

2024 Annual Report

PENNSYLVANIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE





State Historic Preservation Office

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Welcome to PA SHPO

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office is the official historic preservation agency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A bureau within the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office administers state historic preservation programs authorized through the Pennsylvania History Code (Title 37) and manages several federal programs created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA, 16 U.S.C. 470).

ADMINISTRATION

In Pennsylvania, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission serves as the state historic preservation officer. The director of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) is the deputy state historic preservation officer.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, requires each state historic preservation program to maintain an adequate and qualified state review board. In Pennsylvania, it is also required by the Pennsylvania History Code. This body is known as the Historic Preservation Board and includes 15 members appointed by the governor.

Mission

PA SHPO uses its resources to educate Pennsylvanians about the Commonwealth's vast collection of historic and archaeological resources, encourage them to value these resources as part of our collective past and future, and enable them to preserve the places that tell our local, state, and national stories for future generations.

FUNDING

The government's investment in Pennsylvania's older and historic places has far-reaching benefits that touch every Pennsylvanian through the federal and state historic preservation programs administered by PA SHPO.

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is managed by the National Park Service (NPS), financially supports the work of all State Historic Preservation Offices and is used for activities that promote cultural heritage while bolstering the economy and creating jobs.

The HPF, which is funded through offshore oil and gas leases rather than federal taxes, provides a significant portion of PA SHPO's annual budget.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania supports the work of PA SHPO through the General Government Operations fund and the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund. PA SHPO also supplements its annual HPF budget through a number of partnerships with other state and federal agencies to support staffing and program activities.

PA SHPO DIVISIONS

PA SHPO is divided into four units, each with different programs and responsibilities under NHPA and the Pennsylvania History Code. Together, the divisions provide public outreach, education, training and technical assistance to all constituents.

PRESERVATION SERVICES

The Preservation Services Division manages the National Register of Historic Places, administers the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, and assists municipalities and organizations with community preservation planning.

PRESERVATION INCENTIVES

The Preservation Incentives Division administers the planning and construction grants of the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program, manages the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program, assists applicants applying for the federal Historic Tax Credit and state Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs, and advises the owners of properties with preservation covenants through the Historic Property Inspection Program.

PRESERVATION SUPPORT

The Preservation Support Division oversees PA SHPO's historic and archaeological resource survey programs (PAGS and PASS), includes the office education program, manages PA-SHARE and its companion mobile tool Surveyor, triages incoming projects, conducts initial project reviews, and assists users through the PA-SHARE Help Desk.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Environmental Review Division manages the consultation process for project reviews that may affect historic properties, including archaeological sites, in cooperation with state and federal agencies under NHPA and the Pennsylvania History Code.

Learn more about PA SHPO's programs on our blog's "About the PA SHPO" page
<https://pahistoricpreservation.com/about/>



PA SHPO staff in January 2025

PENNSYLVANIA'S STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

[Historic Preservation: The Keystone of Community](#) is Pennsylvania's statewide historic preservation plan for 2025 to 2035.

Through its goals, objectives, and action items, the plan lays out a framework for Pennsylvania to continue making progress through historic preservation. This plan is written to help organizations, individuals, agencies, and governments learn about the Commonwealth's historic resources and archaeological sites and become better stewards of our shared history and historic places. These audiences are encouraged to adopt and implement the plan—in whole or in part—to reach their own goals and objectives.

Learn more at

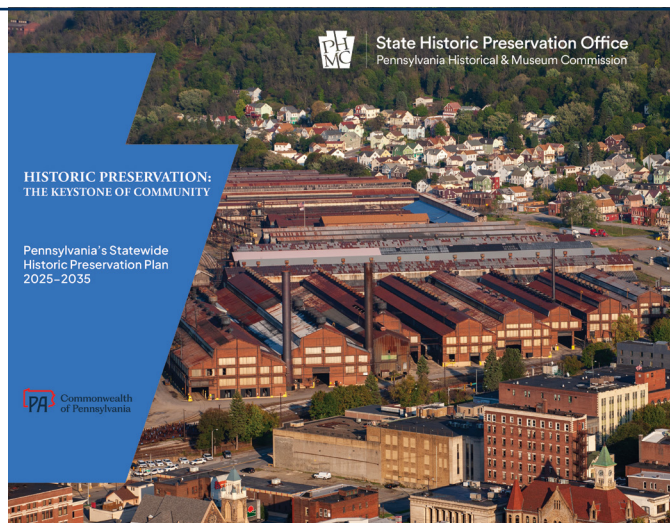
www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/about-historic-preservation/statewide-historic-preservation-plan.html

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AWARDS

PA SHPO's Community Initiative Awards recognize organizations, municipalities, agencies, and individuals whose work reflects the spirit of Pennsylvania's statewide historic preservation plan.

