



PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

for greater philadelphia

PRESERVATION

MATTERS

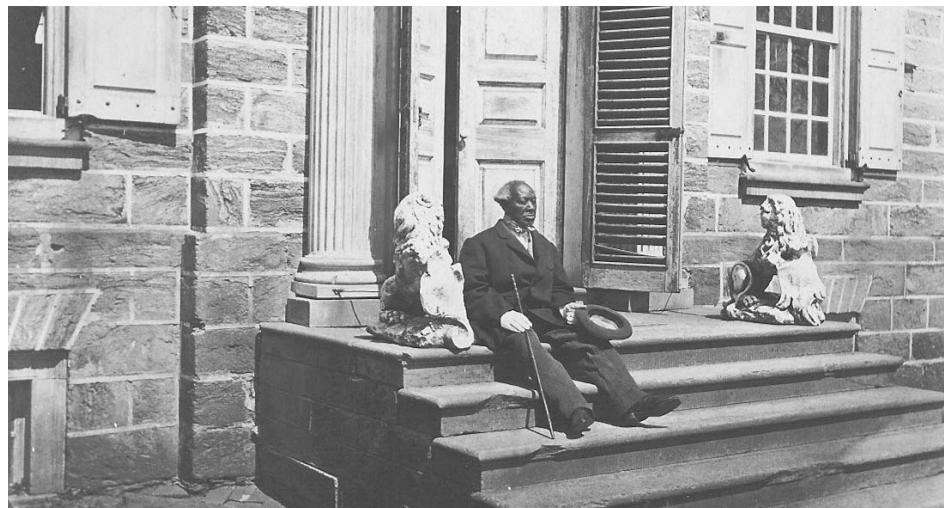
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA

WINTER 2012

Museums and Sites Can Inspire with Their Inclusive Stories

In recognition of African American History Month, the Preservation Alliance's Neighborhood Preservation Program Coordinator Melissa Jest reflects on the emergence of more comprehensive interpretation of traditional historic attractions.

As people search for meaning and purpose in the challenging times of the 21st century, museums and historic sites stand to provide insight and inspiration to the communities they serve. By recognizing the experience and contributions of African Americans and the role of American slavery in history, museums and sites can do more than just add "color" to their interpretation. They can become vital and relevant places that positively shape a visitor's perspective on the world and, most importantly, on his/her place within it. Many stories of human resilience in the pursuit of the American dream can be found in Philadelphia at such sites as Stenton, Cliveden and the President's House.



This 19th century photo shows James Smith seated on the front steps of the Cliveden mansion in Germantown, home to the Chew family. Smith who was born enslaved in 1790, worked to buy his freedom from a Maryland plantation in 1817, and came to work at as a trusted servant of the Chew family until his death in 1870.

"[Slavery] does have a presence in every guest's visit," said Laura Keim, curator at Stenton, the 18th century mansion built by James Logan, secretary to Pennsylvania founder William Penn. The Stenton mansion and its three-acre site preserve significant buildings, landscape and objects that provide a look at the 18th century life of a prominent Philadelphia family.

Ms. Keim said her 2010 research provided more insight into the Quaker mercantile elite and the role of slavery in the first half of the 18th century. Even though slavery was not the focus of Keim's research, the information—or sometimes the lack thereof—on those ancestors taught her more about the site and its history.

"I encountered one [enslaved] man named Coffee," she recalled. "It was harder to find much more. He was just a name in a ledger which is very telling in and of itself."

Stenton, located at 4601 N. 18th Street in Germantown, is administered by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who work to "preserve and maintain Stenton as an historic object lesson." Stenton today is furnished with Logan family pieces from the last one hundred

years and many fine examples of other material objects of the period.

While the NSCDA/PA maintains its commitment to the decorative arts, Ms. Keim said that they accept their responsibility to convey life as it was lived to the fullest extent possible. Ms. Keim said Stenton's main house tour will soon include the interpretation of a servant's room. Although the archival data does not state that these servants were enslaved Africans, it does help Stenton broaden its story.

"We're making this knowledge available as part of sharing truthful history," Ms. Keim said.

Some museum experts predict that more Americans will turn to historic museums and sites over the next decade as a source of learning and fulfillment. This prediction calls museums to move beyond nostalgia. As a nation, America is rich with museums, historic sites, and national parks that cover nearly every era of our collective history.

"Add the people who contributed to a place, and that grows interest exponentially," said Jeffrey A. "Free" Harris, independent consultant and former Director for Diversity at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Harris said the history of African Americans'

journey from enslavement to modern equality offers a plethora of opportunities for museums and sites to make their histories more meaningful to a diverse public. One example is historic Middlebury College of Vermont which proudly promotes that it is the first American college to grant a bachelor's degree to a free black man, Alexander Twilight, in 1823, and Twilight's home is interpreted as part of the Old Stone House Museum in Brownington, Vermont. Yosemite National Park in California includes in its history that Buffalo Soldiers were among the first park rangers from 1899 to 1904. The park's interpretation tells how "Buffalo Soldiers had to be simultaneously strong and diplomatic to fulfill the duties of their job but to avoid giving offense" to the white visitors they were sworn to protect.

Harris documented these among 7,000 historic sites significant to African American history as part of the National Trust's African American Historic Places Initiative. This working inventory of sites seeks to capture the diversity of buildings, cemeteries, monuments, roadways, and even vehicles that stand as evidence to the African American experience. "It represents the community, and you have to honor that," he said.

