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Annual Report

Pennsylvania State
Historic Preservation Office



McKeehan-Baish Barn,
Cumberland County



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION

Welcome to PA SHPO

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) 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 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 U.S. Congress' Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is managed by the National Park Service, 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 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.

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.

MAPPING, ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES & SURVEY (MARS)

The MARS Division oversees PA SHPO's historic and archaeological resource survey programs (PAGS and PASS), 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.

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

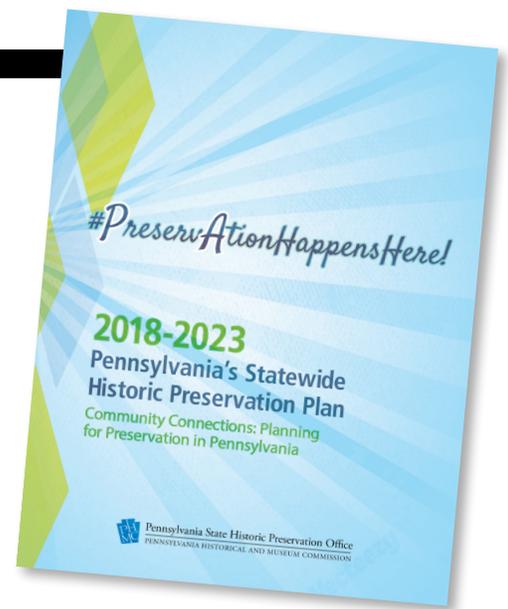


#PRESERVATIONHAPPENSHERE: PENNSYLVANIA'S STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

Every community deserves the chance to realize the economic, environmental, and quality-of-life benefits that historic preservation offers. Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, with its four realistic and relatable goals, can help.

The statewide historic preservation planning process gathered brilliant ideas about how we can improve the future of the Commonwealth's historic places from thousands of Pennsylvanians. The resulting plan is a means to achieving that goal, but to be successful, the plan must mobilize people and resources.

Learn more at <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Pages/Statewide-Historic-Preservation-Plan.aspx>.



In 2023, PA SHPO started the planning process for the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, which will go into effect in 2025.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AWARDS

PA SHPO's Community Initiative Awards recognize organizations, municipalities, agencies, and individuals whose work embodies the spirit of #PreservationHappensHere.

#PreservationHappensHere is the idea that great preservation activities are happening every day across Pennsylvania. These activities, whether they may or may not be thought of as historic preservation, nevertheless need to be identified, shared, and celebrated.

View the list of award winners and learn more at

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/education-outreach/Pages/Community-Initiative-Awards.aspx>.



The Blairsville Area Underground Railroad (BAUGRR) received a 2022 Community Initiative Award for its ongoing dedication to educating residents and visitors about an underrepresented part of the region's history and its partnership with a local brewery to reach audiences in a creative and accessible way.

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.

\$532.9 MILLION+

of new rehabilitation work in Pennsylvania's communities through **27** completed federal historic tax credit projects

33,450+

people across Pennsylvania reached through **451** in-person and virtual engagements"

8,300+

historic and **310+** archaeological resources added to PA-SHARE

8,100+

submissions reviewed for **3,380** federal—or state—funded or permitted projects

429

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

50

Pennsylvania municipalities are part of the Certified Local Government program

48

places closer to reaching their preservation goals because of **31** Keystone Historic Preservation construction grants and **17** planning grants

