



PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

for greater philadelphia

PRESERVATION

MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FALL 2004

Region's Most Endangered Historic Properties

The Alliance's second annual Endangered Properties List is based on nominations received from community organizations, historic preservation organizations, members of the Alliance and the general public. We thank all those who submitted nominations for their interest and concern for the historic properties in their communities.

Independence Square

5th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia

SIGNIFICANCE Independence Square is the location of Independence Hall and one of the most significant park spaces in Philadelphia. It was here that the Declaration of Independence had its first public reading. The square was purchased by the Provincial government in 1730 to provide the site for new municipal buildings and has been a public park ever since. Over the years many organizations in Philadelphia have worked to preserve the square as an important public place and previously raised funds to remove buildings that once occupied portions of the square.

THREAT At the request of the Department of the Interior, which has declared Independence Hall to be a "key asset" for protection from terrorism, the National Park Service recently prepared a security plan which would erect a new security and restroom building in the square. The site proposed is the location where some believe the Declaration of Independence was read. In addition, the plan proposes to divide the square in half with an eight-foot high fence running from 5th to 6th streets through the center of the square. Although the plan has not been released publicly, the Park Service has implied that this plan represents the preferred plan among several alternatives it has examined.

RECOMMENDATION Independence Square is owned by the City of Philadelphia and leased to the National Park Service. As the owner of the square, the City should exercise its fullest legal rights to review and approve any plans for its alteration. The Park Service's current security arrangements appear to be working well, even if the temporary fencing provides an unattractive element on the mall. If there is a need to change, new security plans should be developed so as to create minimum



Associated Press

impact on historic sites, and should be capable of being removed easily once the current security concerns have been

resolved. No plan should be adopted without full public disclosure and opportunity for debate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2004

ENDANGERED PROPERTIES LIST

PHILADELPHIA

Independence Square

Nugent Home for Baptists

Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers

Dilworth House

Historic School Buildings

Upper Roxborough National Historic District

Provident Mutual Life Insurance Building

Chester Avenue Street Paving

Madison Square

REGIONAL

Dolington Village Bucks County

Heidelberg (Kerlin Farm) Montgomery County

Kahn Masterpiece and Six Other Buildings Designated

This past summer the Preservation Alliance nominated six historic properties to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Although thousands of city properties are already included on the historic register many properties are not listed, including some that are National Historic Landmarks. Listing on the register officially recognizes the architectural and historic significance of the properties and provides protection through the city's historic preservation ordinance. The Alliance was fortunate to receive a grant from the Samuel S. Fels Fund to hire a summer intern who researched and drafted the nominations.

The Philadelphia Historical Commission officially designated five of the nominated properties at its September, October, and November meetings and the sixth will be considered in December.

In addition, the Commission also approved the designation of the Presser Home for

Retired Music Teachers. The Presser Home nomination was prepared by Stephen Anderson, a resident of West Mt. Airy.



Peter B. Olson

Richards Medical Research Building and David Goddard (Biology) Laboratories
3700-3800 Hamilton Walk
1957-60; Architect: Louis I. Kahn

When Louis I. Kahn designed the Richards Medical Research Building, he envisioned it as an alternative to the then current form of modern architecture exemplified by the sleek steel and glass prisms of the International Style. Kahn had already begun to challenge modernist notions in his earlier projects, but the Richards Building represented the first, full realization of Kahn's design philosophy. Through its heavy masonry construction and its articulation of what Kahn referred to as 'servant and served' spaces. Three eight-story towers comprise the research laboratories' — the 'served' spaces — arranged around a core 'servant' tower that houses the elevators, areas for lab animals, and utilities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our second annual Endangered Properties List provides a glimpse of the diverse range of issues facing historic preservation in the Philadelphia region. Derived from suggestions made by community and preservation organizations, the list includes historic open spaces as well as buildings, and thematic issues that affect more than an individual building. Unlike the simple prospect of historic properties being lost by neglect or the standard reasons for demolition, most of these sites are threatened by unusual circumstances that often have positive aspects to them. Threats to demolish schools in Philadelphia's National Register Thematic District of historic schools are a consequence of the School District of Philadelphia's intent to improve facilities for public education by building new schools; the threat to Independence Square is a result of the National Park Service's concern for security at Independence Hall. The unusual nature of these circumstances often means that finding preservation solutions may be difficult, but in many instances opportunities for preservation are often hidden within the nature of the danger itself.

At the same time as some buildings and sites are endangered, others are being protected. Thanks to a summer intern grant from the Samuel S. Fels Fund, the Alliance was able to begin what we hope will be a regular process of nominating buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Surprisingly, our research showed that some National Historic Landmarks are not protected from demolition or adverse alteration. These nominations also include our interest in identifying buildings from the mid-20th century that are now sufficiently old to be called historic.