As the staff and directors of museums and sites balance the excitement and optimism that expanded interpretation can produce with the reality of the work and funding needed to bring it to fruition, Harris is confident that such an investment will pay off.

"I think that one of the strongest arguments to be made for historic sites embracing issues related to diversity is that diversity helps both with the potential increase in visitors to a site, and it has the potential of widening a site's funding prospects, from individual donors to foundations," he explained.

Renowned curator and historian Lonnie G. Bunch, III of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, once wrote, "You can tell a great deal about a country or a people...by what graces the walls of their museums."

For decades, the mainstream museum/historic site community did not display evidence of American slavery and its far-reaching influence on American life. There seemed to be a collective desire to forget a shameful history full of pain, abuse and, some say, evil-doing. Sites that specialized in African American history persevered on the fringes in order to keep the stories alive.

Today, this aspect of American history gains more and more exposure through creative collaborations and imaginative interpretation efforts. Whether spurred by new research or renewed consciousness, many institutions—large and small—are no longer shrinking away.

According to Katherine Malone-France, Director of Outreach, Education and Support/Historic Sites Department at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Every new year brings the promise of new opportunities as well as the reality of new challenges.

While I always look forward to the opportunities, it is the challenges that weigh most heavily on me in the first few months of the year. And the challenge that is foremost in my mind is raising funds to support the Alliance's programs and operating expenses.

Discussion of money is always itself a challenging topic, but let me share some information with you. The Alliance needs a core operating budget of about \$750,000 to support staff, operating expenses and some programs. Our total annual budget is usually around \$1 million, depending on grants we may receive for special projects and programs. However, most grants support programmatic activities, with only a small percentage for general operating expenses. Since the Alliance does not have an endowment, each January we face the task of raising \$700,000 to \$1 million to continue our work. Our fundraising challenge is no different from that of most other non-profit organizations, the only difference is it *ours*.

A key source of support for the Alliance is membership dues and contributions. We distribute this newsletter to 1,800 people (and others read it online) because we want people to be informed about what we are doing and what is going on in historic preservation in the region. But only about one third of the people receiving the newsletter are members of the Preservation Alliance. To those of you who are members, I thank you for that support.

If you are one of the 1,200 people receiving this newsletter who are not a member, I hope you will enjoy it. But I also hope you will help us start the new year off in a positive way by becoming a member of the Preservation Alliance. You can use the form on the back page or join online at www.PreservationAlliance.com/membership. Thanks for your consideration and for your continued interest and support for historic preservation.

JOHN ANDREW GALLERY
Executive Director

National Trust will begin a reassessment of its historic sites to determine which should include more diverse stories, including those of African Americans.

Cliveden, an historic site of the National Trust located in Philadelphia, has begun a re-interpretive process to use newly revealed history of the Philadelphia Chew family's involvement with slavery—ranging in different ways

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

from the 17th century through the 1950s. According to a Cliveden Project report, one of the goals is the “transformation of our 1767 National Historic Landmark from a sleepy historic home into a cultural center that asks essential questions about access to justice and freedom, for whom and at what cost.”

Cliveden’s process has included archival and field research, site assessment, and design, as well as facilitated gatherings of community members to promote racial dialogue, to build awareness of racial history and its impact on our lives, and—perhaps—support healing.

“We understand that this project is not just about the Chew family, or even their enslaved people; it’s about all of us, recognizing our history and deciding together how to best move forward,” concludes the Cliveden Project program statement.

American Slavery: Bringing Wider Perspectives to Museum Interpretation

February 25, 2012

8am – 3pm

Federal Reserve Bank of the United States, 6th and Arch Streets

Presented by Independence National Historical Park, the African American Museum in Philadelphia and Friends of Independence National Historical Park

A symposium that considers the experiences of museums that have incorporated stories of American slavery into their main themes and public programs and audience response to a more complete and honest retelling of our history.

The all-day event includes two panel discussions by noted authors, historians, and museum professionals and a keynote luncheon address by Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Info/registration:

www.friendsofindependence.org

Historic African American Swim Club Looking to Expand



Members enjoy the Nile Swim Club.

While summer may seem like a distant dream to many of us, those at the historic Nile Swim Club have already started preparing for the 2012 swim season.

“We are constantly planning,” said Kathy Jordan, president of the Nile Swim Club in Yeadon. “Our major goal is to get people to join us and to help us build.”

The Nile is the only private outdoor swim facility with an open membership policy founded by African Americans in the United States, according to club directors. Now, after 53 years, the club aims to expand its programming to attract more members from Yeadon and nearby Philadelphia.

Since its opening in 1959, the Nile Swim Club has provided safe, family-friendly recreation for its 100-plus members and guests. But the Nile also represents the pride and self-determination of a people who succeeded in the face of racism and overt discrimination.

“Original members helped dig the hole for the pool,” boasts Lisa Ivery, Nile board member. She said several families organized to build

their own nonprofit swim club when two black families were denied membership in the now-defunct Yeadon Swim Club because of their race.

“The founding members had the determination to start their own [swim club] and keep it for the community,” said Ms. Jordan. “That’s why we want to get the history out there.”

In their effort to give their children the joy of swimming, the founders of the Nile also created a social venue that brought stars like Harry Belafonte, the Supremes and then-budding rap star Will Smith to the club.

This winter, Nile members kicked off a “Preserve our Heritage” campaign with a public rally at Yeadon Borough Hall. The multi-faceted campaign aims to raise the profile, the membership and the funds needed to implement the facility’s current improvement plan.