View the list of award winners and learn more at

www.pa.gov/services/phmc/submit-a-preservation-success-story.html



Johnstown, Cambria County, on the cover of Pennsylvania's statewide historic preservation plan.



Bob Joyce and his team at the Titusville Iron Works in Titusville, Crawford County, received a PA SHPO Community Initiative Award for their work turning the historic industrial property into a multipurpose community gathering spot with a bar, restaurant, museum, and event venue, preserving a part of Titusville's history and spurring revitalization of the city's downtown.

A Year of Activities and Accomplishments

The benefits of PA SHPO's historic preservation programs can be seen throughout the Commonwealth. These programs help Pennsylvanians realize preservation outcomes for the places that are important to them through activities that educate, record, advise, support, and commemorate.

\$334.8+ MILLION

of new rehabilitation work in Pennsylvania's communities through **22** completed federal historic tax credit projects

30,700+

people in Pennsylvania reached through **410+** in-person and virtual engagements

8,600+

submissions reviewed for **6200+** federal- or state-funded or permitted projects

2,660+

historic and **230+** archaeological resources added to PA-SHARE

485

properties were evaluated for their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

49

Pennsylvania municipalities are part of the Certified Local Government program

44

places closer to reaching their preservation goals because of **32** Keystone Historic Preservation construction grants and **12** planning grants

29

properties recognized for their significance with listing in the National Register of Historic Places

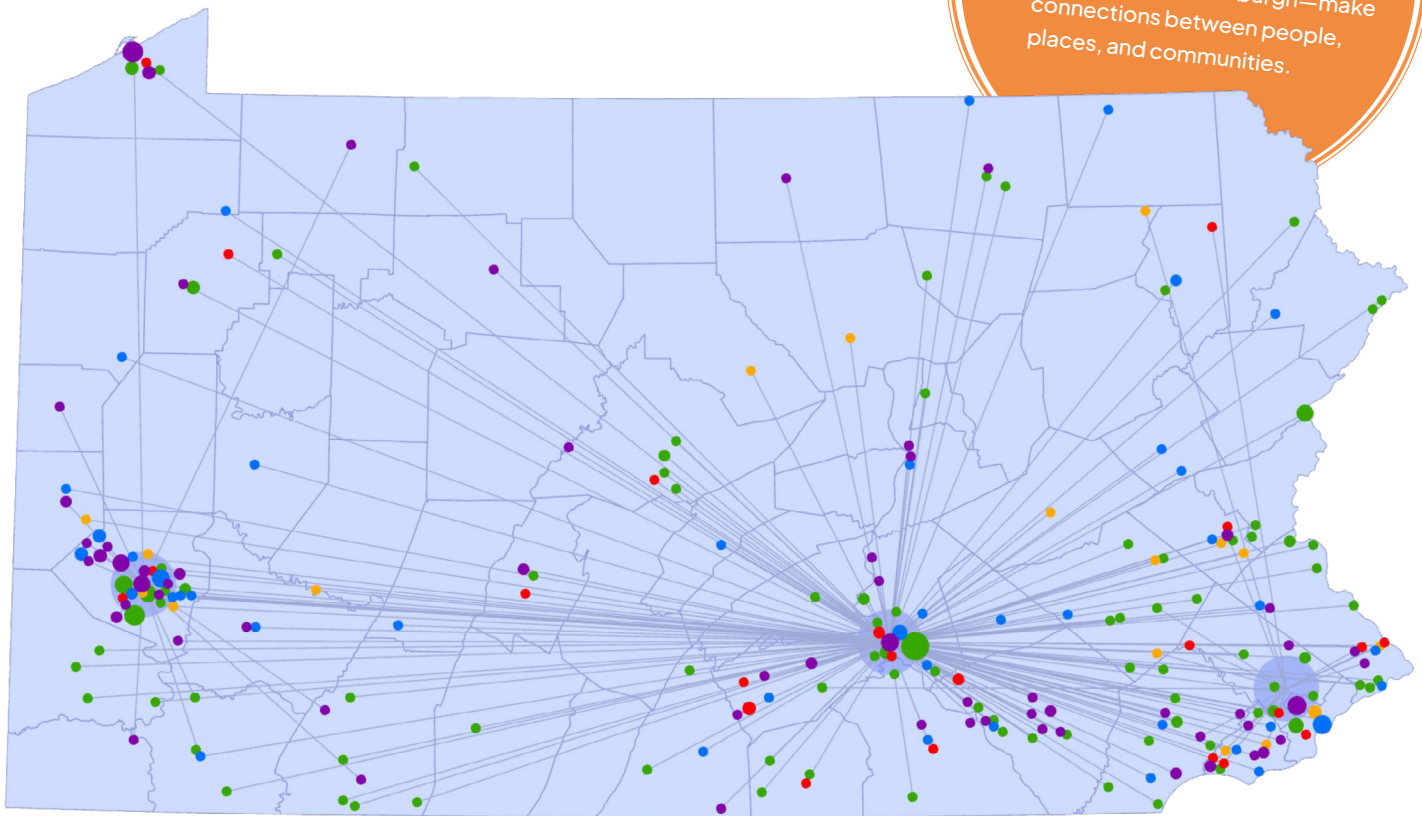
21

projects received **\$5 million** in Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credits