Both the Endangered Properties list and the nominations for designation were based on suggestions made by community and historic preservation organizations, members of the Alliance, and other individuals. We thank you all not only for your interest in preservation but for your vigilance; preservation of the historic treasures of our communities would not be possible without the eyes and voices of people like you.

JOHN ANDREW GALLERY
Executive Director

Most Endangered Properties



Nugent Home for Baptists *and* Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers

*West Johnson Street
Mt. Airy, Philadelphia*

SIGNIFICANCE The Nugent Home, formally called the George Nugent Home for Baptists, opened in 1896 as a retirement community for elderly ministers and parishioners of Philadelphia's Baptist community. George Nugent made his fortune as a manufacturer in Upper Merion Township. However, he resided in the Mt. Airy neighborhood and was dedicated to the Baptist community in Philadelphia. Upon his death, he left his estate of half a million dollars for the creation of the Baptist home. Designed by J. Franklin Stuckert, the well-respected architect of many of Philadelphia's churches, synagogues, and other religious buildings, the Nugent Home's high chateau style and palatial size fulfilled Nugent's wish to create an architectural monument. With its steeply pitched roof, articulated with dormers and towers, and rich terra cotta detailing set against the brown-orange colored Roman brick, the Nugent Home is almost a textbook chateau

structure and a prominent landmark in its neighborhood.

Like its next-door neighborhood, the Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers is both a distinguished architectural accomplishment and a testament to a remarkable individual. Theodore Presser founded the company that bears his name, which, by the 1930s, was the leading music publisher in the world. As his music empire flourished, he became a generous philanthropist. Presser commissioned Davis and Davis to build a grand Renaissance Revival structure adjacent to his own home in Mt. Airy for retired music teachers. The three story gray brick and limestone structure housed about 100 retirees and continued to operate until 1980. (Based on the nomination prepared by Stephen Anderson.)



Presser Carriage House

THREAT The future of both the Nugent Home and Presser Home was threatened by the expansion plans of a neighboring religious institution. However, community organizations in West Mt. Airy responded promptly to the threat and, with the assistance of the Alliance, both buildings were designated by the Historical Commission thereby protecting them from demolition. However, that does not solve the problem. Both buildings are vacant. Unless a suitable developer is found both properties may continue to decline and be demolished by neglect or for another new development proposal.

RECOMMENDATION Community organizations and residents of West Mt. Airy and the Preservation Alliance - all of whom supported designation of the properties - now have an obligation to assist the owner find an appropriate developer for the properties. The continuing rise of the real estate market in Mt. Airy and the still-glorious charm of these buildings suggest that preservation for apartments or condominiums may be possible. Both buildings are undoubtedly eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. That would provide access to investment tax credits to help finance rehabilitation. The Alliance has already begun to contact developers experienced with historic properties and encourage them to contact the property owner.



Madison Square

2200 and 2300 Blocks of Madison Square
South Philadelphia

SIGNIFICANCE These two blocks of Madison Square, along with the 2300 block of St. Albans Street, are known as the garden blocks because of the distinctive gardens that occupy the place of a normal city street. Madison Square was created in the 1870s by Charles M.S. Leslie, a real estate investor, to provide housing for middle class families. Each block contains shallow but wide two-story row houses with molded cornices and carved stone lintels. The two blocks have long been considered an important historic resource in South Philadelphia and were listed in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1971.

THREAT Madison Square is declining from neglect and unsuitable modifications of row houses. One house in the 2300 block was demolished and the remaining vacant lot is now unused and the brick sidewalk in front

is in disrepair. Houses in the 2300 block have been altered in ways inconsistent with their historic character and the central garden area neglected. Many sections of wrought-iron fence have fallen down and need to be restored.

RECOMMENDATION Residents of Madison Square need assistance in making repairs and improving the landscape of the common garden area. The vacant lot should be acquired by the City and converted to a more useable garden area. The gardens in both blocks could benefit from modest landscaping assistance and fence repair, perhaps accompanied with some maintenance training for current homeowners. All of these improvements could easily be accomplished by an organization like Philadelphia Green working with residents of the two blocks. In addition, the Historical Commission should look at alterations that have been made to some of the houses, and inform residents that any changes in the future require review by the Historical Commission.



Philadelphia Public Schools

West Philadelphia and Citywide

SIGNIFICANCE The city of Philadelphia is graced with many beautiful school buildings. Approximately sixty percent were constructed prior to World War II, many by prolific school architects such as Irwin T. Catharine and Henry D. Richards. Approximately 150 of Philadelphia's schools

are on the National Register of Historic Places.