The Nile sits on 4.5 acres of land in the heart of Yeadon Borough and, along with its main swimming pool, includes a kiddie pool, a basketball court, a tennis court, and a pavilion with a snack bar. Initial work will improve the

snack bar, refurbish the basketball and tennis courts and develop a children’s play area.

“If people are looking for an opportunity or a cause and want to give back, the Nile may be the perfect fit for them,” Ms. Ivery said. Board president Jordan added, “With growth, there comes more responsibility, more work and that means for jobs for people to do.”

Along with seeking memberships and donations, the Nile welcomes volunteers willing to donate their expertise in swimming, administration, grant-writing and construction.

Second-generation Nile member Ivery touts the club as a community asset that deserves a second look. “People think theme parks like Disney are the only family-friendly choices for the summer. You don’t always want to travel to get a family environment,” she said. “We provide a fun, safe place for families right here.”

Ms. Ivery said paid members get full use of the swim club facility and a discounted rate on club rental. The Nile is the host-site to several family reunions, and local day-camps and child care facilities contract with the Nile to offer swimming as part of their activities.

Many are reminded of the need to preserve the Nile Swim Club by recent incidents like the 2009 case where minority children were turned away at the Valley Swim club in Montgomery County even after paying their fee to use the pool.

“Our goal is to provide a year-round facility to benefit the community,” Ms. Ivery. “In the beginning, the founding members had an idea to have ice skating in winter. Even then they were thinking of ways to make the Nile available year round.”

The historic Nile Swim Club is a non-profit corporation owned by its members and run by its volunteer board of directors. For more information, please call 484.461.4626 or go to www.facebook.com/pages/Nile-Swim-Club/111295220779.

The Alliance Rallies Partners to Assist Historic Church

The sound of hammers and the sight of hard hats are warmly welcomed at the beleaguered 19th Street Baptist Church in the Point Breeze neighborhood of South Philadelphia. Passers-by try to sneak a peek inside the building that some had watched crumble before their eyes. “Ooo, look, Ma,” one boy exclaims as he catches a glimpse of the beautiful stained glass over the choir stand.

The Preservation Alliance continues to rally local businesses, construction and preservation professionals, and concerned citizens to come to the aid of this local landmark. Federal Rent-A-Fence responded with temporary fencing to address Department of Licenses and Inspection’s public safety concerns, and the South Philadelphia Lowe’s donated roll roofing material. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has also answered the call with a \$1,500 emergency grant to fund immediate roof repair. The emergency roof repair is the first step in an effort to save the 1875 church sanctuary from demolition as ordered by L & I last fall.

The unseasonably mild winter weather has been a blessing to volunteers and church leaders as they scramble to cover the decaying side roofs at 19th Street Baptist Church. Volunteer crew leader Deacon Lloyd Butler reports that good progress was made during two recent volunteer work days. Penn’s Graduate Program in Historic Preservation has provided hands-on technical assistance to Deacon Butler and Rev.

Vincent Smith who have taken on this herculean task.

“[Penn] is covering the preservation side, and I’m on the spiritual side,” Butler said during a recent work break. “I am looking forward to the day we can march back into a beautiful church again. We’ll have a shouting good time that day.”

The Preservation Alliance enlisted Building Conservation Associates and engineering firm Keast & Hood to assess the sanctuary building. The two produced a short-term stabilization plan which includes the temporary patch repair currently underway. The plan also calls for inspection and patch repair of the main sanctuary and tower roofs, removal of vegetation from upper walls, removal of loose stucco, and removal and storage of the exterior serpentine stone. Later stabilization work will entail parging the structural rubble walls and repointing the open joints in the exterior stone.

The church, at 19th and Titan Streets, is “the most colorful building ever designed by Furness & Hewitt, and their only surviving work built out of serpentine,” according to Frank Furness scholar Michael Lewis. The church was built in 1875 as the Memorial Church of the Holy Comforter, an offshoot of St. Peter’s Episcopal in Society Hill. Philadelphia heiress Margaretta Lewis commissioned Furness to design both the church sanctuary and the Sunday school as a memorial to her parents.

Professor Lewis describes the church as



Emergency roof repairs being made by volunteers.

“bear[ing] all the traits of [Furness & Hewitt’s] High Victorian Gothic work and richly contrasting materials in the green stone from Delaware County and the creamy yellow sandstone from Ohio.” The vivid green color of the exterior serpentine stone appealed to the tastes of late 19th century, but designers and builders later learned that serpentine, with its soft, talc-like properties, was unfit for use as an exterior building material.

Church leaders struggle with an answer to the question, “How did it get this bad?” and point to several years of various attempts to maintain and preserve their historic property.

However, Rev. Smith confirms the congregation’s commitment to repair and reoccupy their sanctuary. “I know it’s going to take some time and a lot of money, but we’re in it for the long haul,” he said.

The congregation has begun reaching out to sister churches within their denomination in an effort to raise funds. Rev. Smith says the church welcomes donations for the preservation of 19th Street Baptist Church, which may be sent to W. Wilson Goode Sr., P/PV, 2000 Market Street Suite 550, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (check or money order payable to 19th Street Baptist Church).

Community Preservation Projects Receive Pride of Place Grants

In September 2011 the Preservation Alliance launched a new program to support community-driven historic preservation projects throughout Philadelphia's neighborhoods. The Pride of Place program, with support from the William Penn Foundation, focuses on areas of the city targeted in the City Planning Commission's *Philadelphia 2035* planning initiative. The goal of the program is to identify important community resources that are currently not well recognized to assure that they are given proper acknowledgment and consideration in current and future planning efforts.



