



State Historic Preservation Office  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION: THE KEYSTONE OF COMMUNITY

Pennsylvania's Statewide  
Historic Preservation Plan  
2025–2035







Meadowcroft Rockshelter is one of the oldest recorded sites of human habitation in North America. Excavations at this deeply stratified archaeological site span nearly 16,000 years and have revealed important information about the earliest human migrations into the region including diet, technology, and cultural change through time. Meadowcroft Rockshelter was recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 2005.



# KEYSTONES OF COMMUNITY



Pennsylvanians have deep connections to their history and the historic places that represent their communities, past and present. Often, these places and what they represent are significant parts of individual and community identities. They also tell the story of Pennsylvania, from the Commonwealth's early beginnings to the 21st century.

We asked Pennsylvanians to help us select 50 places that every Pennsylvanian should know. We received more than 2,200 responses. The resulting list, used to illustrate this plan, represents a cross-section of historic places that range from local treasures like the Wellsboro Diner to engineering marvels like Horseshoe Curve to international icons like Independence Hall.

There are many, many more places that every Pennsylvanian should experience and this list only scratches the surface. It would be impossible to characterize Pennsylvania's diverse, eclectic, and extensive history in a state of this size with only 50 places.

Throughout the plan, these 50 PA Places are presented as postcards with colorful borders and badges. The border colors correspond to the eras they are from:

- **Pre-Contact**
- **18th century**
- **19th century**
- **20th century**
- **21st century**

The badges include the place name and location and captions provide details about the place. The 50 PA Places photographs were taken by Don Giles, Bradley Maule, and PA SHPO staff.

A list and map of the 50 places can be found in [Appendix A](#).

*Cover image: Johnstown, Cambria County*  
*Back image: Bethlehem, Northampton County*





*The Battle of Brandywine was the largest single day engagement of the American Revolution. On September 11, 1777, almost 30,000 soldiers from both sides fought in an area of about 35,000 acres. American troops were defeated but the battle was a significant part of the Philadelphia Campaign.*



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*The area in and around the small town of Gettysburg was the site a three day battle from July 1-3, 1863 between Union and Confederate forces. The Union victory over Robert E. Lee's army is considered the high water mark of the Civil War. As the single bloodiest battle of the conflict, Gettysburg has been recognized as hallowed ground since 1863.*



# A Letter from the PHMC Chair

Our country will soon celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2026. This is an important milestone for the United States, and history groups across the nation have been hard at work over the past few years identifying themes, organizing events, and investing in the historic places that tell the story of the country's emergence as a new democracy in 1776.

The 200th anniversary celebrations around the 1976 Bicentennial ushered in a wave of historic preservation activity in Pennsylvania. Many local historical societies can trace their origins to the Bicentennial. In some places, history and historic preservation groups conducted architectural surveys in their communities to document the places that had borne witness to their Colonial Era beginnings and the American Revolution. Since then, history and historic preservation work in Pennsylvania, and throughout the country, has evolved to tell broader stories through diverse places and embrace communities of all shapes and sizes.

Historic preservation has always been a work in progress, evolving to meet society's needs as our communities and cultures change. While preservation at its core will always be about the nexus of history and place, our conversations about what to preserve, how to preserve it, who should preserve it, and why it matters – and more – have evolved. It will continue to evolve, even as we work through this statewide plan over the next 10 years.

*Historic Preservation: The Keystone of Community* lays out a framework through its goals and objectives for Pennsylvania to continue making progress through historic preservation. This progress might not look the same to every community. To some it may be toward more inclusive and accessible

preservation practice, while to others it might be toward a more sustainable future. However, we are all moving toward the ultimate goal of preserving more of Pennsylvania's historic places, so that they will be here for our country's next milestone anniversary in 2076 and beyond.

*Hayley A. Haldeman*

Hayley Haldeman, Chair  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission







The idea of a recreational park started with the construction of a swimming hole in 1925. On July 4, 1926, Knoebel's Grove officially opened. The forested banks of Roaring Creek attracted many families to the area. Cottages were built, campsites and log cabins were added over time. Despite devastating floods, Knoebel's has endured and the Northumberland County attraction continues to expand with more amusements being added each year.



# A Letter from the PHMC Executive Director

Dear Fellow Pennsylvanians:

We are pleased to share with you the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's historic preservation plan, *Historic Preservation: The Keystone of Community*. This document is the result of a year's worth of listening sessions and conversations about historic preservation held across the Commonwealth and represents a statewide strategic approach to Pennsylvania's historic and cultural resources.

With this plan, it is our hope that Pennsylvanians will embrace historic places as opportunities to foster connections, enhance our unique communities, and provide sustainable solutions for the future.

As we gathered input from thousands of Pennsylvanians, we confirmed that our neighbors see historic places as essential components in conveying unique Pennsylvania stories and as tangible expressions of heritage to be preserved for future generations. They also see these historic properties as playing a critical role in education, placemaking, identity, tourism, and economic vibrance.

In 2024, as this plan was being developed, the Commonwealth invested significantly in Pennsylvania communities and historic places by increasing the state historic preservation tax credit to \$20 million, establishing a \$20 million Main Street Matters program, and investing \$15 million in tourism marketing. The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission has also contributed by identifying, fostering, and celebrating historic places across the Commonwealth through various programs including Baseline Survey, the Historical Marker Program,

PA-SHARE 2.0, Community Initiative Awards, and proactive National Register, marker, and survey initiatives.

It is our hope that we can continue to build on this investment as a Commonwealth, recognizing the crucial part that historic preservation plays in Pennsylvania communities. With this plan, we invite you to explore the Commonwealth's diverse historic places, whether in person, virtually, or through social media. We hope this plan will help you identify principles, goals, or objectives that you can use to elevate and celebrate Pennsylvania's historic places and that it will inspire you to work with others to preserve and promote historic places in your community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Lowery". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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



# A Letter from the PA SHPO Director

This is the third statewide historic preservation plan for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that I have had the honor to develop alongside my PA SHPO and PHMC colleagues, consultants, preservation and archaeology professionals, and passionate Pennsylvanians working every day to preserve the older and historic places that tell our stories.

With each new plan, I realize something important about Pennsylvanians and historic preservation. Sometimes these realizations spark a new appreciation for what is happening around us. In the previous statewide historic preservation plan, #PreservationHappensHere, the realization was that preservation really was happening everywhere across the Commonwealth.

Sometimes those realizations reinforce what I already knew. With this plan, it is the importance of connection. Preservation is most successful when Pennsylvanians are connected and work together across backgrounds and disciplines to reach our shared goal of more preservation outcomes across the Commonwealth.

Our research and engagement work to prepare this plan clearly reflects that Pennsylvanians want to see stronger connections between preservation and other related disciplines and programs and a more holistic approach to preservation at large.

Historic preservation is already a holistic discipline. It encompasses a vast array of historic places, including buildings, structures, objects, archaeological sites, historic districts, landscapes, and communities. However, it can be strengthened by dedicated efforts to connect it to and develop partnerships with other broad place-focused disciplines and programs

for the environment, climate resiliency, open space, land use, local and regional planning, history and culture, design, and economic development.

By integrating historic preservation into other disciplines, it naturally becomes a more central, necessary, and accessible part of a community's identity. Historic preservation can be the keystone of every community in Pennsylvania.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea MacDonald".

Andrea MacDonald, Director, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission





*The Flight 93 Memorial is one of three places in the country significant for their association with the events that took place on September 11, 2001. Designed by Paul Murdoch Architects and Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, the memorial honors the passengers and crew of Flight 93 and their final resting place near Shanksville.*

## Acknowledgments

Developing and delivering an informed, responsive, and relevant statewide historic preservation plan is a monumental task. It is truly a collaborative effort of hard work on the part of many people who contributed their time, energy, and ideas. Special thanks go to many groups and individuals, starting with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) staff and their partners for their commitment to developing a relevant and inspirational plan.