THREAT In an effort to reinvigorate Philadelphia's public school system, the School Reform Commission intends to renovate many of the existing buildings and to build new schools, especially high schools. However, this plan also includes the demolition of such historic school buildings as Audenried High in South Philadelphia, constructed in 1930, and Bluford Elementary in Overbrook, constructed in 1908, and West Philadelphia High School—all of which are listed in the National Register District.

RECOMMENDATION Many of Philadelphia's older schools are in better physical condition than those built in the 1950s and 60s, when tightened budgets sometimes resulted in lower quality buildings. The fact that school buildings are old doesn't inherently mean that they are outmoded or cannot be adapted to current needs. Moreover, many school buildings no longer needed for school purposes have been converted to other uses including housing. The School District should carefully evaluate whether any school included in the National Register District can be rehabilitated for its own needs and allow developers to evaluate such buildings for other needs before demolition is considered. Any demolition of buildings within the National Register District requires review by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which should provide opportunity for public comment before rendering any decisions of its own.

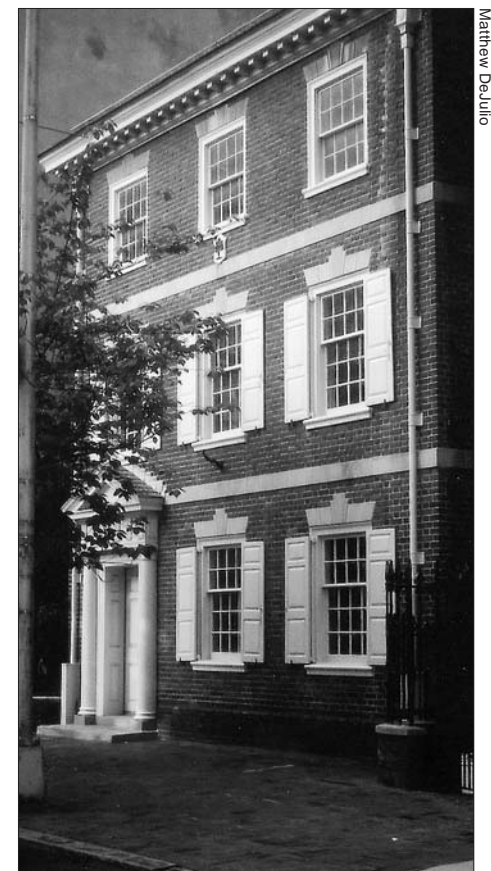
Dilworth House

South Sixth Street
Society Hill, Philadelphia

SIGNIFICANCE Philadelphia Mayor Richardson Dilworth built this house on the east side of Washington Square in 1957. Dilworth's decision to make his home in the then-deteriorated area helped strengthen the mid-twentieth century movement to restore Society Hill, a area containing the largest concentration of 18th-century buildings of any place in the country. The transformation of the area became renowned as one of the country's most successful urban renewal projects. In addition to his personal connection with the renewal of this section of the city, Dilworth was an important civic and political leader. He was an important member of the group that led the reform of a corrupt city government in the 1950s serving as mayor and later as President of the Board of Education. The house is listed as a significant property in the Society Hill Historic District.

THREAT Recently the property owner, who purchased the Dilworth house with the intent of maintaining it as a single family residence, has decided to take advantage of its Washington Square location and the booming condominium market in Philadelphia. He proposes to demolish it to build a ten-story condominium. In addition to destroying Mayor Dilworth's historically significant house, a new structure of this size would greatly exceed the height allowed by zoning laws, and would diminish the character of the historic buildings that surround it.

RECOMMENDATION Mayor Dilworth's House is an significant historic site in Philadelphia both for its connection to an



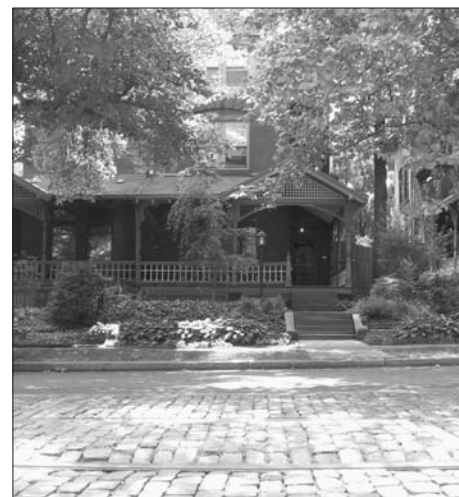
Matthew DeJulio

important individual and an important part of the city's history. It is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. The house is in good condition and perfectly suitable for the single-family use for which it was designed and purchased. Civic groups and concerned individuals (many of which have expressed support for preservation via the Alliance's website) should call upon the City's Historical Commission to protect the site and deny any application for a permit for demolition.