Example of a typical industrial building, now in use as a popular brewery, that will be seen on a walking tour that the East Kensington Neighbors Association is producing.

Community leaders from the targeted areas were invited to participate in a two-part workshop and were required to conduct an independent mapping exercise in their neighborhood. At the first workshop, Preservation Alliance staff presented "Basics of Historic Preservation" and "How to Look at Your Neighborhood." The presentations were followed by discussion and instructions on how to carry out a neighborhood survey and mapping exercise.

At the second workshop, attendees shared the findings of their completed neighborhood surveys. A discussion was then held concerning potential grant-funded projects and instructions on how to submit grant applications to the Preservation Alliance.

After attending both workshops and completing the survey exercises, the participating organizations were eligible to submit grant proposals for grants of up to \$5,000 to support a project focused on recognizing and celebrating historic resources that contribute to the character of their community.

The Preservation Alliance anticipates presenting another series of Pride of Place workshops in the spring of this year, and will continue targeting the areas of the city selected by the City Planning Commission as they proceed with Philadelphia 2035 planning. For more information about the program, please contact Patrick Hauck, Director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs at 215.546.1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

The following is a list of the organizations, and their projects, that were awarded grants in the inaugural funding round of the Pride of Place program:

Brewerytown CDC \$2,000

Creation and installation of a "Welcome to Historic Brewerytown" sign and additional research on the history of neighborhood.

Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation \$5,000

Feasibility study on the preservation of the façade of the Hoy Sun Ning Yung building at 927 Race Street.

East Falls Historical Society \$4,716

Promotional and educational activities related to the John B. Kelly family, including a driving tour of the historic neighborhood and a nomination for a State Historical Marker.

East Kensington Neighbors Association \$2,875

Development of the "East Kensington Past, Present and Future Visions" walking tour.

Fairhill Burial Ground \$3,000

Research on historic St. Bonaventure Church and a community design charette on its potential adaptive use.

Historical Society of Frankford \$5,000

Creation and publication of a book highlighting historic resources in Frankford and nomination of the Leech House (1548 Adams Avenue) to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Friends of Happy Hollow Playground \$2,500

Nomination of the historic 1910 Happy Hollow Playground to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Logan CDC \$5,000

Development of Logan Then & Now: Logan Business & Multimedia Project.

Queen Village Neighbors Association \$2,500

Nomination of 406 South Street to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

South of South Neighborhood Association \$5,000

Publication of the book *A History of the 30th Ward* and development of walking tours of the historic neighborhood.

Vital Neighborhoods Initiative: Revitalizing Neighborhoods One Block at a Time



House in Fairmount before improvements.



House in Fairmount after VNI supported blockscaping.

The Vital Neighborhoods Initiative (VNI) program was begun by the Preservation Alliance in 2010 with the intention to strengthen Philadelphia's "middle-market" neighborhoods one block at a time. The focus of the program is on neighborhoods that could benefit from additional targeted reinvestment to maintain continued positive growth and to promote their unique history. The Initiative aims to build on the existing strengths of the neighborhood and promote a unique sense of place. VNI works to achieve these objectives by providing grants and technical assistance to community organizations to support investments in the public environment and support for activities to highlight neighborhoods for potential home buyers.

Program goals include encouraging home improvements and exterior upgrading by current residents, attracting new buyers and promoting home ownership in the neighborhood, marketing changes to current and potential home owners to stimulate further positive investment in the neighborhood and expanding neighborhood pride and neighborliness through involvement of residents in neighborhood projects and events.

The Preservation Alliance awarded 16 grants, totaling \$152,000 in 2011, and is pleased to announce the 2012 grant recipients, and their projects:

\$5,000 GRANTS

Penn Knox Neighbors Association Pilot brick sidewalk repair and restoration project on a targeted block.

Holmesburg Civic Association Support for a PA State Marker for the historic Pennypack Bridge.

\$30,000 Grants

Powelton Village Civic Association Development of an extensive historic brick sidewalk repair and restoration project.

Roxborough Development Corporation Roxborough Front Porch Project which will provide design assistance and financial support to the homeowners on a targeted section of Lyceum Avenue to sensitively repair and restore their historic front porches.

Historical Society of Tacony Nomination of the historic central core of Tacony, the only planned 19th century industrial community in Philadelphia, as a local historic district on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Fairmount CDC Blockscape improvement project on the 2800 block of N. Cambridge Street, including greening and sidewalk improvements.

2011 Citywide Preservation Conference

In order to expand educational and advocacy efforts in preserving and celebrating Philadelphia's neighborhoods to an ever-broadening scope of community leaders, the Preservation Alliance presented *A Sense of Place: Preserving Philadelphia Neighborhoods*, our third annual citywide conference, on October 21, 2011 at the Temple University Student Faculty Center on the university's North Philadelphia campus.

More than 100 people from throughout the city, representing a great mix of neighborhood organizations, civic associations, community development corporations, historical societies, business associations, architects, planners and city agencies, convened to learn about the many resources available to strengthen and build on community success by incorporating historic preservation into their tool kits.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of keynote speaker John Kromer, University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, former director of the Office of Housing and Community Development and author of *Fixing Broken Cities: The Implementation of Urban Redevelopment Strategies*. In addition, the four organizations who were awarded grants to support neighborhood preservation projects during the 2010 conference made presentations on their completed projects.