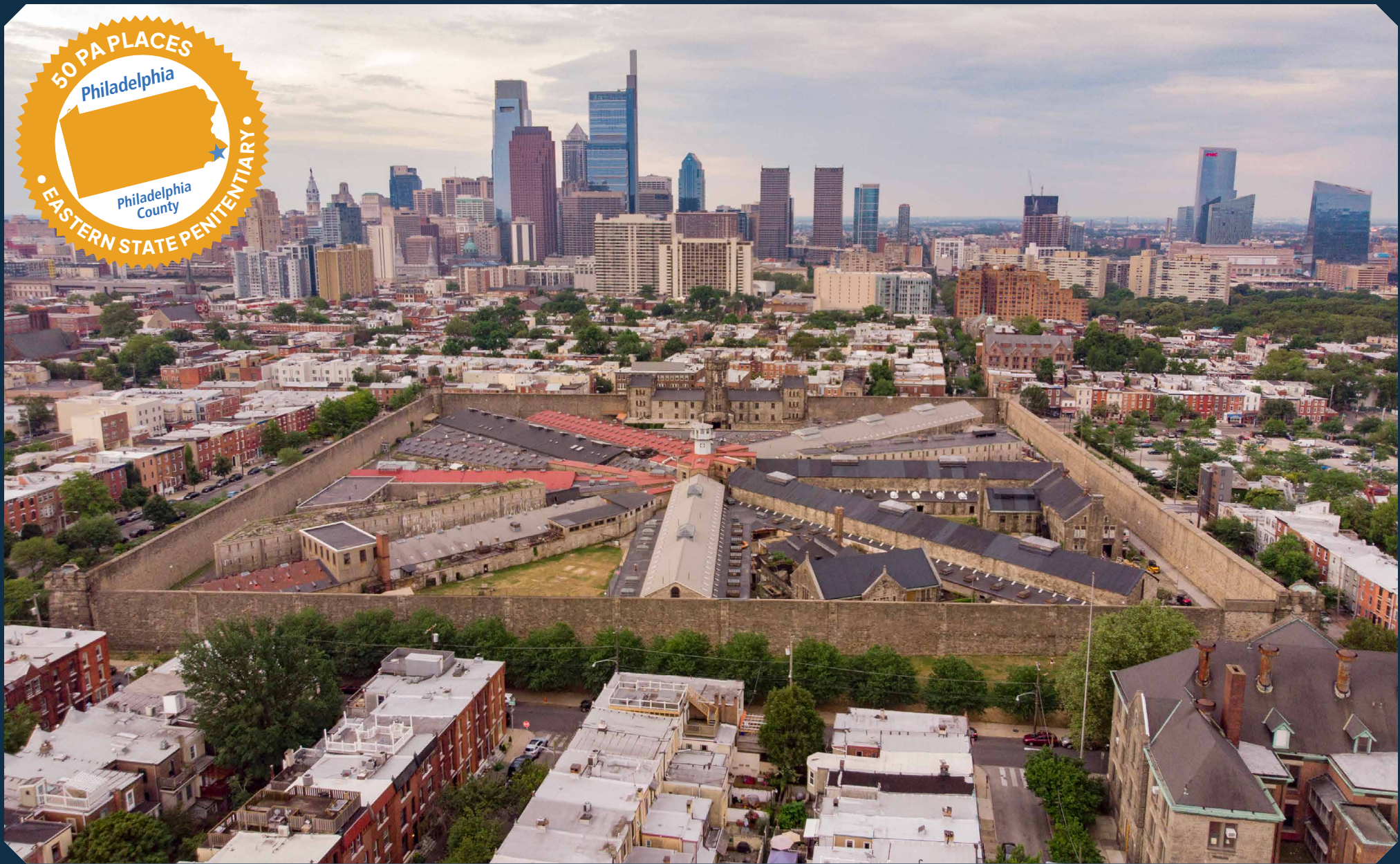
A special thank you to Pennsylvanians representing the Commonwealth's diverse communities for sharing their valuable time with us to take and promote the online public survey, participate in an engagement event, contribute to the wikimap, and provide feedback on earlier drafts.

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) Chair Hayley Haldeman, PHMC Executive Director Andrea Lowery, members of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Board provided support to this project. Ken Weinstein, PHMC Commissioner from Philadelphia, and Ben Ford, Chair of the Board, served as Plan Ambassadors throughout the process. PHMC photographer Don Giles contributed several of the 50 PA Places photographs.

Rob Armstrong and Heather MacDougall of WSP Inc. served as the project consultants. Their role included designing and executing the statewide plan outreach and engagement and developing the themes and issues that form the basis of the action agenda.

Bradley Maule designed this plan and provided many of the photographs used to illustrate it. He enthusiastically traveled to many of the 50 PA Places to capture these Commonwealth treasures.





Eastern State Penitentiary operated from 1829 to 1971 and is considered the world's first penitentiary. Designed by John Haviland, the prison is designed in a radial plan, with a central administrative area and seven wings, like spokes on a wheel. Linking solitude with moral and vocational instruction, it exemplified the Pennsylvania System of penology and became a model for over 300 prisons worldwide.



# Statewide Historic Preservation Planning

Statewide historic preservation plans are guides for planning and decision making. They are intended to encourage planning for historic places in programs, policies, and projects while balancing historic preservation with other interests.

They encourage broad participation in planning for historic places, define a vision, identify the challenges unique to each state, outline realistic goals to meet those challenges, and inspire communities, agencies, organizations, and individuals to act.

Two important pieces of legislation direct statewide historic preservation planning in Pennsylvania:

- The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.), sets planning obligations for state historic preservation offices in all U.S. states, territories, freely associated states, and the District of Columbia. The National Park Service (NPS) provides guidance to states for statewide planning and approves the final plan. State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) are required to have a current plan in place at all times. Plans are used as the basis for applying for and reporting on the federal funding SHPOs receive through the Historic Preservation Fund to administer federal historic preservation programs in partnership with NPS.
- The Pennsylvania History Code (Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute, Title 37, Chapter 5) provides the power and authority to prepare a comprehensive plan for the preservation of the historic resources in the Commonwealth. The statewide planning process and resulting document also satisfy many of the other duties given to PHMC for providing information about Pennsylvania's historic places and guidance and education for preserving them.

Both pieces of legislation task PHMC with the responsibility to develop the planning process and issue the resulting plan. In Pennsylvania, PA SHPO carries out these directives.

Although PA SHPO leads the planning process, the final plan itself is the result of collaboration. This collaboration will continue to be crucial as Pennsylvanians work together to realize our shared vision for preservation in Pennsylvania.



*Considered the oldest public building in continuous use in the country, the Old Chester County Courthouse was built in 1724 and is an excellent example of Georgian-style architecture in Pennsylvania. The property was restored in the 1920s.*





Fort Pitt was built by the English during the French and Indian War to control strategic access to the Ohio River valley. It was built on the site of the French's earlier Fort Duquesne, whose outline is seen in the grass here. Later, Fort Pitt was used during Pontiac's War (1763–1764) and supported the colonists in the American Revolution. The city of Pittsburgh developed around the fort. Today, the block house, the small brick building in the background to the right of the flagpole, is the only remaining 18th century building.



# About this Plan

This plan is written to help organizations, individuals, agencies, and governments learn about Pennsylvania'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 goals and objectives.

## This plan is:

- A resource for anyone interested in historic preservation in Pennsylvania.
- A framework for working with historic places, including archaeological sites.
- A guide for organizations, agencies, municipalities, and others to include historic places and archaeological sites in their work.
- A tool to assist with the writing of grant applications and funding proposals for state and federal funds.
- A strategic plan for realizing more preservation outcomes in the Commonwealth.

## This plan is not:

- The PA SHPO or PHMC work plan. PA SHPO will use the plan like others to help define annual office and agency priorities, apply for funding, and better connect with Pennsylvania's many communities.
- The responsibility of one person, agency, organization, or other entity to implement. The plan's success depends on the work and dedication of all Pennsylvanians.
- A road map to stop change or progress. Historic preservation is about managing change and working across the board to consider historic places in our changing environment.
- Everything to everyone. Statewide plans need to be clear and concise calls to action that address a broad range of historic places, themes, and issues. Users are encouraged to learn more about historic preservation and Pennsylvania's historic places beyond the information provided in this plan.



## Jargon, Abbreviations, and Word Choice

The particular words and abbreviations used in preservation practice can be barriers to participation and understanding. Where possible, we avoid the use of jargon, abbreviations, and highly technical terms and phrases and provide definitions and explanations when needed.

The following list includes words and phrases used in this plan. Many may have different meanings outside the context of this plan and the practice of historic preservation. The definitions provided below indicate how these words and phrases are used in this plan.

### Abbreviations

- *Commonwealth*: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- *History Code*: Pennsylvania State History Code.
- *NPS*: National Park Service.
- *PA SHPO*: Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.
- *PHMC*: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.
- *PA-SHARE*: Pennsylvania's State Historic & Archaeological Resource Exchange.

### Talking About People

**Community**: In this plan, the word *community* is used broadly to mean a group of people who share a connection through geography, place, demographics, work, values, beliefs, and

practices. A community can be people who live near one another, work or socialize together, look like each other, or value the same things. The *preservation community* is a group of people who value historic preservation and historic places and includes all people, not just preservation professionals. The *archaeological community* is a group of people, most often avocational and professional archaeologists, who practice and value archaeology.

**Native American**: There are many terms and phrases for the people who lived in North America before its colonization, such as American Indian or Indigenous People. In this plan, the term “Native American” is used for the people who lived in what is now Pennsylvania before the arrival of Europeans. Specific names of Nations and tribes are used when known or appropriate.

**Partners**: People, organizations, agencies, and others who work together to provide support through funding, programming, and consultation.