Chester Avenue Historic Street Paving

West Philadelphia

SIGNIFICANCE The granite Belgian Block which paves the 4200-4800 block of Chester Avenue in West Philadelphia, along the Route 13 Trolley Line, was a popular and high quality paving material when this area was developed in the 1880s. Of the hundreds of miles of roads in the City of Philadelphia, only 38 blocks retain historic paving materials, and only nine streets retain the type of block paving seen here, known as 'Belgian Blues'. Many who reside on this section of Chester Avenue consider the Belgian Block paving on their street to play a vital role in



the visual record of the neighborhood, placing its stately homes within an historic context that evokes the particular time and place in which they were created. The paving also provides important, functional evidence of the evolution and history of the city's transportation systems.

THREAT In an effort to improve the deteriorating track and roadbed along Chester Avenue, SEPTA has announced plans to remove the Belgian Block paving in the summer of 2005, and replace it with concrete. This plan, in addition to replacing a relatively sturdy and permanent road surface with a far less stable one, would destroy the atmospheric interplay between the stately old homes on Chester Avenue and the increasingly rare road material that has been there since their construction.

RECOMMENDATION Almost all of the stones on these blocks retain moderate or high integrity—meaning they require little or no patching or repairs. Instead of destroying the entire street surface, SEPTA should replace individual damaged blocks. New block of this type is readily available, and the University of Pennsylvania has suggested that its own stockpile of Belgian Blocks could be made available for repairs and replacements. If further change is needed for trolley operation, the example of Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill might be followed. There, trolley tracks were set in concrete in the center of the street, but similar paving blocks were retained along both sides of the street.



The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Provident Mutual Life Insurance Building

46th and Market Streets, Philadelphia

SIGNIFICANCE The Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company Building is one of the most stunning structures in West Philadelphia, giving an air of grandeur to an economically depressed area. This 361,000 square foot, classically-inspired, four-story office building was constructed in limestone and steel from a 1926 design by the prominent architectural firm of Cram & Ferguson, architects of Princeton University's Chapel, and Architecture School, as well as many prominent churches and office buildings on the East Coast. When Provident Mutual moved to Center City it donated the building to the Urban Education Development RCC, which in turn has leased space to a variety of organizations and institutions.

THREAT As part of its plan to improve school facilities, the School District wants to replace the existing West Philadelphia High School with a new school on a new site. The District has expressed interest in purchasing Provident Mutual for this purpose. No decision has yet been reached

on the preferred site for a new high school nor has a decision been made on whether to demolish or rehabilitate Provident Mutual if that site were selected. However, concern has been expressed that the costs of rehabilitation may be significantly higher than new construction on the site.

RECOMMENDATION If West Philadelphia High requires relocation, a renovated Provident Mutual Building seems like a particularly appropriate edifice for a new school. Its size would allow for spacious classrooms, laboratories, and lecture spaces, and the large amount of open space on the site could provide outdoor recreation facilities. Conversion of Provident Mutual to a high school would provide a West Philadelphia equivalent to the conversion of the historic Ridgway Library on South Broad Street to the High School for Creative and Performing Arts. Development of the building by a private entity with a lease to the school district might make it possible to obtain investment tax credits for rehabilitation of the building, which could provide sufficient funding to offset any added construction cost. The building is too significant to lose without fully exploring such an approach.

Heidelberg (Kerlin Farm)

Ashbourne Road and Oak Lane,
Cheltenham Township,
Montgomery County

SIGNIFICANCE The oldest portion of this sprawling, three-story farmhouse likely dates from the years immediately following the English colonization of Pennsylvania, making parts of this late 17th-century home perhaps one of the oldest in the state.

Ownership of the house passed from its Quaker builder, Everand Bolton, to his descendants in the 18th century, then to the locally prominent Haines family, horticulturists who began an extensive garden here in the 19th and 20th centuries. Robert Bowen Haines, who renamed the property 'Heidelberg', moved to this Cheltenham farm in 1850 from his ancestral home Wyck, Germantown's oldest surviving home.

The original two-story colonial structure was added onto and transformed throughout its history, gaining German colonial, early Federal, and Second Empire additions, and a Gothic Revival porch. The final addition onto the house was a two-story brick guest wing constructed in 1898.

THREAT State Representative Lawrence Curry calls Heidelberg "an extremely endangered property", a victim of many years of neglect. Its current owner moved to Iowa several years ago, and has essentially abandoned

maintenance of the property. Vulnerable to vandalism, the once-impressive gardens are now cluttered with junk and refuse, and portions of the roof are in danger of collapse. Neighbors fear that unless the house's fortunes change in the near future, this long-lived witness to Pennsylvania's history may become a victim of 'demolition by neglect'. The owner has been unresponsive to offers to purchase or help restore the property. There is speculation that future heirs to the property would rather sell it for development.