15

Pennsylvania Historical Markers dedicated throughout the Commonwealth

This map represents the many ways and many places that PA SHPO's 27 staff members in three offices—Fort Washington, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh—make connections between people, places, and communities.



● EDUCATING ● RECORDING ● ADVISING ● SUPPORTING ● COMMEMORATING

Educating | CONNECTING WITH PENNSYLVANIANS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

A key component of the process to develop Pennsylvania's new statewide historic preservation plan, *Historic Preservation: The Keystone of Community*, was connecting with people across Pennsylvania. During the development of the statewide plan, PA SHPO connected with Pennsylvanians in different ways, including two different online surveys, 20 small group educational and listening sessions, a crowd-sourcing Wikimap, questionnaires, and interviews. These connections formed the basis for the vision and goals that will guide historic preservation in the Commonwealth for the next decade.

The planning team prioritized connecting with people who interact with historic places but not with historic preservation or PA SHPO. Participants represented a mix of established partners, new stakeholders, and communities that do not often or typically work in the

historic preservation realm. Through the statewide plan outreach, online and in person in places like Carbondale, Lackawanna County; Emporium, Cameron County; and Hollidaysburg, Blair County, we heard that Pennsylvanians support historic preservation at the local, state, and federal levels through programs that support tourism, economic development, and celebrate our unique stories.

Outreach is not only one of the most important activities in the statewide planning process but it is also the foundation for successful preservation work. PA SHPO places a high value on connecting with people to learn about their experiences with historic preservation and historic places, to educate Pennsylvanians about the value of historic preservation in their community, and to hear their ideas and suggestions to realize more preservation outcomes.



The statewide plan educational meeting and listening session in Pittsburgh was held at Temple Rodef Shalom. This home of the Rodef Shalom Congregation was designed by architect Henry Hornbostel in 1906 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.



The owner of the First National Bank in Carbondale, Lackawanna County, hosted a statewide plan meeting drawing a variety of people and organizations from northeastern Pennsylvania. The City of Carbondale was incorporated in 1851 and its history is closely tied to that of the canal and anthracite coal industry.

Recording

STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIP FOR PROACTIVE SURVEY STREAMLINES PROJECTS

PA SHPO has developed a proactive survey program, the State-Owned Historic Properties Survey, for Commonwealth-owned properties that include buildings 50 years old or older. Information collected through this program will further assist state agencies in effective and efficient consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

The goal of the program is for PA SHPO to assist state agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities under the State History Code, balancing agency program needs alongside preservation considerations. Through this program, properties are documented and evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places to determine what resources are worthy of preservation consideration during project planning. The related historic property inventories can help prioritize buildings and features for consideration of preservation

as well as streamline consultation with the SHPO for projects that may not be of preservation concern.

PA SHPO tested and developed this program with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC). Over two years, DOC facilities across the Commonwealth were surveyed:

- State Correctional Institution (SCI) Chester
- SCI Dallas and SCI Waymart
- SCI Camp Hill
- Department of Corrections Training Academy
- SCI Huntingdon
- SCI Laurel Highlands
- SCI Muncy, SCI Rockview, and Quehanna Motivational Boot Camp
- SCI Mercer and SCI Cambridge Springs



SCI Huntingdon in Huntingdon County includes a mix of buildings that reflect the history and evolution of Pennsylvania's penal system from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The property was established in 1889 as the State Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon and was expanded and renamed the Pennsylvania Industrial School in 1931. In 1960, the property became the SCI Huntingdon campus still used today.



A collection of more than 50 buildings and structures on over 1,000 acres in Luzerne County, SCI Dallas is important as a state correctional institution for young adults and for its collection of International Style buildings utilizing plans popular for correctional institutions in the mid-20th century.