**Stakeholders**: People, organizations, agencies, and others who have an interest in historic preservation and/or historic places. Their work intersects with places, meaning the work they do, such as providing funding, delivering programs, and developing policies, impacts the built environment.

**Underrepresented**: This means inadequately represented or representation is disproportionately low when compared to other groups. This can be true for people and places.

### Talking About Places

**Archaeological site**: A location that contains physical evidence of past human activity. Evidence can include artifacts such

**REMINDER!**  
When you see  
“historic places” in  
this plan, it includes  
archaeological sites.



as pottery, stone tools, metal and glass items, or features such as hearths, pits, foundations, or ruins. In North America, sites are categorized as *pre-contact*, meaning before the arrival of Europeans, or *historic*, meaning after the arrival of Europeans.

**Built environment:** Term for our collective manmade surroundings, meaning the places, spaces, surfaces, and areas that surround us that were created by people for people. Built environments often include things like buildings of all types, transportation networks, agricultural fields, and outdoor recreation spaces. The built environment is the opposite of the natural environment.

**Cultural resources:** Inclusive term for the evidence of past human activity. It encompasses archaeological sites as well as buildings, structures, objects, and districts.

**Historic district:** Typically a collection of historic resources, such as buildings, sites, structures, and objects, within a defined boundary that is collectively significant for its historical associations or architectural merits at the local, state, or national level. A *local historic district* is one designated by municipal ordinance under the Historic District Act (also known as an Act 167 district) or the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) within the municipality's geographic boundaries. A *National Register historic district* is one listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Historic places:** Buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that are 50 years old or older. The terms “historic resources” or “historic properties” are often used instead of “historic places.” Many people use the terms interchangeably. **When you see “historic places” in the plan, it includes archaeological sites.**

**Landscape:** In preservation practice, this term can be used to refer to the collection of things that come together to form a

place. For a *natural landscape*, the things in this collection could be streams, plants, and mountains. For a *built landscape*, this collection could include buildings, parks, and roads. Used in this way, *landscape* does not refer to a firm geographic boundary or a view from a vista but rather our understanding of all of the elements that combine to make a place.

## Talking About Preservation

**Context:** Can be simply defined as the “bigger picture,” meaning circumstances or situations within which something exists. It can provide insight into why something is the way it is or what its reason for being may be. In preservation, *context* is also a tool to help us understand the forces and factors that have influenced history and the surviving built environment that reflects that history. *Historic context* refers to the research studies about a particular topic that helps us understand how a place fits into the “bigger picture” and whether it is important within a specific place and time.

**Eligible/not eligible:** These terms are used to identify the status of a historic place relative to the National Register of Historic Places. Something that is *eligible* means it meets the requirements to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Something *not eligible* does not meet the requirements for listing. In Pennsylvania, PA SHPO and the National Park Service make these determinations of eligibility.

**Historic tax credits:** An incentive program to encourage the rehabilitation of income-producing properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The federal historic tax credit is called the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit. The state historic tax credit is called the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

**Listed/listing:** Typically, this refers to a place being included in



the National Register of Historic Places. A place is “listed in” the National Register. A National Register *listing* is a place included in the National Register.

**National Register of Historic Places:** The nation’s official list of properties that are recognized for their significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or culture. The National Register was established by the National Historic Preservation Act. Listing in the National Register often changes the way communities perceive their historic resources and gives credibility to efforts to preserve these resources as irreplaceable parts of our communities.

**Preservation outcomes:** A positive result for a historic place or a preservation success. An outcome can be large or small, one part of a larger process or just one step.

**Survey:** Also called “architectural survey” or “building survey,” it is the process of gathering information about a place within a specific geographical area or theme and documenting it to an established standard. Survey typically involves background research, field documentation and photography, and data entry.

The Definitions & Glossary information sheet, available on [PHMC’s website](#), includes a list of other common historic preservation and archaeology terms that are not used frequently in this plan but are helpful for you to know. It also includes a list of useful websites with glossaries that can help you learn more about the terminology used in this plan and when talking about historic preservation.



*The Presque Isle Light, completed in 1873, is one of three lighthouses in Pennsylvania along Lake Erie. By the 1880s, it had earned the nickname “Flash Light” because of its alternating red and white flash every ten seconds. In 1944, the Coast Guard assumed control of the lighthouse until the 1990s.*



# Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

PHMC is the Commonwealth's official history agency and is composed of five bureaus: the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Archives, Historic Sites & Museums, and Management Services. PHMC provides a wide range of services and facilities to Pennsylvanians and serves as the repository of the Commonwealth's historical, archaeological, geological, and natural history collections.

The responsibilities of PHMC are based in the Pennsylvania Constitution and are further defined in the Pennsylvania History Code and the Administrative Code. The primary duties include the following:

- Conservation of Pennsylvania's historical and natural heritage
- Preservation of public records, historic documents, and objects of historic interest
- Identification, restoration, and preservation of architecturally and historically significant sites and structures.

PHMC's Commissioners meet four times a year and their meetings are open to the public. A list of current Commissioners is available on PHMC's website.

# Historic Preservation Board

Each state historic preservation program is required by the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, to maintain an adequate and qualified state review board. In Pennsylvania, this is known as the Historic Preservation Board and includes 15 members appointed by the Governor.

The board is a primarily professional body that provides advice on historic preservation matters. *Primarily professional* means that the majority of the members must meet minimum professional requirements established by NPS and represent certain professional disciplines identified in the act. Duties of the Historic Preservation Board include the following:

- Reviews National Register nominations and nomination appeals
- Reviews and provides advice about Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and the state's annual Historic Preservation Fund grant
- Provides general advice and guidance to the State Historic Preservation Officer (PHMC's Executive Director)
- Performs other duties as may be appropriate.



# The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

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, PA SHPO administers several federal programs created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), in addition to many state programs authorized through the Pennsylvania History Code (Title 37). Several laws form the consultative process:

## State Legislation

- Constitution of Pennsylvania
  - Article 1, Section 27, covers the protection of natural and historic resources
- Pennsylvania History Code
  - Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute, Title 37, Historical and Museums
- Local Historic District Act, Act 167 of 1961
- Municipalities Planning Code
- Local Government Regulations of Wireless Telecommunication Facilities

## Federal Legislation

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Historic Sites Act of 1935
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §4332(2)(C)
- Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, 49 U.S.C. §303
- Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) 30 U.S.C. §1272(e)



## PA SHPO Organization

PA SHPO is divided into separate units under the supervision of the PA SHPO Director. Together, the office provides public outreach, education, training, and technical assistance to all constituents.

Information about PA SHPO's programs can be found on [PA SHPO's blog](#) and [PHMC's website](#).

### PA SHPO's 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.

PA SHPO fulfills its mission through the following programs and services:

- Documenting historic properties and archaeological sites to help municipalities and agencies with decision-making
- Maintaining Pennsylvania's inventory of historic places
- Supporting local governments in developing historic preservation programs, including the Certified Local Government program

- Providing information, education, training, and technical assistance to all Pennsylvanians about historic preservation and its many benefits
- Identifying and nominating properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Advising federal and state agencies and local communities in matters of historic preservation
- Providing consultation and review of state and federal undertakings that may impact historic properties
- Preparing and implementing a statewide historic preservation plan to guide local and state preservation activities throughout the Commonwealth.
- Working with property owners to take advantage of the federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit) program
- Advising the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development on project eligibility for the State Historic Tax Credit program
- Managing the Pennsylvania Historical Marker program
- Administering the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program
- Monitoring the Commonwealth's historic preservation covenants.



## PA SHPO 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 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.



*Harrisburg is the third seat of government for the Commonwealth in Pennsylvania, the first being Philadelphia and the second Lancaster. The Pennsylvania State Capitol that dominates the skyline today was built between 1902 and 1906 and designed by Philadelphia architect Joseph M. Huston.*

*Huston's Renaissance Revival design of the capitol is considered one of the best examples of the style in the country and reflects the era's City Beautiful movement and dominant architectural trends for civic buildings. The Pennsylvania State Capitol is unique in the amount and quality of its art and how Huston integrated painting, sculpture, materials, and architectural details throughout the building's public and private spaces.*





The Wellsboro Diner opened in downtown Wellsboro in April 1939 as Schanacker's Diner. It retains the classic characteristics of a diner: small rectangular footprint, arched roof, a row of windows high on each wall, and porcelain enamel walls. The interior also looks much like it did over eight decades ago with a counter and stools, small booths, and tile floors and walls. The Wellsboro Diner is a Sterling Diner No. 388 model manufactured by the J.D. Judkins Co.





Petroglyphs are rock carvings created by native people thousands of years ago to communicate and convey important messages. Big and Little Indian Rock, in the Susquehanna River, are part of the largest surviving concentration of petroglyphs in the Northeastern United States and depict human figures, animals, and symbolic designs among other things. Modern graffiti has marred the surfaces of both rocks, showing a lack of understanding and respect for their significance.