RECOMMENDATION Although returning Heidelberg to its former glory will require a substantial financial investment, halting its deterioration and stabilizing its roof are very possible - and urgently necessary. If Heidelberg is to have a future, the property's owner must begin cooperating with community members and government officials who wish to save the property by responsibly maintaining it, or by considering reasonable purchase offers.

Cheltenham Township and Montgomery County, both of which have tax liens on the property, might more aggressively exercise their property interests to motivate the owner toward selling the property to private or public parties that would respect the history of the house and the large plot of land on which it lies. Limited development, which protects the most historic parts of the property with preservation easements, is one possibility.



Dolington Village

Upper and Lower Makefield Townships,
Bucks County

SIGNIFICANCE This rural crossroads village in Bucks County is both a locally recognized historic district and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Seventy of the village's 94 structures contribute to the historic character of the Dolington National Register District.

The village is comprised of early to mid-19th-century Federal style vernacular buildings, mostly single-family houses once inhabited by a community of independent artisans and small businessmen. The houses within the district are unified visually by their similar size, scale, setback, and regular pattern along the road. Despite increased suburban development of the surrounding townships and heavy traffic through the village, Dolington has maintained its 19th-century rural character.

THREAT A developer plan to build almost 296 dwellings on less than 300 acres of land in and around the Dolington Historic District. Development of this magnitude would overwhelm the historic integrity of

the village, as it would transform its character-defining rural, agricultural setting into another subdivided suburban outpost. This proposal may result in the village being removed from the National Register.

The current construction plan also calls for the demolition of some historic structures, the widening of the district's primary roadway to four lanes, and the addition of several traffic lights, further sapping the district's rural character and placing some historic homes dangerously close to traffic.

RECOMMENDATION The proposed development plan should be turned down not only because it will destroy the Dolington Historic District, but also because it is at odds with the Township's zoning ordinance, which requires that new buildings be of a scale that will maintain the character of the district and be in harmony with the existing character of the general vicinity.

Development more consistent with Dolington's historic character should be encouraged using 'smart-growth' principles such as limited land development which preserves critical open space while simultaneously allowing for building a denser 'traditional' new community in an area that would not negatively impact Dolington village.





Upper Roxborough Historic District

Philadelphia

SIGNIFICANCE Upper Roxborough is a unique section of Philadelphia. The area contains a combination of open space and colonial, mid-19th century, and significant early 20th century buildings not found elsewhere in the city. The area's 127 historic structures constitute the vast majority of its buildings, and consist of surviving farm buildings, industrial buildings and worker housing, and houses built in various Revival styles, including Greek, Colonial, and Tudor. The area also contains a pumping station dating from the late 1860s that once supplied water to Manayunk and spurred its industrialization. This still-rural area supports many species of wildlife, and is markedly different from the

surrounding portions of Roxborough, which have been heavily built up with post-WWII housing and commercial development. Much of the area is a National Register Historic District; including the "Barker Tract" (protected from development by preservation easements) and the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center.

THREAT The City of Philadelphia is the current owner of the 40-acre Upper Roxborough Reservoir. The reservoir has become a natural area that provides a sanctuary for many different forms of wildlife. In recent years, the City has received offers from developers wishing to develop the reservoir and its surrounding area. The most recent proposal is for construction of over 240 homes. Development of this density would not only annihilate the natural area that has developed at the site of the reservoir, it would also destroy Upper

Roxborough's unique sense of place which is one of its primary claims to historic significance, and a reason a portion of Upper Roxborough is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

RECOMMENDATION The City of Philadelphia should resist proposed plans to develop the reservoir. There are ample locations in the city where new housing can be built, but there are virtually none where the unique natural habitat and conditions that now exist at the reservoir could be recreated. A first step in the preservation of the area would be to support the expansion of the National Register Historic District and to follow that up with a local historic district to protect the unique collection of historic properties and open space. The reservoir itself should remain in public ownership and preserved as a natural wildlife area.

Special Mention

In both 2003 and 2004 the Harbison Dairy Water Tower was nominated to the Alliance's Endangered Properties List. While not as significant as many other sites, the Dairy Tower is a wonderful and distinctive landmark in its neighborhood. The milk-bottle-shaped water tower once advertised the business of Harbison Dairy and Milk Depot. The dairy has long since closed, but the milk bottle, highly visible from the Market-Frankford El, acts as a fond reminder of Kensington's industrial history. Once a cheerful neighborhood marker, decades of weather exposure and neglect have destroyed the water tower's utility. Now the rusted, milk bottle is a towering eyesore sitting atop the vacant, but handsome industrial building that once housed the Harbison offices.

