable site available for the relocation of the structure. The structure must be moved and preserved in accordance with existing historic preservation covenants.

To receive an offering package contact: Mr. Randy Wanger, Project Manager, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Engineering District 6-0, 200 Radnor Chester Road, St. Davids, PA 19087; phone: 610-964-6548.

Gettysburg National Military Park is one of three locations chosen to unveil a new interactive, multimedia computer program that will take the Civil War into the world of 21st century technology.

The Civil War Discovery System is being developed by the Civil War Trust, the National Park Service and the History Channel to provide an exciting, informative approach to learning about the Civil War and to give increased access to a wealth of information on the people and events of the period. The system is scheduled to be unveiled in March at Gettysburg, Antietam, and Prairie Grove.

The Civil War Trust invites the public to submit information on grassroots, state, and federal battlefield preservation initiatives for inclusion in the system's "Preserving Battlefields" section.

For more information on the Civil War Discovery System, contact Julie Fix at the Civil War Trust, 1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20005; 202-326-8414; civilwar@ari.net.

Pittsburgh is having an inspiring impact on historic preservation and community revitalization in Massachusetts. As reported in the most recent issue of Preservation and People, the newsletter of Historic Massachusetts, Inc., this statewide organization has spent the past two years learning from the experience of Stanley Lowe and Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation in combining historic preservation and community revitalization.

After bringing Stanley Lowe to Massachusetts in early 1994, Historic Massachusetts board members and State Senator Robert Durand visited Pittsburgh to see first hand the results of neighborhood revitalization efforts. This visit led to an August 1994 convening of 250 Massachusetts mayors, selectmen, planners, bankers, community activists, state officials and legislators in Worcester to meet with Stanley and Mayor Tom Murphy and to discuss opportunities for cooperation.

The result was the creation of pilot projects in a number of Massachusetts communities. Training for the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coordinators was done by Stanley Lowe using Pittsburgh's neighborhoods as the training laboratory. The coordinators and the Historic Massachusetts board members who participated in this unique process have great praise for their Pennsylvania mentor and their experiences here.

"Stanley is a community builder, a politician, a historic preservationist, a community organizer, a preacher, a teacher, and a single minded visionary. His public purpose and private mantra is to empower the revitalization of neighborhoods through home ownership," said Elaine Finbury of the Massachusetts Land Bank.

Community Preservation Coordinator Julie Cohen describes her experience as a turning point, "Everything now seems to be divided into two eras: before Pittsburgh and after Pittsburgh. For two weeks we lived in a dream world twenty years in the making, with established, successful CDC's and banks eager to help their communities. We met fervent preservationists and community activists, as committed to saving their neighborhoods as evangelicals are to saving souls..."

What seems to have emerged from their experience in Pittsburgh is a new energy for and vision of what is possible when a group of people makes a commitment to their community. Stanley Lowe and the City of Pittsburgh can be very proud of their influence on our New England neighbors.
In the latest installment in a saga that has been ongoing since the late 1980s, the City of Philadelphia and its Historical Commission have been sued by Sameric Corp. of Delaware over the historic designation of the Boyd Theater. A federal civil rights suit filed in November 1995 seeks unspecified damages in excess of $100,000 based on Sameric claims of financial losses incurred because of the designation battle. The art deco theater, built in 1928, is in the 1900 block of Chestnut Street in center city. It continues to operate as a multiscreen cinema, although a proposal is in the works for new owners to convert the building to stores.

PROGRAMS

ARCHITUR, Inc. is a nonprofit organization serving the nine counties of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission region.

Originally formed in Altoona in 1991 as a volunteer nonprofit group to educate the community about preservation, ARCHITUR has recently reorganized with a grant from the Commission to hire staff and expand programs into the entire region.

“We are concentrating on working with blighted and distressed historic districts in the region,” said Debbie Lamborn, ARCHITUR’s director. The organization is currently involved in a major neighborhood revitalization effort in Huntington County. Much of the work of renovating homes is accomplished with volunteers to keep costs low.