# Telling Pennsylvania's Story

Pennsylvania has a rich, multilayered, and complicated history spanning thousands of years, from the First Nations who inhabited what is now the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the new residents we welcome every day. Our archaeological sites and historic places reflect broad patterns of settlement, growth, and change; commemorate our achievements and innovators; and embody our collective and unique experiences.

The overview that follows outlines Pennsylvania's history chronologically and provides some touchpoints for understanding how the Commonwealth's communities and historic places reflect that history. The summary is not intended to be comprehensive or fully capture the story of any one place or people, but it represents a broad view of the thousands of years of history on the land that is now Pennsylvania.

## Pre-Contact

The first people to arrive in Pennsylvania encountered an environment that was still impacted by receding glaciers. They lived in small, mobile groups and were well-accustomed to hunting and foraging in a landscape of scattered spruce and pine evergreen trees.

These people arrived perhaps as early as 16,000 years ago, as radiocarbon dates from Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Washington County suggest. By about 10,000 years ago, Indigenous peoples lived in nearly every part of the state we call Pennsylvania. More than 350 archaeological sites from this period have been identified, many documenting people who traveled expansive distances. This includes the people who occupied the Shoop site in Dauphin County, who traveled with stone tools that they made in western New York, more than 200 miles away.

As the climate warmed, from about 10,000 to 4,000 years ago, the spruce and pine trees gave way to a forest more like what we know today. The new forests of oak, pine, and hemlock trees, along with expansive grasslands, contained an abundance of nuts, berries, seeds, and herbs that people incorporated into their diet.

During this period some people also began fishing using large nets and net sinkers, as archaeologists identified at City Island in the Susquehanna River. This natural abundance spurred an increase in population and led to a decrease in the distances people traveled to get the resources they needed. Evidence of some of the earliest dwellings have been recorded at archaeological sites including Goddard in Mercer County and Kinsinger in Somerset County, suggesting that semipermanent habitation may have become more common.

A gradual but major change in how people lived and interacted occurred about 4,300 to 400 years ago. During this period, increases in trade occurred both within and between the major river drainages of Pennsylvania. About 4,300 to 2,700 years ago, steatite vessels for cooking and rhyolite for stone tools were the most traded items based on artifacts recovered from sites of this period.

Around 2,700 to 400 years ago, major changes in subsistence and social organization began across the state. The intensive cultivation of plants, population growth and centralization into villages, continued regional trade, and the development and use of pottery vessels all occurred during this period.

As populations centralized into villages about 1,100 to 400 years ago, people began living in one location year-round for the first time. As a result, the archaeological record from village sites is much more extensive than at any time before. From these sites, archaeologists learn significant information about family and



social organization, architecture, food processing and storage, burial practices, and warfare. Examples include Monongahela villages, like Consol in Westmoreland County and Johnston in Indiana County, and Shenks Ferry villages, like Murry and Quaker Hills Quarry in Lancaster County.

## Europeans Arrive

The arrival of Europeans in what would become Pennsylvania began with the arrival of Swedish colonists in the spring of 1638 along the Delaware River. The colony of New Sweden developed relationships with the Lenape, purchasing land for their colony and developing trade associations. In 1655 the Dutch took possession of New Sweden, making it part of New Netherland until 1664, when the English seized control of the Dutch colony in the name of the Duke of York.

In 1681 English Quaker William Penn received his land grant for Pennsylvania and initiated his “Holy Experiment,” establishing a place of religious tolerance that drew settlers from Europe. Over the next several decades, tens of thousands of English and Welsh Quakers, French Huguenots, Scots-Irish Presbyterians, and German Lutherans, Reformed, and Anabaptists braved the Atlantic crossing to take advantage of both the economic opportunities and the religious freedom promised by Penn. A small population of Africans, both enslaved and free, were also among the Commonwealth’s early residents.

These diverse groups constructed houses, farms, taverns, public buildings, places of worship, and schools that borrowed elements from the buildings in their home countries. These elements included floor plans, the placement of doors, roof pitches, and architectural details. In southeastern Pennsylvania, British settlers used the classical symmetry and simple details of the Georgian and Federal styles of their native England for all types of buildings in rural and urban communities.



*Preserved as part of the Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Jumonville Glen is the site of a 1754 skirmish that started the French and Indian War when Colonel George Washington defeated the French, led by Joseph de Jumonville. Archaeological investigations in 2023 by the National Park Service verified the location of the skirmish in Fayette County.*

German settlers, mostly from the Rhine River valley in Europe, built houses and farms—from the Delaware Valley near Philadelphia to the Lehigh and Susquehanna valleys to the north and west—based on forms familiar to them. Houses were built in stone and often had asymmetrical floor plans, small windows, and steeply pitched roofs. Farms included the dwelling house, an independent summer kitchen, and a large barn built into a hillside that became known as the Pennsylvania Bank Barn. Colonists moving south from New York and Connecticut brought the Greek Revival style for public and private buildings to Pennsylvania’s northern tier.

Growing from the southeast and northeast, particularly after the 1737 Walking Purchase, Pennsylvania’s countryside was

filled with small owner-operated farms, market towns, frontier trading posts, and rural extractive industries supporting a vibrant international trade through the port of Philadelphia. Pennsylvania was a leader in agriculture, producing enough surplus to export goods and support the colonial economy. High-value, relatively compact, and less perishable items were consistently produced, including potash, wheat, maple sugar, whiskey, cider, clover seed, flax seed, salted meat, corn, and fruit.

On Pennsylvania's western frontier, people lived a world apart from other Pennsylvania colonial inhabitants in terms of culture, economy, and society. Treaties that maintained European-Native American relationships deteriorated in the colony as the expanding colonial population pushed Native Americans further west. Places such as Fort Pitt, Bushy Run Battlefield, Fort Necessity, and the Forbes Road continue to reflect the pivotal role of western Pennsylvania in the war of empires.

## Pennsylvania Becomes the Keystone State

By the late 18th century, Pennsylvania had a highly diversified economy based on farming, commerce, finance, and manufacturing. Cities like Philadelphia, Reading, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, and Erie were established and thriving, as were many smaller boroughs, villages, and townships. Pennsylvanians in these communities joined the ranks of other colonists along the Eastern Seaboard who were increasingly frustrated by Great Britain's control over their lives and livelihoods.

By 1776 the growing discord with Great Britain and the king reached its breaking point. Representatives from the 13 colonies gathered in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress and declared American independence from the monarchy, naming Philadelphia as the capital of the newly declared nation. Thousands of Pennsylvanians joined the Continental Army and the Commonwealth's farms, businesses, and industries supported

the war effort. While battles were fought from Vermont to South Carolina, several important and pivotal events in the War for Independence occurred in Pennsylvania at Chadds Ford, Valley Forge, and Philadelphia.

During the Revolutionary War, Pennsylvania made history in 1780 by issuing the first emancipation statute in the U.S.—An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery. Although the law did not free those who were already enslaved before the act, it did prohibit further importation of enslaved people in Pennsylvania, and it established that all children born to enslaved people would be free upon reaching age 28. Nevertheless, Pennsylvania's free Black communities eventually grew in size and number as a result of the act and so did the institutions to support them.



*After British troops captured Philadelphia in September 1777, George Washington's army retreated for the winter to Valley Forge, where they reorganized, trained, and prepared to continue the war in 1778. Washington and his troops camped at Valley Forge, about 20 miles northwest of Philadelphia for six months.*



In the years following the act and leading up to the Civil War, many abolitionists in Pennsylvania, white as well as free and enslaved African Americans, provided assistance to freedom seekers from Southern states on their way to Canada. These networks of assistance, known as the Underground Railroad, led to the establishment of Black communities and institutions throughout the Commonwealth.

After British General Cornwallis's defeat at Yorktown, Virginia at the hands of the Continental Army and its French allies, the Treaty of Paris, negotiated by Pennsylvanian Benjamin Franklin and his fellow American commissioners, ended the war, granting America independence. The new American government first operated under the Articles of Confederation before it was superseded by the United States Constitution. The Constitution was signed by state delegates on September 17, 1787, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and was then sent to the states for ratification. On December 12, 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the Constitution.

## From Independence through Civil War

Following independence from Britain, Pennsylvania continued to play a crucial role as the growing young country found its footing. Pennsylvanians turned their focus toward economic development and the people, places, and systems that were needed to support a successful future.

This support included innovations in transportation technology, the development of mechanized tools, the introduction of steam power, critical inventions in textile production, and improvements in agricultural equipment. Across the Commonwealth, mills lined local waterways, small businesses in market towns offered an array of goods and services, farmers expanded their cultivation of crops and livestock, and local road systems and rail lines crisscrossed the landscape.

Beginning in the early 19th century, the state legislature sponsored the building of basic infrastructure such as roads, canals, railroads, tunnels, bridges, and port improvements. These investments were critical to supporting westward expansion of people, natural resources like coal and lumber, and manufactured and agricultural goods within and outside of the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania's transportation networks in the first half of the 19th century helped launch the country's first industrial revolution and positioned Pennsylvania as an industrial powerhouse.