Plans are already underway for the next conference in the fall of 2012. If you are a neighborhood leader who would like to learn more, please contact Patrick Hauck, Director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs at 215.546.1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

Area Organizations Working to Preserve Historic Resources

The Philadelphia region is fortunate to have many organizations that focus on historic preservation. These range from organizations that are the responsible for one historic house to organizations that offer a variety of programs focused on one aspect of historic preservation. The successful preservation of the region's historic resources is the result of their dedicated work. To show our appreciation, the Alliance is pleased to continue to highlight these organizations in this newsletter. If your organization would like to be featured in a future newsletter, please call 215.546.1146 x3 or email info@preservationalliance.com.

The Conservancy of Montgomery County

The Conservancy of Montgomery County was formed in 1990 as a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization to promote the preservation of both open space and historic resources throughout Montgomery County.



Historic property preserved in Whitmarsh Township.

The Conservancy works in various ways to help plan for and make preservation happen. At the municipal level, the organization encourages communities to undertake historic resource surveys to inventory and document their resources. They can then consider what tools can be implemented to protect these resources, such as enacting preservation ordinances or creating incentives in zoning codes.

For the private sector, the Conservancy's priority is to hold conservation and façade easements to preserve both open space and historic resources. The organization presently holds 11 easements totaling over 128 acres in the townships of East Norriton, Salford, Upper Dublin, Upper Hanover, Whitmarsh and Worcester. Since many open spaces also include historic resources, most of the easements specify, either through an official façade easement, or within the conservation easement document, that the historic resources on the property must be preserved in perpetuity.

During this process, the Conservancy works with each property owner to design the easement, utilizing the PA Land Trust Association model easement document as a guide. The organization has also adopted the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices and evaluates all prospective properties to insure that they qualify. This is extremely important in determining what properties are eligible for tax deductions through conservation easement donations. The Conservancy also requires that a contribution be made to its Easement Stewardship Fund to help with annual monitoring and legal defense in the event of a violation.

The Conservancy also works to preserve historic resources throughout the county with its Historic Buildings Protection Program, bringing property owners and potential buyers together to propose new uses for irreplaceable resources. The Conservancy is presently working to preserve and find a new use for the Old Fort Washington Elementary School in Upper Dublin Township in conjunction with the township and its Historical Commission.

For more information please contact Mary Lou McFarland at 215.283.0383 or cmcpreserve@hotmail.com. www.conservemontco.org

The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks

The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks (Landmarks) was founded in 1931 by Frances Anne Wister to prevent the demolition of the Powel House, home of Samuel Powel, Philadelphia's last mayor under British rule and the first after the Revolution. The Powel House is located in Society Hill, which during the early twentieth century was a neighborhood in significant decline. Many credit the saving of the Powel House as being instrumental in preventing further deterioration of the area, thereby setting the stage for the subsequent redevelopment of the community in 1960s by the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

Landmarks is one of the oldest historic preservation groups in the U.S. The organization was active in saving many of the historic sites in Philadelphia and was instrumental in conveying the land for Independence National Historic District and Elfreth's Alley. As short-term advocacy evolved into long-term stewardship, Landmarks acquired two more sites in Philadelphia. Grumblethorpe Historic House & Garden, the Wister Family country home and farm located in the Germantown section of the city, joined the Landmarks roster in 1940. And in 1960, with support from the Annenberg Fund, Landmarks acquired the Physick House, home of Dr. Philip Syng Physick, "Father of American Surgery" (and soda pop), located in Society Hill. In 1980, at the recommendation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Landmarks entered into a management agreement for Historic Waynesborough, home of Revolutionary War General Anthony Wayne, in Paoli.

Landmarks Road Scholar is the acclaimed Philadelphia arm of the international Road Scholar organization, the largest provider of educational tourism in the world. As one of the three top block booking organizations for admissions to the Philadelphia Orchestra, Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes Foundation, Landmarks Road Scholar brings over 2,000 people to Philadelphia every year.

Landmarks was the first organization in Philadelphia to provide exhibitions, performances and residencies by cutting edge contemporary artists in historic houses. The organization partners with Historic Germantown, Ghost Tour of Philadelphia, Jeffrey Miller Catering, Bowerbird, the Philadelphia Tour Guides Association, Pennsylvania Hospital, and a host of schools and community organizations to provide a variety of



Students try their hand at colonial building trades as part of Landmarks' Hammers & Pens: Craft a New Nation education program.

programs and events.

Landmarks is recognized throughout the region for innovative museum education programming, and in 2010 received a Preservation Alliance Grand Jury Award for its *Hammers & Pens: Craft a New Nation* education program. Through this program middle school students try their hand at colonial building trades and relate their efforts to the craftsmanship involved in creating our nation's founding documents.

Landmarks' mission is to inspire people to engage with history by protecting its unique historic sites and by providing related educational, historical and cultural programming. Landmarks' goal is to make the past an asset to Philadelphia's present and future. www.philalandmarks.org

Save the Date!

2012 Preservation Achievement Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Crystal Tea Room, Wanamaker Building

The 19th annual **Preservation Achievement Awards** will honor outstanding achievements and leaders in historic preservation throughout the region. The luncheon has become a much anticipated annual gathering for supporters of preservation and a highlight of Preservation Month in May.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and purchasing tickets, visit www.PreservationAlliance.com or contact info@preservationalliance.com or 215.546.1146 x3.



Yorktown Wins Planning Award



Rev. Dr. William H. Gray, Jr., pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church, (far right) stands with his Yorktown neighbors. Rev. Gray helped promote Yorktown to growing families.

The America Planning Association has awarded the Yorktown CDC the 2012 National Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative for its recent master planning effort, *Yorktown 2015: A Blueprint for Survival and Sustainability*.