22

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

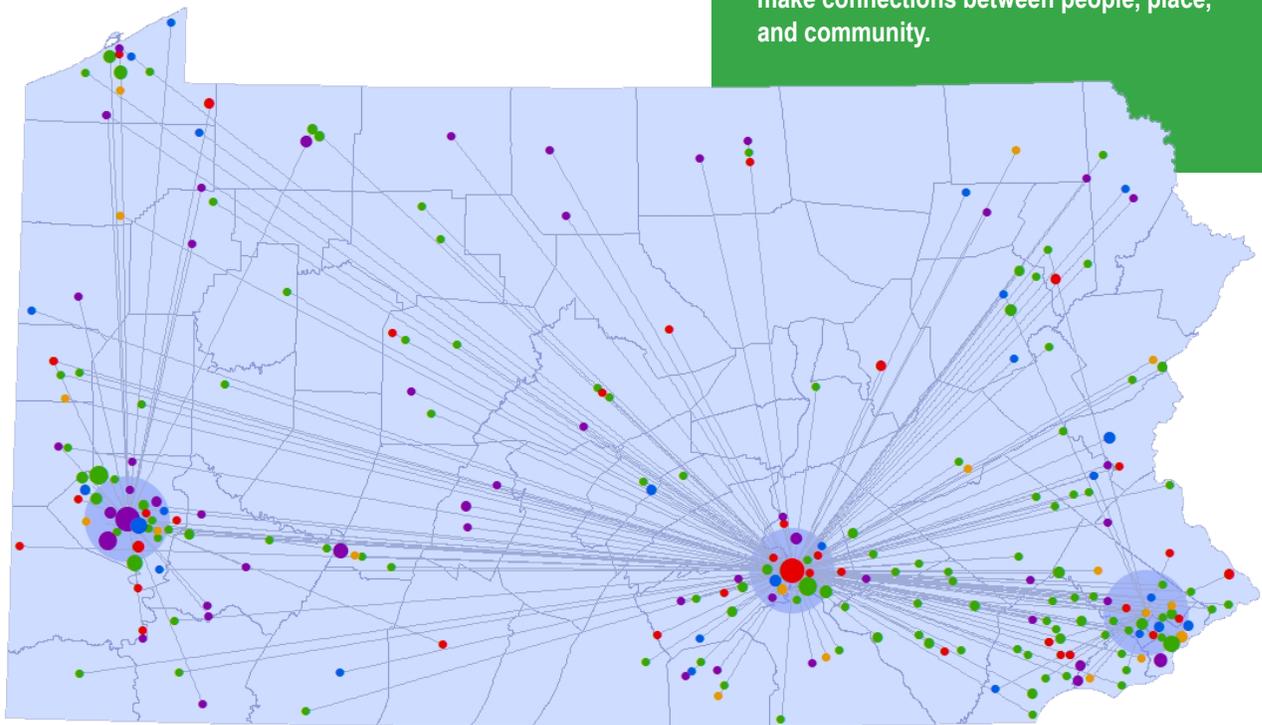
19

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

14

Pennsylvania Historical Markers dedicated throughout the Commonwealth

This map represents the many ways and many places that PA SHPO's 26 staff members in three offices—Fort Washington, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh—make connections between people, place, and community.



● EDUCATING ● RECORDING ● ADVISING
● SUPPORTING ● COMMEMORATING

EDUCATING

PA SHPO Showcases Baseline Survey at Pennsylvania Historical Association Conference

PA SHPO launched the Baseline Survey program in 2020 to document thousands of older and historic resources across a vast geographic area of Pennsylvania quickly and efficiently. Priority for survey are places that reflect themes and geographies underrepresented in the Pennsylvania Historic Places Inventory, which is maintained in PA SHPO's online database, the Pennsylvania State Historic and Archaeological Resource Exchange (PA-SHARE). Over the course of three years, PA SHPO added more than 16,000 new resources in 55 counties through PA-SHARE's Surveyor app, which was launched in 2021.

Education is central to PA SHPO's work and necessary to achieve preservation outcomes across Pennsylvania. PA SHPO regularly communicates to its many partners, ranging from local community groups to state agencies, the numerous benefits of survey to identify Pennsylvania's older and historic places. In October, PA SHPO had the opportunity to educate attendees about Baseline Survey at the Pennsylvania Historical Association's (PHA) conference in Camp Hill, Dauphin County, which focused on how Pennsylvania's historic places, sites, and monuments shape our understanding of the past and inform an inclusive future.

PA SHPO and Baseline Survey partners Dr. Steven Burg from Shippensburg University and Lisa Dugas from Big Pine presented "Making Pennsylvania History More Timely, Interesting, and Inclusive: The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office's Baseline Survey Initiative, 2020–2024." PA SHPO led the session with an introduction to the Baseline Survey effort, its priorities to record underrepresented places like African American churches and cemeteries, and how it connects to the practice of history. The presentation also included examples of how Baseline Survey has enhanced our understanding of Pennsylvania history with an overview of interesting and unknown places in southwest Pennsylvania and discussion about the material culture of the Commonwealth's African American cemeteries.



PA SHPO Pennsylvania Above Ground Survey Coordinator presenting at the PHA conference in October 2023.

RECORDING

PA SHPO Adds Archaeology to Baseline Survey, Statewide

In the context of PA SHPO's Baseline Survey, surficial archaeological evidence (SAE) is the indication of one or more former structures or activity areas that are visible on the surface, such as foundations, middens, and other features or altered terrain, that are 50 years old or older. Although the focus of Baseline Survey is on visible evidence, the lack of such evidence does not mean that a potential archaeological site does not exist, particularly if suggested by background research.

PA SHPO added surficial archaeological evidence as a priority for recordation in the second year of Baseline Survey. Survey contractors were reporting from the field that places they expected to find and record—for example, a small local industry or church—had been demolished. Recognizing the potential for historic archaeological sites, PA SHPO revised Baseline Survey to record these locations of former buildings or places using the archaeology form in PA-SHARE's Surveyor app.

More than 695 areas of archaeological potential have been identified to date. Of these potential areas, more than 35 were determined to include enough information to receive an official Pennsylvania Archaeology Site Survey (PASS) number. Areas that did not receive PASS numbers serve as opportunities for future archaeological research and investigations.