Pennsylvania's population continued to grow, largely from Europe and Great Britain. People from Ireland, in particular, settled in Pennsylvania in the 1840s and 1850s because of the



*Settled by Prince Perkins, a free African American Revolutionary War veteran who came from Connecticut in 1793, the property has remained in his descendants' ownership for over 200 years. Granddaughter Angeline Perkins Dennis and husband Henry W. Dennis expanded the farm. It provides an understanding about free African American settlement and life in an integrated rural Pa. community and attests to the prevalent antislavery activity in northeastern Pennsylvania.*

potato famine that destroyed crops and made food scarce. By 1860 Pennsylvania's population was scattered throughout the Commonwealth, and while some areas became increasingly urbanized, others retained their rural character. By 1850 Black Pennsylvanians were free (unless they were escaping bondage in the South) and in a decade, Pennsylvania's African American population grew to 57,000.

Pennsylvania communities continued to grow in size and sophistication as houses, schools, religious buildings, hospitals, prisons, factories, and commercial buildings filled towns and small cities. As Pennsylvania's economy blossomed in this industrial age, so did Pennsylvanians' wealth, which was reflected in the places they built.



*The Harmonists, a Christian communal society, founded Old Economy Village in 1824. Today the historic site's 17 buildings and gardens tell the story of the Harmony Society, one of the oldest and most successful religious communal groups of the nineteenth century. The Society sought to create a utopia inhabited by German Lutheran separatists who subscribed to the mystical religious teachings of their leader George Rapp (1757–1847). In Economy, they waited for the second coming of the Messiah.*

Formal architectural styles of the era began to spread outward from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh into rural regions. As communities developed, their buildings became less about their colonial European identities and more reflective of a new collective American identity. Architectural styles based on European antecedents were used not as nostalgic ties to homelands but replicated to show sophistication, culture, and wealth. The Gothic Revival and Italianate styles can be seen in communities of all shapes and sizes by the late 1840s and 1850s, either as new construction or as older buildings that were updated to the latest trends.

At the time of the Civil War, Pennsylvania was the second most populous state in the country with almost 3 million people. The Commonwealth's contributions to the war were numerous. Pennsylvania had the second highest enlistment of soldiers in the Union Army and more than 8,600 Black Pennsylvanians joined the ranks of the United States Colored Troops, more than any other Northern state. Confederate forces threatened Pennsylvania's residents with invasion or attack at least half a dozen times, culminating at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863.

Beyond military contributions, Pennsylvanians donated food, medicine, clothing, and other items to the war effort. Pennsylvania farmers supplied flour, beef, livestock, and fodder, while its manufacturers fashioned steamboats, locomotives and freight cars, wagons, and iron and produced uniforms, accoutrements, blankets, and tents. Men and materiel were moved by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and Pennsylvania's iron and steel industries provided vital support to the Union Army.



## Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

Emerging from the networks established during the Civil War, Pennsylvania entered a period of unparalleled development that gave rise to the middle class. The Commonwealth was noted for innovations in steel and other metals, improved communications and transportation, and advanced banking,



The Scranton Electric Building, designed in the Beaux Arts style by New York architect Lansing C. Holden, was built in 1895 as the Scranton Board of Trade. However, the building is best known as Scranton Electric for its massive rooftop “Scranton The Electric City” light display that replaced an earlier sign in 1916. Scranton earned the Electric City nickname because of their achievements in early municipal electrification, namely the first successful electric trolley in 1886 and an extensive network of almost 900 electric streetlamps by 1906.

finance, and corporate management practices. Like the rest of America, Pennsylvania was open for business and quickly emerged as the workshop of the world with its industrial hubs in the big cities. In rural areas, farming remained diversified in products and processes.

At the turn of the century, the Pennsylvania landscape changed drastically with new forms of transportation on expanded networks, at large industrial complexes along waterways and rail corridors, at sites for harvesting and extracting natural resources, and growing towns and cities with new schools, places of worship, commercial main streets, and venues for recreation and leisure.

These changes had both positive and negative impacts on the social, cultural, and economic lives of Pennsylvanians. For example, the number and quality of public schools expanded during this era, with specialized curriculums that included home economics and physical education, the consolidation of small independent districts, and the rapid construction of school buildings.

Streetcar systems and early automobiles enabled upwardly mobile families to relocate to suburbs growing adjacent to industrialized urban centers like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The combination of more free time and access to transportation increased middle class access to leisure activities and recreation. By the 1920s, tourism gained a foothold as one of Pennsylvania’s economic foundations.

At the same time, widespread mineral resource extraction and manufacturing processes depleted vast areas of Pennsylvania’s environment. There was political unrest, evidenced in the reform movements in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia that exposed poor living conditions, exploitation of minorities, and corruption in municipal governments. Many manufacturing companies and industries experienced struggles over workers’ rights, eventually seeing a rise in trade unions. While living and working conditions improved for some,

they deteriorated significantly for others, particularly as society grew more polarized based on differences in class, race, and ethnicity.

The Commonwealth's industrial boom during this period attracted immigrants for jobs, often as they were fleeing political and economic troubles in Europe. By the turn of the 20th century, large numbers of Slavic, Italian, Finnish, Scandinavian, and Jewish immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, and the Commonwealth witnessed the largest population increase of any decade in its history.

Ethnic groups, facing discrimination, exploitation as cheap labor, hostility as "job stealers," and loss of work due to trade unions, established their own neighborhoods in many of Pennsylvania's cities and towns to provide vital social and economic support. For instance, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh each had their own Chinatown, and Shenandoah in Schuylkill County became known as "Little Lithuania." Immigrant populations continued to grow into the early decades of the 20th century but growth eventually declined when many discriminatory laws reduced the number of immigrants, and World War I curtailed European emigration.

Between 1916 and 1930, significant numbers of African Americans migrated north during what is known as the Great Migration to escape the Jim Crow segregationist laws of many Southern states and to find more employment opportunities. They filled urban cores where they took the lowest paying and most dangerous jobs and competed for substandard housing in overcrowded neighborhoods.

While Philadelphia and Pittsburgh remained centers of Black life in Pennsylvania, African Americans created thriving neighborhoods in smaller cities and towns across the Commonwealth, like Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport, Coatesville, and Monessen. These communities, often centered around one or more church congregations, offered critical networks of social and economic support.

There is a noticeable shift in the appearance and construction of the buildings that made up the Commonwealth's cities, towns, and villages during this time. The formal architectural styles found in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh spread to other parts of Pennsylvania, with the design often becoming less formal as the concepts evolved over distance and time. Mass produced architectural details, expanded transportation networks, more disposable income, and



*Fonthill is one three unique concrete buildings designed and built by Henry Chapman Mercer, who was an archaeologist, scholar, collector, and tile maker during his lifetime. Fonthill was Mercer's home from 1912 until his death in 1930 and showcases his eclectic interests and handmade clay tiles from the nearby Moravian Pottery and Tile Works. Mercer was one of the first American architects to work with reinforced concrete as a building material. Fonthill, the Mercer Museum, and the Tile Works don't fit neatly into stylistic categories but these buildings, and his decorative ceramic tiles embody the aesthetic of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th century. Mercer's tiles can be found in buildings throughout much of Pennsylvania, from private homes to churches to civic buildings, including the Pennsylvania State Capitol.*



access to pattern books meant that Pennsylvanians could afford to upgrade their older buildings with the latest trends or build something new, often without the need to hire an architect.

The architectural styles of the 19th and early 20th centuries were used for all types of buildings and also influenced formal landscapes, cemetery designs, bridges, and public art. Examples of the most popular architectural styles of the era can be found in Pennsylvania cities and towns of all sizes. The list includes Second Empire, Queen Anne Revival, Romanesque Revival, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival, Beaux Arts, Classical Revival, Chateausque, Moderne, and Art Deco.



Arriving in November 1854, 63 African Americans settled an agricultural community north of Indian Run. Freed through manumission by Virginia plantation owner Dr. Charles Everett, many of these formerly enslaved men and women worked to purchase the freedom of others. Abolitionist-built houses on land provided by Everett awaited them. Archaeological investigations have uncovered their stories of hard-fought freedom, collaboration, and perseverance.

Many of these popular styles can be seen in residential buildings but also in civic, educational, industrial, religious, recreational, and commercial buildings. Common house forms from the turn of the century, including Bungalows, Craftsmen Cottages and Four Squares, are found throughout Pennsylvania and are often located in historic districts.