The APA explains, "Built in the 1960s, Yorktown serves as a model of urban redevelopment for shared public spaces and right-of-way elements. Concerns over aging infrastructure and perceived threats over changes within and around the neighborhood prompted the Yorktown CDC to create a strategic neighborhood plan. The community-driven planning process maintains the community's legacy and preserves the neighborhood through reinvestment."

Award winners will be honored during APA's National Planning Conference in Los Angeles in April and featured in the April issue of *Planning*. Congratulations, Yorktown!

The Preservation Alliance recently produced an illustrated history of the planning and development of Yorktown, based on a resource survey conducted by the Alliance as a basis for developing a National Register nomination. You can read this booklet online at <http://preservationalliance.com/publications/alliance-publications.php>.

Dilworth House Saved Again



Dilworth House

The long and complex saga to preserve the home of former Mayor Richardson Dilworth, located on Washington Square, got a new burst of life in January when the Board of Licenses and Inspection Review re-affirmed its previous decision denying approval of the demolition of a portion of the house. The Historical Commission approved demolition of the rear portion of the house in 2007 to allow for the construction of a 16-story condominium tower behind the Colonial Revival structure. This was

first appealed to the Board of L&I Review, which determined that the Historical Commission's approval was in error. Subsequently, an appeal by the City of Philadelphia and the property owners, John and Mary Turchi, to the Court of Common Pleas sustained the decision of the L&I Review Board, but a further appeal by those parties to the Commonwealth Court resulted in a decision that remanded the matter back to the L&I Review Board for reconsideration.

In its latest findings the L&I Review Board states, "The Board concludes that the November 19, 2007 approval by the Historical Commission of Mr. and Mrs. Turchi's application to construct the proposed sixteen story condominium tower was in error and is not based on reasonable interpretations of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and is therefore plainly erroneous."

The Dilworth House has been vacant since it was acquired by the Turchis in 2002. It appears that very little maintenance has been done on the property for the past ten years, which is now showing signs of deterioration. The Preservation Alliance hopes that, as a result of this recent decision, the house will be offered for sale at a reasonable price with the hope of finding a new owner committed to preserving the property for an appropriate use.

The "Amended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law by the Board of L&I Review" may be read on the Alliance's website at www.PreservationAlliance.com/advocacy/issues_Dilworth.php.

Alliance Accepts New Easements

At the end of 2011 the Preservation Alliance accepted donations of easements on two significant residential properties. The first is 2044 Spruce Street, located in the Rittenhouse National Register District. Originally built for George C. Thomas, a partner in the Drexel & Co. banking firm, the house was designed by architect Charles M. Burns in 1889 using elements of the then popular French Empire and Eastlake styles. The two and one half story residential structure with a prominent slate Mansard roof is an imposing structure at the corner of 21st and Spruce and one of the largest single family houses in Center City. This easement is unusual in that it includes the entry and six principal rooms on two floors of the house, including a two-story high central stair hall with a handsomely carved oak stair.

The Alliance also accepted an easement on the Wharton Esherick home and studio in Chester County. Esherick was a sculptor and master craftsman who gained national renown following the 1939 New York World's Fair, when architect George Howe incorporated many of his works into the showcase "Pennsylvania Hill House." The easement covers the exterior of five structures built by Esherick between 1926 and 1966, including a workshop he designed in collaboration with architect Louis Kahn in 1956.

The easement also protects the complete interior of Esherick's main studio building, where every handmade detail reflects the spirit of a man many consider to be "the dean of American craftsmen." The site, which was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993, operates as the Wharton Esherick Museum and is open to the public by reservation from March to December. Learn more at www.whartonesherickmuseum.org.

A preservation easement provides long-term protection of a property's historic character. Properly structured, easements are recognized by the IRS as a charitable tax deduction. For further information go to www.PreservationAlliance.com/programs/easements.php or contact John Gallery at john@preservationalliance.com.



Wharton Esherick studio

Endangered Property Updates

Each year in December, the Preservation Alliance publishes its Endangered Properties List to bring attention to significant historic resources threatened by demolition or neglect. You can see all of the annual lists at www.PreservationAlliance.com/Endangered.

Spring Garden Post Office Mural (Listed 2011)

The U.S. Postal Service has announced it is no longer proposing to close the Spring Garden Station at 7th and Thompson Streets, featuring a New Deal mural entitled *The Streets of Philadelphia* by Walter Gardner. Of fourteen neighborhood post offices across Philadelphia originally threatened with closure in July, all but one have been granted a reprieve from the Postal Service's current downsizing efforts. While the threat of immediate closure has thankfully passed, the long-term viability of the Postal Service remains uncertain. Any future plans to close local post offices, including Spring Garden Station, should take into consideration impacts to historic resources.