It's easy to imagine how much fun it would be to see a repainted milk bottle high above the industrial and residential buildings of Kensington. Perhaps it could simply be painted white, as it probably was originally, and carry the dairy industry's campaign slogan 'got milk?' Or perhaps become a project for the Mural Arts Program. Distinctive signs are historic resources in themselves and as worthy of preservation as buildings and parks.



UPDATE 2003 PRESERVATION ALLIANCE MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

■ The future of **The Lazaretto** (Tinicum Township, Delaware County) - the nation's only surviving example of an early quarantine station - is looking brighter: this year Tinicum Township signed an agreement of sale with the developer-owners for the historic 1799 property on ten riverfront acres. The State of Pennsylvania has offered a \$2-million matching grant toward purchase and stabilization; the township has raised \$1.5 million so far and must find an additional \$500,000.

■ Threatened by possible blight-clearing demolition as part of Philadelphia's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, **North Philadelphia Historic Blocks** are still suffering from neglect and disinvestment. However the City has responded with a better planning process for identifying and incorporating historic structures in redevelopment plans, and is even considering creating a \$1-million fund to assist low-income homeowners in historic districts in the repair of their homes.

■ Preservation of the 1923 **Germantown Town Hall** (5928 Germantown Avenue) has received support from Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller. At the

Councilwoman's request a task force was created by the Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation to explore ways to use the vacant structure. The task force expected to begin a feasibility study with state funds included in a larger grant, but that grant has been delayed and the task force is exploring other ways to fund such a study.

■ One of southwest Philadelphia's last remaining farmhouses, the circa 1764, modest stone structure at **1817 Vodges Street** is still vacant, although reported to be sealed and stabilized.

■ Despite several serious, pro-preservation purchase offers over the last twelve months, the Reverend Yoon, owner of the monumental **Lynnewood Hall** (a.k.a. the Widener Estate; 920 Spring Avenue, Elkins Park) still appears to be unwilling to accept reasonable offers to buy this 1898 Gilded-Age estate designed by Horace Trumbauer.

■ Designed in 1846 by noted architect John Notman, **Christ Temple Church** (1617 Girard Avenue) is still largely vacant and deteriorating despite efforts to raise

repair funds by its small, struggling congregation.

■ Facing a similar fundraising challenge is the nonprofit Uptown Entertainment and Development Corporation, owner of the 1920s Art Deco **Uptown Theater** (2240 North Broad Street) which it hopes to revitalize as an entertainment and media-production center for its north Philadelphia community.

■ The congregation of the **Church of Christ** (63rd and Vine Streets) has won court approval to demolish its 1895 Romanesque-styled city landmark. Claiming that structural problems are insurmountable, the congregation intends to sell the cleared site for commercial development.

■ The historic campus of the former **Sleighton Farm School for Girls** (485 Valley Road, Glen Mills, Delaware County) is still threatened by subdivision and residential development, although one prospective developer has withdrawn and others are studying ways to incorporate many of the 29 historic structures on the 350-acre site into proposed development plans.

Kahn Masterpiece and Six Other Buildings Designated

A smaller brick exhaust shaft, providing additional 'servant' space, flanks each laboratory tower. The different spaces are legible from the exterior as well; brick-clad vertical towers articulate the 'servant' spaces and are juxtaposed against the glass, concrete, and brick of the 'served spaces.'

As noted historian David B. Brownlee stated in his letter of support for the designation, "Kahn is the pivotal figure in the remaking of modern architecture in the last third of the twentieth century, and the Richards Building is the monument that first completely expressed his vision."

Lasher Printing Company Building

1309 Noble Street
Circa 1927; Architect: Philip Tyre

The Lasher Printing Company Building represents a rare example of Art Deco industrial architecture in Philadelphia. It embodies a synthesis of architectural design and engineering that was the hallmark of its architect, Philip Tyre, and makes it unique amongst other Philadelphia Art Deco structures. Tyre was both a trained engineer and architect and both of these elements can be found in the building. The form of the building is the work of an engineer, as it seems to logically derive from the building materials and the functional needs of the client. However, it was Tyre, the architect, who then overlaid onto this rational structure monumental Art Deco motifs derived from Native American influences.