## Into the Mid-20th Century

In Pennsylvania, like the rest of the country, the Great Depression impacted nearly all facets of everyday life. As centers of industry and manufacturing, the Commonwealth's cities were hit the hardest with job loss and subsequent poverty, but the ripple effects of the fallen American economy eventually affected small towns and rural areas. Just four years after the stock market crash in 1929, Pennsylvania's unemployment rate reached 37 percent.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal and its Pennsylvania complement, Gov. George H. Earle III's Little New Deal, introduced programs that provided assistance to address the needs of Pennsylvanians. These wide-ranging initiatives included direct relief to massive public works programs; conservation programs for timber, soil, and water; rural electrification; transportation systems; public housing; and federally funded arts and theater productions.

These initiatives left their mark on Pennsylvania's landscape and communities. Infrastructure developments like roads, bridges, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike promoted auto and truck travel across the Commonwealth for people, materials, and goods. New public housing complexes replaced older housing in cities. Across rural Pennsylvania, electrical poles and wires followed roads and crisscrossed fields to provide electricity to thousands of households and businesses. Civilian Conservation Corps workers in Pennsylvania helped improve and create state parks through the building of roads, campgrounds, and recreational areas.

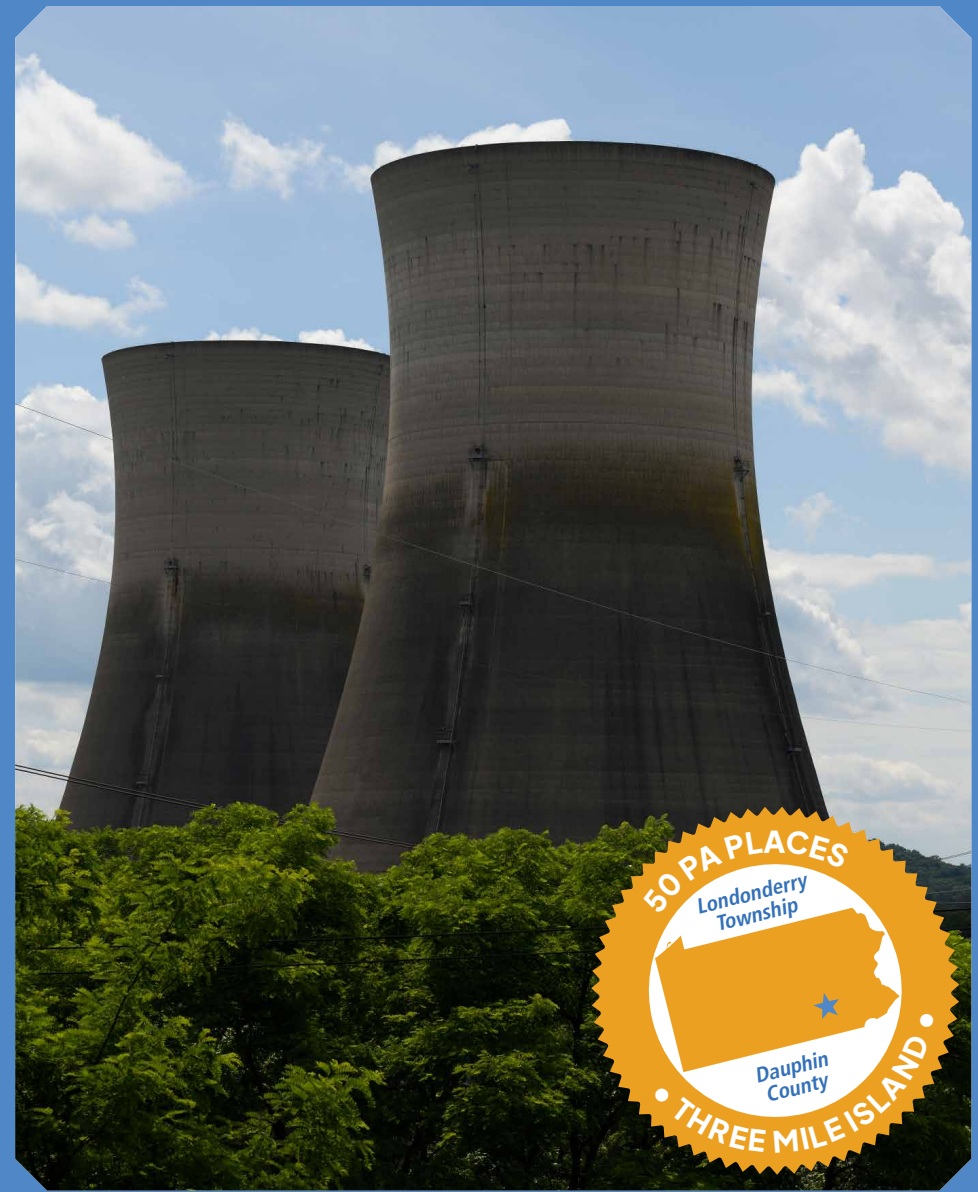
World War II helped end the Great Depression. American industries mobilized as Europe went to war in 1939. Pennsylvania's industries manufactured artillery, ships, tanks and other heavy machinery, and textiles for parachutes and uniforms, making the Commonwealth the "Arsenal of America."

## Postwar

With the end of the war, Pennsylvanians, like other Americans, focused on finding good jobs, buying homes, and improving their circumstances. Economic prosperity from wartime production and programs for returning soldiers ushered in another period of upward mobility for many Pennsylvanians. They moved out of the cities and towns to new suburbs, with shopping centers, places of worship, parks and playgrounds, and modern school complexes.

Improvements to roads and highway networks and access to affordable cars meant that a growing middle class of commuters could travel greater distances between their homes in the suburbs and their jobs in urban commercial centers. These suburbs and new self-contained planned residential areas were typically built on agricultural or natural lands, quickly creating dense development in southeastern and southwestern Pennsylvania and around medium-sized cities like York, Lancaster, Scranton, and Erie.

As national taste turned to more modern architectural styles and house forms in the postwar era, Pennsylvania's built landscape changed as well. Suburban neighborhoods included ranch and split-level houses, often with garages and carports. Gas stations, fast-food restaurants, strip malls, motels and hotels, roadside commercial buildings, and drive-in movie theaters developed quickly to serve this new car-centric lifestyle, often reflecting Americans' interest in space travel and new architectural materials. In the 1940s and 1950s, the International style influenced the design of educational, industrial, civic, and commercial buildings.



*On March 28, 1979, technical malfunctions and human error at Three Mile Island's Unit 2 Nuclear Generating Station created the scene of the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident. Radiation was released, a part of the nuclear core was damaged, and thousands of residents evacuated the area. As a result of the accident and its aftermath, basic changes about the regulation and operation were made throughout the world's nuclear power industry.*



Cultural change took place across the country and in Pennsylvania during the 1950s and 1960s. Tensions grew as the fight for civil rights and equality gained momentum, not only in Pennsylvania's cities but also in the suburbs and small towns as well. Black Pennsylvanians fought against policies that unofficially segregated schools and recreational venues like swimming pools and amusement parks and redlined entire neighborhoods. Women pursued equal rights to work outside the home, hold elected office, and make contributions to the fields of science, medicine, literature, and politics. LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians created networks that supported their community as they advocated for recognition and respect. New immigrant communities, increasingly from Asia and India, brought new and diverse foods, religions, and languages to the Commonwealth.

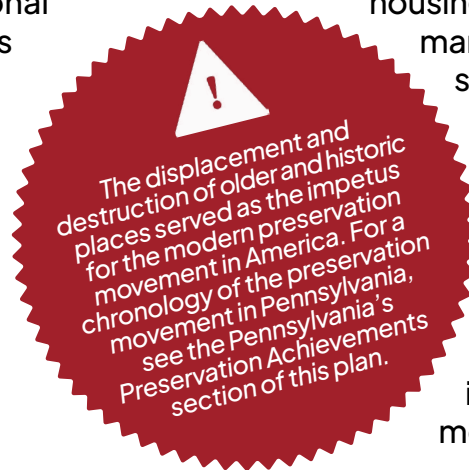
Beginning in the late 1960s, Pennsylvanians were facing new challenges brought on by changes in the global economy. Pennsylvania's prosperity since the early 19th century was due in large part to the size, quality, and diversity of its industries. This prosperity was challenged beginning in the late 20th century as America found itself competing with other nations for goods and labor. In Pennsylvania, communities dependent on one or two large manufacturers were the most impacted by factory closures, job loss, and drops in the local economy. Whole regions in the Commonwealth were impacted and local governments grappled with how to recover from these losses.

In the late 20th century, economic pressures, changing populations, and evolving social, cultural, and financial priorities changed many American communities, including those in Pennsylvania. For example, trends such as the closure of factories and businesses, the construction of a highway that diverted traffic away from main streets, and white migration into suburbs and

rural areas negatively affected many communities. In response, municipal, state, and federal agencies undertook urban renewal campaigns intended to revitalize cities and boroughs. Older buildings and entire neighborhoods—often Black or minority neighborhoods—were razed in the name of progress. New housing complexes, government centers, and schools, many in stark Brutalist or other Postmodern architectural styles, dominated skylines, and new highways bisected neighborhoods and entire communities.