Grant Street Stone Building and Ruins (36VE0337) in Venango County. This site contains remains of a hearth/foundation on the southern side and a stone structure on the northern side.

ADVISING

PA SHPO, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Sign Programmatic Agreement, Statewide

One of PA SHPO's responsibilities under the NHPA, specifically Section 106, is consultation with federal agencies when permitted, licensed, or funded projects may affect historic properties, including archaeological sites. PA SHPO advises and assists agencies or their applicants through the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties in a project's area of potential effects, consideration of effects, consultation to avoid or minimize adverse effects, and mitigation if adverse effects cannot be avoided.

PA SHPO proactively works with agencies to improve efficiency of Section 106 while fostering the protection and consideration of historic properties in project planning. Programmatic Agreements are a tool for streamlining consultation for projects of similar or repetitive effects in order to focus on more meaningful consultation ultimately leading to more preservation outcomes. In 2023, PA SHPO executed the statewide Programmatic Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) for certain HUD-assisted projects, from multifamily housing to healthcare, from disaster recovery to public housing.

PA SHPO's agreement with HUD and the ACHP, in effect for 10 years, exempts certain types of activities, such as refinancing of existing buildings, replacement of heating systems, bathroom and kitchen remodeling, and repairs of roofs and windows, from PA SHPO review. To benefit from the Programmatic Agreement, recipients of HUD funds must officially sign on to the agreement, and consequently, PA SHPO continues to proactively reach out and encourage municipalities, from cities to counties, to sign on to the Programmatic Agreement.



To date, 10 local governments that conduct Section 106 reviews of HUD projects, including the City of Wilkes-Barre in Luzerne County, have signed on to the programmatic agreement.

SUPPORTING

Rehabilitation of the Historic Yorktowne Hotel, York, York County

The Yorktowne Hotel, in the heart of downtown York, has been a local and regional landmark for almost a century. Designed in the Renaissance Revival style by architect W.L. Stoddart, the 11-story brick building opened in 1925 with 198 rooms, ballrooms, lounges, and many amenities. The hotel weathered cycles of prosperity and challenge throughout the 20th century and eventually fell into a period of neglect and deterioration, with a leaky roof, failing masonry, and an interior that was extremely outdated, and failed to meet modern code requirements.

In 2017, the Yorktowne's owners began a \$65 million dollar rehabilitation of the historic hotel to turn the vacant landmark into a new Hilton hotel and 21st-century event venue. Because the Yorktowne is a contributing building in the National Register-listed York Historic District, the project was eligible for the federal and state historic tax credit programs. The project was able to meet the other qualifications for both incentives and the 20 percent federal credit and a \$300,000 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit became vital components in the project's overall financing package. The project was completed in 2023.

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 Yorktowne's exterior included preservation of the historic masonry features and the original revolving entrance door, window repair, and tenant storefront modifications.



COMMEMORATING

Recognizing Midland Cemetery's African American History, Swatara Township, Dauphin County

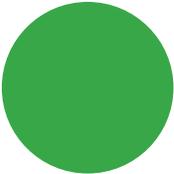
Midland Cemetery can trace its origin to circa 1795 as the burial ground for enslaved, formerly enslaved, and free Black residents and received its formal and legal name around 1877. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Midland evolved to be a true community cemetery and expanded to serve the growing African American population drawn to the area by industrial jobs in Steelton and the surrounding area. It is the final resting place for United States Colored Troops (USCT) soldiers, Buffalo Soldiers, veterans of 20th century conflicts, leaders in Steelton's many African American churches, and the Black community at large. The Friends of Midland Cemetery organized in 1993 for the sole purpose of restoring and preserving Midland Cemetery, which had been largely abandoned and was overgrown with trees and vegetation.

PA SHPO worked closely with the Friends of Midland Cemetery for its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Friends' interest in listing was an official recognition of Midland's African American history and significance as a site of memory and commemoration in the local Black community. As a community institution, an African American cemetery often provides important historical evidence about African American agency, settlement patterns, cultural and religious influences, economic development, social relationships, and genealogy. In many places in Pennsylvania, a cemetery may be the only surviving physical place to tell the story of the local African American community.

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's recently approved Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for African American Churches and Cemeteries streamlined the preparation of the nomination, making it easier to complete for someone not familiar with the National Register form, as well as its review and approval. The MPDF provided the necessary historic context about Black churches and cemeteries, outlined the ways in which these community institutions are significant and could be eligible for listing in the National Register, and identified what physical characteristics and historic research is needed for listing.



The earliest surviving dated tombstone in the cemetery is from 1869 and the last burial occurred in 1982.



OTHER INFORMATION

Josh Shapiro
Governor

Hayley Haldeman
Chair, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Andrea Lowery
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, and State Historic Preservation Officer

Andrea MacDonald
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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