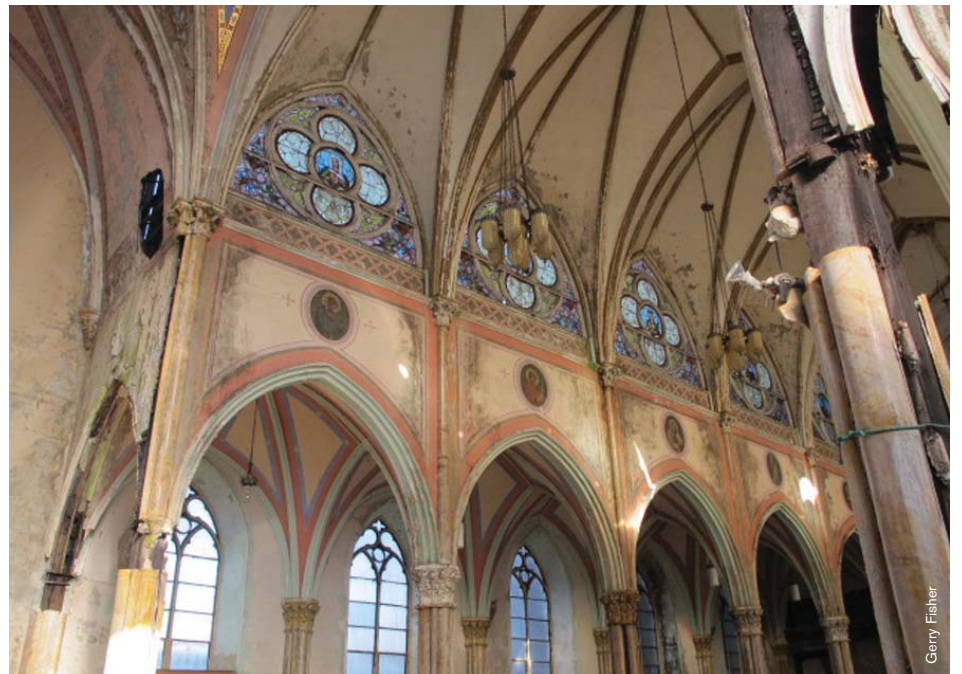


Germantown Town Hall

Germantown Town Hall (listed 2003, 2010)

The Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust has joined the effort to find a new use for Germantown Town Hall, the iconic former city office building which has stood vacant for nearly two decades. The Trust has coordinated the successful rehabilitation of many vacant buildings across the city, including the Trolley Car Café at the Bathey House in East Falls. They will be partnering with the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation to market the building and provide technical assistance, a very positive development for the long-neglected site.

Database of Historic Churches Now Available to Public



Interior of Saint Bonaventure Church, 2842-46 N. 9th Street, designed by Edwin F. Durang and completed in 1894. The church is not listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places and has been vacant for nearly twenty years.

Founded as William Penn's "Holy Experiment," Philadelphia has a centuries-long history of fostering and constructing prominent houses of worship throughout the city. In recent decades, as congregations face declining membership and shifting neighborhood demographics, these historically and architecturally-significant properties have often suffered from deferred maintenance, insensitive alterations, and partial or complete demolition.

Advocacy organizations like the Preservation Alliance and Partners for Sacred Places have focused on this issue for years, highlighting the threats to Philadelphia's neighborhoods and communities if these structures continue to be abandoned or lost. This past summer, in order to more fully understand and address the issue, the Preservation Alliance partnered with Philadelphia Historical Commission and Partners for Sacred Places to develop something which, surprisingly, had never before been produced: a comprehensive index of historic churches covering the entire city. Compiling, verifying, and updating data from a number of different sources, University of Pennsylvania graduate student Molly Lester assembled a database which includes every purpose-built house of worship constructed in the city before 1960.

Along with known architectural and historical data such as construction dates, architects, and building materials, the database also captured possible risk indicators such as vacancy, denominational changes, and recent real estate activity for each of the city's 748 historic churches, only 142 of which enjoy any historic designation protections. With this list in hand, the Preservation Alliance and others can now make more informed decisions about designation priorities and other advocacy strategies. A searchable version of this database is now available to the public on the Alliance website at www.PreservationAlliance.com/churches.

In Memorium



Henry J. Magaziner, FAIA

The preservation community of Philadelphia lost one of its most cherished mentors on Christmas Day 2011 with the passing of Henry J. Magaziner, FAIA at the age of 100. A life-long Philadelphian, Magaziner will be remembered for his unparalleled devotion to the cause of historic preservation both in this city and beyond.

After attending Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania, Henry's long architectural career began in 1937 in the drafting room of his father, noted architect Louis Magaziner. By 1948, the firm was known as Louis and Henry Magaziner Architects, and following his father's death in 1956, Henry maintained the practice into the 1960s.

Henry J. Magaziner, FAIA

At the same time, however, Henry's interest in Philadelphia's historic buildings was flourishing. He led the effort to save the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, one the city's most significant Victorian mansions, from demolition in the early 1960s, and served as its board president from 1965 to 1967. In 1972, Magaziner was named the regional historical architect and architectural historian for the National Park Service, a post he held for fifteen years. In 1985, he helped establish the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Association for Preservation Technology, in which he remained active as an author, educator and advocate for the next twenty years. In 2009, the APT inducted him into their College of Fellows. In 1999, the Preservation Alliance presented him with its James Biddle Award for lifetime achievement in historic preservation. The Henry J. Magaziner FAIA Award was created in his honor by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



Rebecca Stoloff

Rebecca Stoloff, a member of the board of directors of the Preservation Alliance since 2007, passed away on January 14, 2012, after two years of treatment for a rare cancer. Becky was devoted to historic preservation and contributed her energy and wisdom to many organizations in addition to the Preservation Alliance. She was a long time member and chair of the Reading Terminal Market Preservation Fund as well as a board member and vice chair of the Reading Terminal Market Corporation board. She was formerly a board member and chair of the Foundation for Architecture.

Rebecca Stoloff

Becky was especially active in her own neighborhood of Society Hill, where she lived since 1970. She served as vice chair of the Society Hill Civic Association board and was also a member of its Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. She was particularly dedicated to the preservation of the Head House Market at 2nd and Pine and was a founding member of the Head House Conservancy.