## 21st Century

In the first two and a half decades of the 21st century, Pennsylvania has continued to evolve as it responds to the constantly changing economic, industrial, political, and social forces that affect modern American life.



Pennsylvania continued to transition away from traditional industries like steel manufacturing toward service-based industries such as healthcare, education, and tourism. At the same time, public and private investments in the coal, oil, natural gas, solar, and wind industries brought economic benefits and environmental challenges. While agriculture is still an important part of the Pennsylvania economy, farmers struggle to make the transition beyond a specialized single-crop system and keeping the land in productive use, particularly as environmental industries, warehouses, and housing developments continue to expand.

Throughout the Commonwealth, population change, deindustrialization, development pressures, the Great Recession, and the COVID-19 pandemic have presented communities with diverse opportunities and challenges, depending on their history, economic and industrial base, infrastructure, and politics. Regardless of where they are,

communities continue to debate how best to manage change in the natural and built environments.

Many communities are realizing the benefits of historic preservation and heritage tourism. Regions like the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas, Conservation Landscapes, and smaller cities and boroughs are capitalizing on the economic benefits of tourism and outdoor recreation brought about by preservation efforts. Former railroad lines once used to transport coal, steel, and other cargo during the booming industrial years are being successfully converted to regional hiking and biking trails.

In many communities, historic buildings are being returned to productive new uses. Vacant and underutilized buildings are being rehabilitated as shops, businesses, and residential housing attractive to both investors and new residents. Small businesses, which employ nearly half of Pennsylvania's private workforce, are often located in historic buildings, tying their identity and branding to the place or community. These developments have provided an economic boost to the historic commercial corridors that were bypassed by new highways and abandoned in the late 20th century for suburban malls.

Pennsylvania has continued to be a keystone of the United States in many ways. Its extractive resources have boosted industry, supplied wars, expanded transportation, powered the country, and produced innovative farming practices. The Commonwealth's unique geography and natural resources have provided sustenance and shelter for people; connected regions, territories, and states; and supported a diverse variety of agriculture and industries.

Major disasters and labor strikes in Pennsylvania pushed the entire nation forward in both workers' rights and safety and environmental laws. The Commonwealth's local and regional identities have been strengthened by the contributions of its diverse populations, ranging from the people who lived here

before the arrival of Western Europeans to African Americans, Eastern Europeans, Hispanics, Indians, and Asians.

Pennsylvanians value the historic places that define their communities. They see them as important connections between their personal, community, and Pennsylvania identities, whether they provide a link to the past or offer opportunities today as unique and thriving destinations.

As we move toward the country's 250th anniversary in 2026, anyone living in or visiting Pennsylvania can connect with the places that help tell the nation's story. They are the keystones between our past and our future.



On May 31, 1889, a wall of water and wreckage 35 feet high traveled 14 miles from the broken South Fork Dam into Johnstown, destroying more than 1,600 homes and claiming 2,209 lives. The Johnstown Flood remains one of the worst natural and manmade disasters in US history. Grandview Cemetery is associated with the flood as both a memorial to and final resting place for the victims of the disaster. In 1892, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Flood Relief Commission purchased a cemetery plot and erected the Monument to Tranquility in the Plot of the Unknowns. Over 700 unnamed victims are buried in the Unknown Plot, and over 500 identified persons buried elsewhere in Grandview Cemetery.





*Independence Hall is widely recognized for its important role in the founding and early administration of the United States. Beginning in the 1730s, the building served as the Pennsylvania State House with meeting rooms and offices for all three branches of Pennsylvania's colonial government. During the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress and the Constitution Convention met at Independence Hall and it was here that representatives of the new government debated the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. In 1816, the City of Philadelphia purchased Independence Hall to save it from demolition to make way for new office buildings. It was not until 1948 that Congress authorized the creation of a national park around Independence Hall. In 1979, Independence Hall was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*



# Pennsylvania's Preservation Achievements

**1816**

The City of Philadelphia purchases Independence Hall to save it from demolition. This is the first documented historic preservation effort in the United States.

**1913**

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission is founded as the Commonwealth's public history agency.

**1914**

The Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program begins with the installation of 149 bronze plaques throughout the state. The first plaque is installed at Fort McCord in Franklin County.

**1929**

The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA) is formed to promote the study of archaeology within the Commonwealth.

**1945**

The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission is created to unite the separate State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Archives, and Pennsylvania Historical Commission into one official history agency for the Commonwealth.

**1946**

The first yellow and blue Pennsylvania Historical Marker, like those we know today, is installed for the Hanover Resolves, located approximately 14 miles east of Harrisburg along US 22.

**1948**

PHMC starts using Smithsonian trinomial site numbers as a way to identify and inventory the Commonwealth's archaeological sites.

**1950–1953:**

Carnegie Museum's archaeological survey program of the Upper Ohio valley begins. Over the next three years, 427 sites in western Pennsylvania are recorded.

**1955**

The City of Philadelphia becomes the first Pennsylvania municipality and one of the first in the nation to enact a city ordinance to create a Historical Commission with the power to certify properties as historic and regulate alteration and demolition of those properties.

**1959**

Lititz Borough becomes the first community in Pennsylvania to use its local authority to enact an ordinance identifying a historic area and regulating the construction, alteration, and demolition of buildings within its boundaries at a time when no statewide legislation exists.



*In 1732, German pietist Conrad Beissel founded Ephrata Cloister, a communal society that reflects Pennsylvania's long history of religious diversity. The community is known for its art, music, printing and architecture. The original buildings were built between 1735 and 1749 and reflect medieval European influences with the steeply-pitched roofs and small casement windows. Historic archaeology at Ephrata Cloister has uncovered the details of everyday life in the cloister, as well as some truly exceptional details, like an all glass trumpet that was found during excavations in 1995.*



**1961**

Pennsylvania becomes the third state in the country to enact legislation for statewide historic district designation through the passage of the Historic District Act. The City of Bethlehem becomes the first municipality to enact a historic district ordinance.

**1966**

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 into law, setting forth a national preservation program and policy and creating a network of State Historic Preservation Offices to carry out the provisions of the act on behalf of NPS. The act establishes the National Register of Historic Places as the nation's official list of places worthy of preservation.

**1967**

Pennsylvania sets out to meet its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act, with PHMC assuming the responsibilities, including operation of the State Historic Preservation Office. PHMC formalized its site recording activities into the Site Survey and Recording Program of the Pennsylvania State Museum.

**1970**

The Old Franklin County Jail, an 1818 building in Chambersburg, becomes the first property in Pennsylvania to be individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Plymouth Meeting Historic District in Montgomery County is Pennsylvania's first historic district listed in the National Register. The first statewide historic preservation plan is issued.

**1971**

Pennsylvanians vote 4–1 to ratify the Environmental Rights Amendment, which states the following: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the

natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. . . . As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

**1972**

Old Hanna's Town in Westmoreland County is Pennsylvania's first archaeological site listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**1976**

An amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act creates the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program, encouraging private investment for the rehabilitation and reuse of historic properties. Pennsylvania's first certified rehabilitation project is 544 Main Street, Bethlehem.



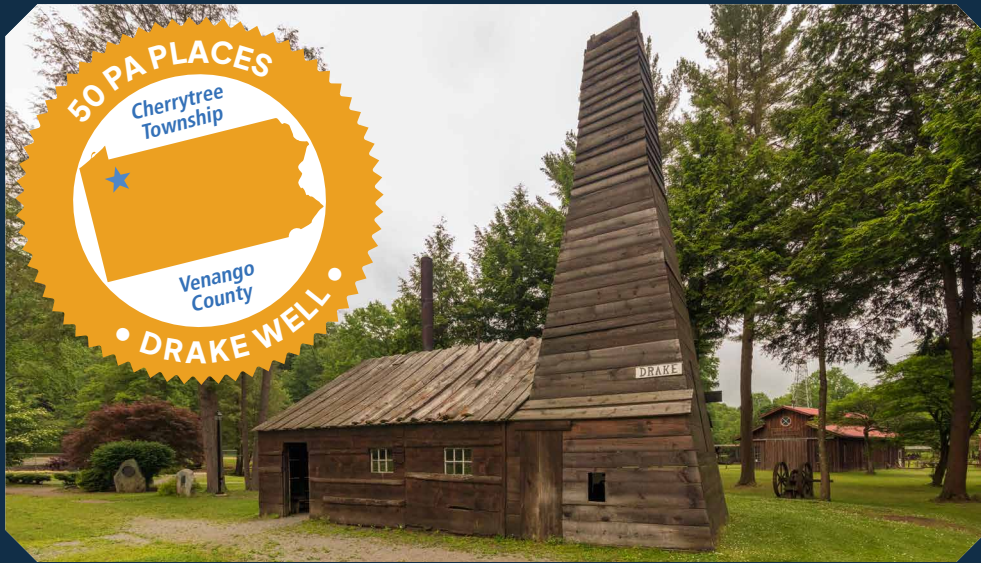
*The Keith House at Graeme Park was built in 1722 as a summer residence for Sir William Keith, Colonial governor of Pennsylvania from 1717 to 1726. In the 1750s, Dr. Thomas Graeme's interior renovations added elements of the Georgian style to the property. The house remains largely unaltered from its 18th century appearance.*

**1977**

Site records from the State Museum of Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum are integrated into a single repository based in Harrisburg. The new centralized program is renamed the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS).