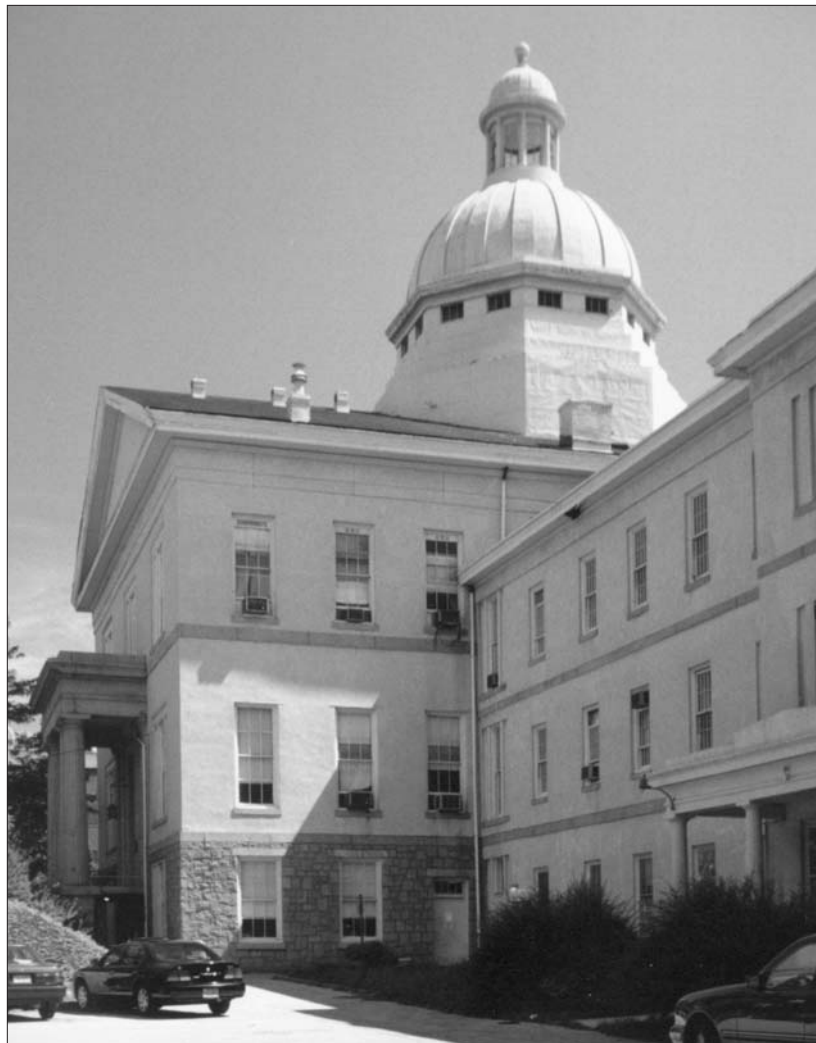
Nugent Home for Baptists

221 West Johnson Street
1895; Architect J. Franklin Stuckert

Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers

101-121 West Johnson Street
1895; Architect, Davis and Davis

SEE ENDANGERED PROPERTIES PAGE 2



J. Randall Cotton

The Kirkbride Center (Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital)

111 North 49th Street
1854-59; Architect: Samuel Sloan and Thomas Story Kirkbride

The movement to improve the treatment of the mentally ill was an important part of the social reform movements that swept United States during the nineteenth century. Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride and the city of Philadelphia played prominent roles in that movement, when in the 1850s, Kirkbride collaborated with prominent architect Samuel Sloan to design a hospital for the mentally ill. The Pennsylvania Hospital for

the Insane, as it was originally known, influenced the construction of similar institutions in thirty-one other states. Furthermore, the enlightened design principle behind Kirkbride's hospital—that the insane should be treated with respect—motivated a new understanding of, and compassion for the mentally ill. It was in recognition of the hospital's status as an iconic institution that it became a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

1900 Chestnut (Robert Glenddenning Building)

1934; Architect: Frank E. Hahn

This Art Moderne building, dating to the 1930s is a little-altered example of the distinctive corner commercial architecture that developed when this portion of Chestnut Street changed from residential to mixed commercial uses. Similar buildings can be found at the intersection of many of Center City's numbered streets with Chestnut and Walnut streets. The typical design consists of a two-story building with its narrow width on Chestnut or Walnut streets. The corner is often clipped to take advantage of the corner location. 1900 Chestnut follows this pattern but is distinctive because of its Art Moderne style and detailing as seen in the original light fixtures and stone carvings around the 19th Street entrance to the upper floor.



J. Randall Cotton



New Century Guild

1307 Locust Street

The New Century Guild building at 1307 Locust Street has served as the organization's headquarters continuously from 1906 to the present. Founded in 1882, the New Century Guild was one of the earliest, largest, and most successful of the many organizations created across the country in the 19th century to deal with the serious problems that arose as more and more women entered the labor force. From the outset, the New Century Guild explicitly stated that its goal was to address the specific needs of "self-supporting women," a bold step at a time when many Americans believed that no self-respecting married woman would work for pay outside the home. Not only was the Guild among the first of such organizations formed anywhere in the United States, but it was also among the most flourishing and long-lived. The important and unique role played by the New Century Guild led it to be named a National Historic Landmark in 1992.