ARCHITUR is looking for projects that can benefit from the organization’s commitment to renovating properties in distressed neighborhoods and to promoting individual home ownership. For more information contact: Debbie Lamborn, ARCHITUR, Inc., PO Box 1214, Altoona, PA 16603-1214; 814-943-2724; FAX 814-941-0228.

Allegheny Ridge Corporation, the organization that manages the Allegheny Ridge State Heritage Park, has moved its headquarters office to the Germania Brewery, home of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. New address is: PO Box 1889, Johnstown PA 15907-1889; phone: 814-539-1889. A second office has opened in the Gables Building in downtown Altoona.

In other news from the State Heritage Parks Program, Steel Industry Heritage Corporation has released Rivers of Steel, a full-color 29-page publication on the Rivers of Steel program to preserve and celebrate the story of Big Steel and its related industries. For information on obtaining a copy contact: Steel Industry Heritage Corp., 412-464-4020.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Park Corridor has released their Management Action Plan. Prepared by a team of consultants led by Mary Means & Associates, the 116-page plan reviews the resources of the corridor and proposes recommendations for interpretation, preservation, education, and developing tourism in the region. The Lincoln Highway has also announced the hiring of a new director, Olga Herbert. For more information on the corridor or to obtain a copy of the management plan contact: Lincoln Highway Corridor, PO Box 386, Greensburg, PA 15601; phone 412-853-9424.

PEOPLE

Michael A. Bertheaud has been named executive director of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society in Wilkes-Barre. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Mr. Bertheaud comes to Wilkes-Barre from the Clarion County Historical Society, Clarion, Pennsylvania, where he was director/curator.

Timothy Buchanan, a Harrisburg businessman and native of Erie, has been named chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission by Governor Tom Ridge. Buchanan has a long-standing interest in the history of the Commonwealth, and he has been actively involved in organizations including the Flagship Niagara League and the Strong Vincent Society. Other new commissioners appointed to the PHMC by Governor Ridge include James Adovasio, William Cornell, Janet S. Klein, Nancy D. Kolb, and Jonathan W. Lawrence.
STATE PROGRAM NEWS
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

PHMC PREPARES FOR 1996 GRANT PROCESS

Butler Regional Family Treatment Program has been awarded a 1995-96 Keystone Grant of $100,000 to rehabilitate the Armory, Butler County. This 1922 armory and its 1930 front addition will be reused as a community center to provide recreational, educational, and support services for area families.

The application process for 1996 Keystone Historic Preservation Grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies will open soon. This year's deadline for applications is expected to be May 29. Minor changes are being made in the program, notably the elimination of preconstruction grants as part of the Keystone program. Grants will continue to be made for construction projects that involve preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of historic structures.

PHMC has also revised the History and Museum Grant Program which will have an anticipated application deadline in June 1996.

For application materials and additional information on these and other PHMC grant programs contact:
Deborah Filipi, PHMC
PO Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
Phone: 717-783-9923.

Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, received a 1994-95 Keystone Grant of $35,000 to clean, repoint and repair the elaborate stone masonry exterior of this 1890s late Gothic Revival building.

For more information on listing historic properties in the National Register of Historic Places and on other state historic preservation programs contact:
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
PO Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
Phone: 717-783-8946

FLAGSHIP NIAGARA LICENSE PLATE SUPPORTS HISTORIC VESSEL

Pennsylvania now offers a license plate depicting the historic Flagship Niagara in the 1813 victory led by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie. The plate is based on a 19th century painting by artist Julian Davidson. The cost of the plate is $35. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the plate goes to the education and sailing programs of the Niagara, which is operated out of its home port in Erie by the PHMC.

For an application form contact the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at 717-772-3651; forms are also available at PHMC historic sites, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board stores and various other state facilities.

License plate depicting the Flagship Niagara in its 1813 battle on Lake Erie. The plate is available from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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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.