Becky loved to travel and continued to do so even during the last few years. She brought enthusiasm and insight to the Preservation Alliance's board and we, like many others whose lives she touched, will greatly miss her.

Free!

HOMEOWNER WORKSHOPS

APRIL

The Preservation Alliance's ongoing series of FREE workshops for owners, and aspiring owners, of historic homes continues in April, offering a great opportunity to learn about the best practices for the restoration and maintenance of older and historic homes.

These workshops are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. To reserve a space, or for more information, please contact Melissa Jest, Neighborhood Preservation Program Coordinator, at 215.546.1146 x6 or melissa@preservationalliance.com.

Lecture Workshops in Logan

All lecture workshops start at 6:30pm at WES Health Center, 1315 Windrim Avenue, Philadelphia

Energy Efficiency in Older Homes Tuesday, April 3

Wood Window Maintenance and Repair Tuesday, April 10

Flat Roofs: Repair, Maintenance and Replacement Tuesday, April 17

Masonry and Pointing Tuesday, April 24

"Hands On" Demonstration Workshops in Roxborough

All hands on workshops start at 6:30pm at Roxborough Development Corporation, 6111 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia

Presented by the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust

Historic Porches and Wood Repairs Tuesday, April 4

Masonry and Pointing Wednesday, April 11

Historic Wood Windows Wednesday, April 18

Paints and Color Placement Wednesday, April 25



2011 Annual Appeal Most Successful Yet!

The Preservation Alliance expresses its thanks to these donors who contributed to the 2011 Annual Fund. Their generous support will help the Alliance continue to protect the Philadelphia region's treasures.

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List complete as of January 24, 2012.

Tanner After Hours

Wednesdays, Feb. 1 to April 11 5-8pm

Penna. Academy of the Fine Arts, Hamilton Building, 128 N. Broad St. One of the first African American students at the PAFA, Henry Ossawa Tanner broke boundaries and centuries of tradition, moving beyond race and religious icons to express a very modern, universal view of spirituality. *Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit* brings together more than 100 paintings, drawings, photographs, prints and sculptures in a visual journey that won't be seen again in a generation. Also visit companion exhibition *After Henry Tanner: African American Artists since 1940* during these extended evening hours. www.PAFA.org

Charles Albert Tindley Institute presents Jazz, Jive, Praise

Sunday, February 12 4-6pm

Tindley Temple United Methodist Church, 750 S. Broad St. Featuring vocalist/composer Ruth Naomi Floyd. *Donation \$20. More info: 215.735.0442*

An Evening of African American Music

Sunday, February 12 5pm

Drexel University, Mandell Theater, 3201 Chestnut St. Concert by the Drexel University Gospel Choir and Jazztet performing spirituals, gospel music, blues and jazz. *Free. More info: 215.895.ARTS*

Freedom Bound: African American Women in 18th and 19th Century Philadelphia

Saturday, February 18 1pm

Stenton, 4601 N. 18th St. Lecture by Erica Armstrong Dunbar examining the rocky road to emancipation experienced by African American women in the 18th and 19th century urban North. Tours of Stenton will follow the talk. *Free, but reservations requested: 215.329.7312 or programs@stenton.org*

Bash the Trash: African Folktales

Saturday, February 18 11am

Kimmel Center, 260 S. Broad St. Bash the Trash performs and educates with musical instruments made from recycled and reused materials. This show will focus on folk tales from Africa, with instruments inspired by designs from across the continent. *Free www.kimmelcenter.org*

Introduction to Black Genealogy: A Beginner's Workshop

Sunday, February 19 11:30am-1pm

African American Museum of Philadelphia, 701 Arch St. Learn the basics of tracing your roots and discovering your family tree. *Free. More info: 215.574.0380 www.aampmuseum.org*

Imagine Africa: Voices of Africa Concert and Workshop

Wednesday, February 22 6pm

Penn Museum, 3260 South St. An evening of music featuring Voices of Africa, an internationally acclaimed ensemble, presenting a cappella harmonies and traditional West African percussive rhythms. Voices of Africa share music that spans the African Diaspora, with traditional African and African American songs, message music, gospel, and inspirational percussive rhythms. *Free with Museum admission. <http://www.penn.museum/>*

Honoring Black History Month with the Alice Paul Institute

Thursday, February 23 6-8pm

Paulsdale, 128 Hooton Rd., Mount Laurel, NJ Dr. Natanya Duncan discusses African American women activists of the Universal Negro Improvement Association who challenged notions of domesticity and "true womanhood" in the 1920's and 30's. *\$10 Info: 856.231.1885 www.alicepaul.org*

Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America

Saturday, February 25 7-9pm

Musehouse, 7924 Germantown Ave. Reading and discussion by authors Dan Biddle and Murray Dubin. *Free www.musehousecenter.com*

Marian Anderson Birthday Celebration

Monday, February 27

Featuring a vocal performance by a Marian Anderson Scholar/Artist and a reception to celebrate the 115th birthday of Marian Anderson. *Details TBA. 215.732.9505 www.mariananderson.org*

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PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA!

Have you visited Preserve Philadelphia, the Alliance's online resource center, lately?

We've just redesigned the site to help answer many of the questions we most often hear about preservation in Philadelphia:

What is the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places?

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

What are preservation easements?

Is my house protected, and if so, how does that affect me?

How can I help protect a building or a neighborhood I am concerned about?

What are some of my neighborhood's historic resources?

Answers to these and many other questions can now be found in one place:
www.PreservePhiladelphia.org