Advising

SECTION 106 MITIGATION PRESERVES PUBLIC ART

This year, 28 abstract sculptural mosaic panels by Virgil Cantini, a significant multimedia artist of the mid-20th century, were installed in Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Steel Plaza Station. This was the successful result of a process that began in 2018, when PA SHPO participated in a consultation for a highway project connecting portions of downtown Pittsburgh that would require the removal of a pedestrian tunnel containing the Cantini artwork.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, PA SHPO's environmental review staff advise and assist federal and state agencies in determining if their projects will impact significant historic resources and, if so, how to mitigate the effects. In this case, it was determined that a tunnel was essential to Cantini's vision, so PA SHPO and other preservation partners identified a pedestrian corridor that closely adhered to the dimensions of the original tunnel and facilitated the reinstallation of the artwork there, where it is again on view to the public.



Thanks to recent cleaning and restoration efforts, seven Cantini signatures are now visible within the Mosaic Tunnel. Prior to the cleaning, it was believed that Cantini had only signed the mural in one location.



The Mosaic Tunnel by Cantini was completed and first installed in 1964. As a result of the Section 106 process, it was relocated for appreciation by future generations in 2024.

Supporting | HISTORIC TAX CREDITS CREATE COMMUNITY ASSETS

Connellsville's Union Passenger Station was built in 1911 to serve the growing demand for passenger rail travel in southwestern Pennsylvania and to neighboring states. Serving two lines – the Western Maryland Railway to the east and the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad to the west – the station is designed with a three-story tower that housed the teletype and control room for the interlinking switches of both lines. The Great Depression and declining rail travel in the 1930s led to the station's closing in 1939. Between 1955 to 1995, the station was used as a car dealership, auto parts store, and headquarters for a specialty glass company.

In 2017, the Somerset Trust Company began a \$1.9 million rehabilitation of the historic station into office and meeting spaces to support its expansion as a community financial organization. The station had been listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996,



The interior of the station was both preserved and updated for modern, 21st century use. The building's important original spaces, like the stationmaster's office, lobby, and stairs, were retained, and original materials were preserved where possible. Partition walls, new doors, and new finishes were installed where needed to accommodate the building's new function.

allowing Somerset Trust Company to use federal and state historic tax credits as key components of the overall project financing. This prominent building is now once again a beacon that reminds the visitors and residents in Connellsville of its great history.

Intended to stimulate private investment in historic places—and by extension, communities—historic tax credits are the most widely used historic preservation incentive program. PA SHPO administers the federal tax credit in Pennsylvania

in partnership with the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service and supports the Department of Community & Economic Development in administration of the state historic tax credit. PA SHPO works closely with property owners, architects, and developers to help them navigate the three-part application, to advise them about proposed work, and to identify creative solutions to design and construction challenges.



Rehabilitation work on the exterior included repair of historic masonry, windows, decorative wood details, lighting, and the roof and the installation of new doors and ADA access. The work preserved the building's distinctive tower, roofline, and overall character.

Commemorating

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING CELEBRATES LOCAL HISTORY

In the late 1700s, the small, rural crossroads village of Bath only consisted of a few homes and shops. Just 50 years later, the town emerged as a regional center of commerce, industry, culture, and transit in the mostly rural Northampton County and greater Lehigh Valley, becoming a year-round destination for restaurants, dancing, theater, and sleighing parties during the winter. The key to this growth was its location, as six roads intersected in the village center. Wagons of grain and goods passing through the streets became commonplace and established Bath as a regional transit hub by 1800. Less than a century later, public transit lines using the same roadways brought people and goods to Bath.

Today, Bath is significant as a historic commercial center in the Lehigh Valley and for its well-preserved architecture. Bath's collection of early Georgian



This prominent house on Chestnut Street was built by Jacob Vogel in 1813. It is an excellent example of an early Federal-style residence and retains distinctive characteristics like limestone walls, chimneys at the gable walls, two doors with simple wood trim, and large wood windows divided into 12 small panes of glass.

and Federal style buildings is uncommon in the region, and it also contains excellent examples of 19th and early 20th century architectural styles. The Bath Crossroads Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February 2024. The listing was the culmination of decades of research and outreach by dedicated property owners and a local community organization to recognize the history of their small town.

Listing a property in the National Register is a multistep process that includes the preparation of a nomination, review by PA SHPO and the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board, and final approval from the National Park Service. PA SHPO helps property owners, local community groups, and others to navigate the National Register process to realize their preservation goals, whether they are to foster pride in a community, spur advocacy efforts, or utilize preservation incentives.



East Main Street in Bath, Northampton County, illustrates the variety of architectural styles in the historic district, including residential, mixed use, and commercial buildings.



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OTHER INFORMATION

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PHMC and PA SHPO
pa.gov/agencies/phmc.html
pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html

PA-SHARE
share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/landing

Social Media
facebook.com/PATrailsofHistory
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youtube.com/user/PaTrailsofHistory

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