PRESERVATION PENNSYLVANIA COMPLETES 8TH YEAR OF PHILADELPHIA CRISIS FUNDING

Now at the end of its eighth year, the Philadelphia Intervention Fund, supported by a grant to Preservation Pennsylvania from The Pew Charitable Trusts, has assisted more than sixty historic sites in Philadelphia County. Designed for quick response to emergency situations, the Intervention Fund makes grants of up to $20,000 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

During 1995, Preservation Pennsylvania made seven grants totalling more than $72,000. These included funding for:

- Stabilization and temporary security (two separate grants) at the Sedgeley Porter House, designed by Benjamin Latrobe ca. 1799 and located in Fairmount Park
- Assistance to the Ad-Hoc Alliance of Philadelphia for strategic planning to resolve critical issues within the local historic preservation nonprofit community
- Stabilization of the rare Adamesque plaster ceilings in Solitude, a 1794 structure on the grounds of the Philadelphia Zoo
- Pruning and cabling of drought-damaged, hazardous trees at Historic Bartram’s Garden
- Stabilization of Rockland Mansion, built ca. 1809 and part of the Fairmount Park National Register Historic District
- Roof and skylight repairs to the Woodmere Art Museum, a late 19th century Italian Villa-style building included in the Chestnut Hill National Register Historic District. The museum suffered severe damage caused by the buildup of snow in recent storms.

Applications for 1996 grants through this program are accepted at any time. For more information and application materials contact Preservation Pennsylvania, 717-234-2310.

Rockland Mansion was built ca. 1809 and remains one of the most architecturally significant structures in Fairmount Park. The Federal-style mansion contains an extraordinary amount of historic fabric and commands one of the most spectacular sites overlooking the Schuylkill River. Rockland Mansion received a grant of $17,000 from the Philadelphia Intervention Fund for emergency stabilization to secure the front and rear porches, column conservation, exterior wood stabilization, and window infill.

KEYSTONE SOCIETY CREATED TO HONOR MAJOR DONORS

To recognize outstanding contributions to Preservation Pennsylvania, a new membership level, the Keystone Society, has been established by the Board of Directors. The Keystone Society credits many organizations, foundations, corporations, and individuals who have contributed $2,500 or more in time, services, material, or financial program support.

Preservation Pennsylvania would also like to thank our new members in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission Grant and Loan Program region who have renewed their introductory, complimentary memberships. Your support is very much appreciated. Thanks to: Mary Ellen and Randall Green • Janice Jacobs • Diane and Terry Kriss • Annette and Joseph Lehman • David Morrow • Karen Rugh • Amy and Gregory Smith • Dorothy and Fred Smith • John Smylynczyk • Linda Sommer • Karen and Joseph Yoder • Borough of Saltsburg • Borough of Vandergrift • Eldo Enterprises • Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County • Penn-Craft Community Association • Unionsfown Downtown Business Authority.
CALENDER


March 23  Third Annual Three Rivers Chapter Winter Symposium, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV. Presentations on the history of the Three Rivers Region including themes of transportation, iron and steel, navigation and maritime history, coal and coke, glass, and social history. Contact: Lee Maddox, Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology, West Virginia University, 1535 Mileground, Morgantown, WV 26505; 304-293-3829.


March 28-29  Brownfields and Greenfields: Opportunities and Challenges for Metropolitan Development, Cleveland, OH. Sponsored by Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge MA, 617-661-3016.


April 20  Genealogy Workshop, Chester County Historical Society. Registration fee: CCHS members $30; nonmembers $40. Contact: 610-692-4800.


June 12-14  Pennsylvania Downtown Center Annual Conference, State College. Contact: 717-784-0456.

April 28 - 30, 1996 Pittsburgh PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE Contact: Pennsylvania Preservation 717-234-2310

April 30  Deadline for Submission for Pennsylvania Downtown Center Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Downtown Programs. For information on categories and nomination form contact: 717-784-0456.

May 4  Plant and Seed Exchange and Sale cosponsored by the Centre County Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society. Centre Furnace Mansion, State College. Contact: 814-234-4779.

May 12-18  Historic Preservation Week. Nationwide celebration of historic preservation. Contact your local preservation organization for schedule of events.

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