2004 America's Treasures Awards

Philadelphia institutions received all six of the Save America's Treasures awards for Pennsylvania. Save America's Treasures is a joint program of the President's Committee on the Arts, the National Park Service, and the National Endowments of the Arts and Humanities, with the support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Grants are made to support the preservation of historic sites, objects, collections and artistic works. The Alliance congratulates each of the following recipients:

Mother Bethel AME Church, Mother Bethel Foundation. A grant of \$450,000 will be used to address structural problems in the monumental bell tower and to repair the slate roof. Mother Bethel, founded by Richard Allen, is located on the oldest piece of land continuously owned by African Americans in the United States. The current church, designed by Hazlehurst and Huckel, was constructed in 1889-90 and is an outstanding example of the Romanesque Revival style.

The Woodlands, Philadelphia. A grant of \$200,000 will be used to replace the deteriorated roof and to address structural problems. The Woodlands, located in Woodland Cemetery in West Philadelphia was originally built in 1742 and remodeled and expanded in 1788-89. It was one of the finest mansions of its period and is an early example of the Federal style.

Louis I. Kahn, Collection, The Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania. A \$70,000 grant will be used to conserve and rehouse the sketchbooks, personal drawings and construction drawings, which document the artistic vision of Lou Kahn, one of the most influential American architects of the 20th century. (See article, page 1)



Peter B. Olson

The Woodlands (ABOVE) and corrosion on *Atmosphere and Environment XII* (BELOW).

Louise Nevelson's *Atmosphere and Environment XII*, Fairmount Park Art Association. A \$10,000 grant will support



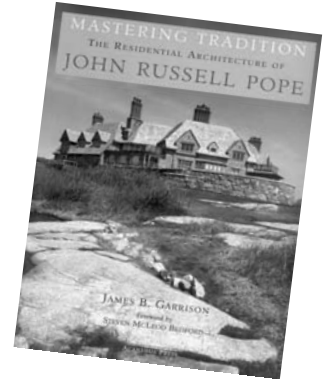
Fairmount Park Art Association / Penny Baklin Bach

conservation treatment to address severe corrosion damage. Nevelson's steel sculpture will then be returned to its location outside the west entrance to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Early 20th Century Manuscripts, **American Philosophical Society**. A \$164,000 grant will be used to implement a conservation program for fourteen collections of manuscripts including the nation's premier collection documenting Native American languages, the papers of Nobel Laureate Peyton Rous, and the papers of pioneer researchers in the fields of genetics and biochemistry.

Microfilmed Land Records, **City of Philadelphia** Department of Records. A \$51,000 grant will be used to transfer the collection to a more stable medium.

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE FALL 2004 EVENTS



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8

"Mansions & Monuments"

Lecture and Book Signing
with Jim Garrison AIA

5:30 - 7:30 pm

215 South 16th Street, Philadelphia

Join the Alliance at the historic Racquet Club of Philadelphia as we welcome author Jim Garrison for a lecture and book signing to celebrate the launch of his newest book *Mastering Tradition: The Residential Architecture of John Russell Pope* (Acanthus Press \$79.99). 15% off the retail cover price of the book for this event only; proceeds benefit the Preservation Alliance.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14

"Historic Sacred Places of Philadelphia"

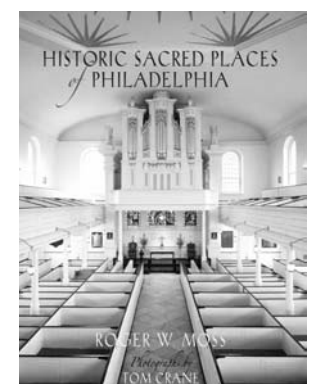
Lecture and Book Signing

with Roger Moss and Thomas Crane

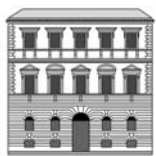
5:30 - 7:30 pm

19th & Rittenhouse Square

Pre-holiday lecture and book signing with renowned author Roger Moss and photographer Thomas Crane marks the holiday shopping season with a great gift idea! Join the Alliance in the main sanctuary of Holy Trinity Church on historic Rittenhouse Square for a presentation and book signing reception. Attendees will also receive the Preservation Alliance's "Self Guided Walking Tour" of other historic sacred places in the Rittenhouse Square area. This event marks the kick off of the 2004-2005 tour series "A Year of Historic Sacred Places" in honor of the book and featuring our city's incredible sacred gems, known and unknown.



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FALL 2004 PRESERVATION MATTERS 7



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