**1978**

The Pennsylvania General Assembly passes the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Act establishing the Bureau for Historic Preservation as an independent entity within PHMC that incorporates the duties of the State Historic Preservation Office, thus placing greater emphasis on preservation's importance for the future. The name is officially changed to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office in 2015.



*Drake Well is recognized as the first successful commercial oil well in the country after "Col." Edwin Drake struck oil there on August 27, 1859. Drake's success led to an influx of people and development in Pennsylvania's Oil Region, which boomed in the 1860s through 1880s when fires, labor strife, falling oil prices, and newly-discovered oil deposits in other parts of the US shut down companies. However, Drake was not the first person to find oil near Titusville. Using radiocarbon dating, archaeologists have confirmed that Native Americans were extracting oil from this site centuries earlier.*

**1980**

An amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act establishes the Certified Local Government program, giving municipalities the option of strengthening their local preservation activities through exclusive funding incentives and enhanced technical assistance. Pennsylvania's first Historic Preservation Board is created. Pennsylvania is one of five states selected to pilot the first Main Street program through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**1982**

The Pennsylvania General Assembly creates the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, known today as Preservation Pennsylvania, as a statewide nonprofit organization to assist in the preservation of historic properties and to act as a preservation advocate.

**1986**

The communities of Bristol, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, and York are designated as the first Certified Local Governments in Pennsylvania.

**1988**

On May 26, the Pennsylvania History Code is signed into law consolidating all the previous statutes related to PHMC into one piece of legislation. This code also establishes that state agencies must consult with PHMC to consider historic properties that may be affected by their projects. The Pennsylvania Archaeology Council (PAC) is established as a statewide group of professional archaeologists dedicated to promoting Pennsylvania archaeology. The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor becomes the first nationally designated Heritage Area in Pennsylvania.

**1991**

Lackawanna Heritage Valley becomes the first Pennsylvania state-designated Heritage Area.



**1992**

Preservation Pennsylvania launches its first Pennsylvania At Risk list, calling attention to threatened historic and archaeological resources throughout the Commonwealth. The inaugural list includes such iconic historic sites as Bedford Springs Hotel, Eastern State Penitentiary, and Carrie Furnaces.

**1993**

State legislation creates the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund as a dedicated and permanent funding source for making investments in recreation, parks, conservation, libraries, historic preservation, and education. By 2024, PHMC has provided more than \$52.4 million from this fund to support 1,042 historic preservation projects across the Commonwealth.

**1997**

PA SHPO, PennDOT, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers develop the Cultural Resource Geographic Information System (CRGIS), allowing anyone anywhere at any time to access Pennsylvania's historic property and archaeological site databases through the internet.

**2012**

The Pennsylvania Incentive Tax Credit Program is authorized, providing an additional incentive for investment in Pennsylvania's past for its future. The Erie Insurance Exchange in Erie is the first project completed with this credit.

**2014**

PA SHPO receives \$1.5 million from NPS following Hurricane Sandy to be used for launching pilot projects in four Pennsylvania counties to develop a model framework for integrating historic property information into county hazard mitigation plans. Bedford, Cameron, Monroe, and Philadelphia counties later become the first in the country to complete this nationally innovative effort.

**2016**

PA SHPO establishes the Community Initiative Award program to recognize preservation successes that embody the spirit of the 2018–2023 statewide preservation plan, #PreservationHappensHere.

**2019**

The Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit program is reauthorized and the annual allocation raised to \$5 million.

**2020**

PA SHPO launches the Baseline Survey program to document a significant number of historic resources across a vast geographic area of Pennsylvania quickly and efficiently. The program focused on collecting basic information about underrepresented historic properties in Pennsylvania's Historic Places Inventory, like rural communities, African American churches and cemeteries, places associated with historic ethnic or cultural communities, and properties built in the last half of the 20th century. Over the next three years, more than 27,000 properties are added to PA-SHARE.

**2021**

PA SHPO launches PA-SHARE, which stands for Pennsylvania's State Historic Archaeology & Resources Exchange, a sophisticated online data and project management system. Along with its companion application, the Surveyor suite of tools, PA-SHARE improves efficiency, collaboration, and communication, resulting in an increased level of service to the public and PA SHPO's partners.

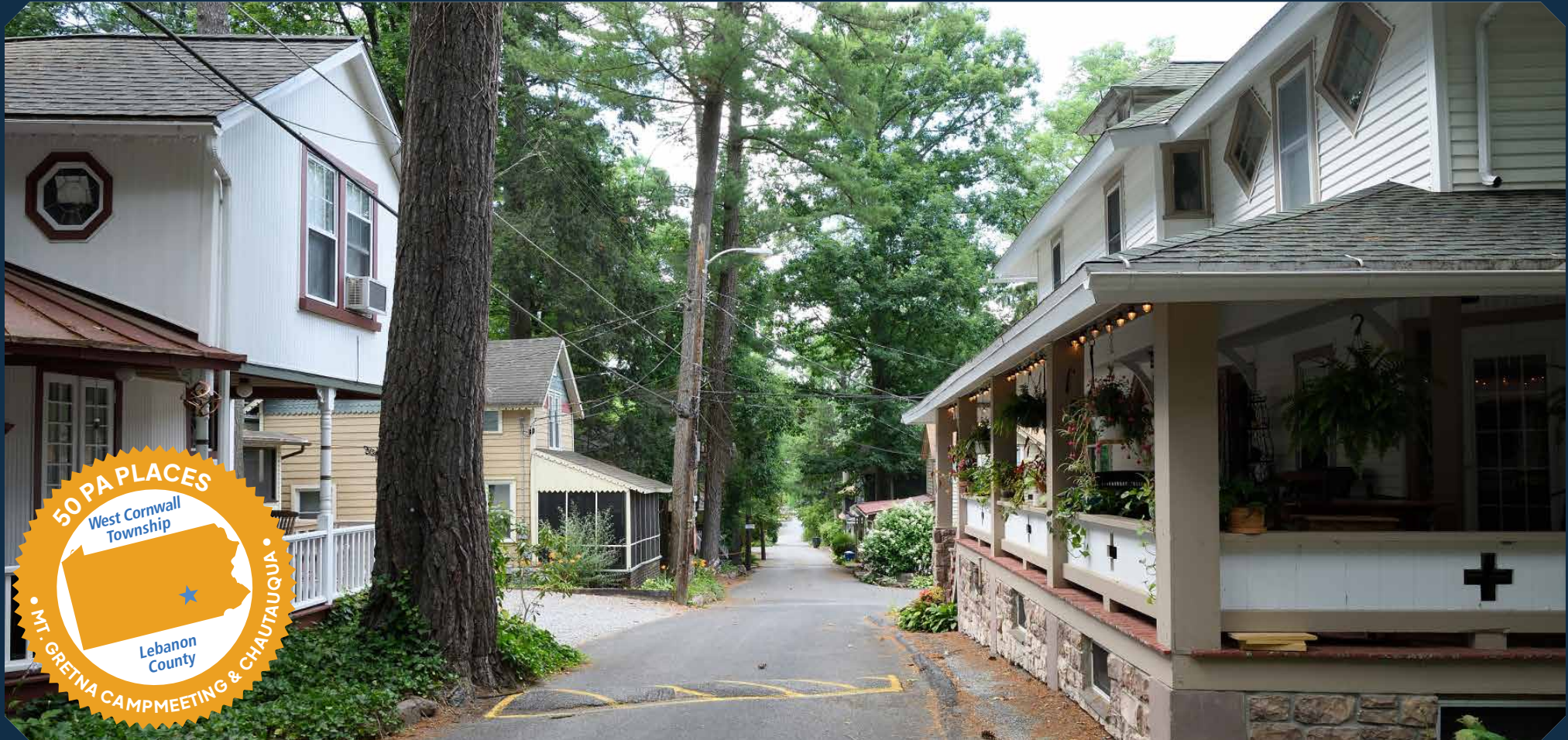
**2022**

Pennsylvania's first international historical marker is dedicated in Kuressaare, Estonia, at the birthplace of revolutionary 20th-century architect Louis Kahn, who trained, taught, and practiced in Philadelphia. Funding from the Federal Highway Administration

and PennDOT establishes the Historic Metal Truss Bridge Capital Rehabilitation Program to fund the rehabilitation of historic metal truss bridges for continued vehicular use through 2032. With the listing of the Cameron County Courthouse, each of Pennsylvania's counties now have at least one property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

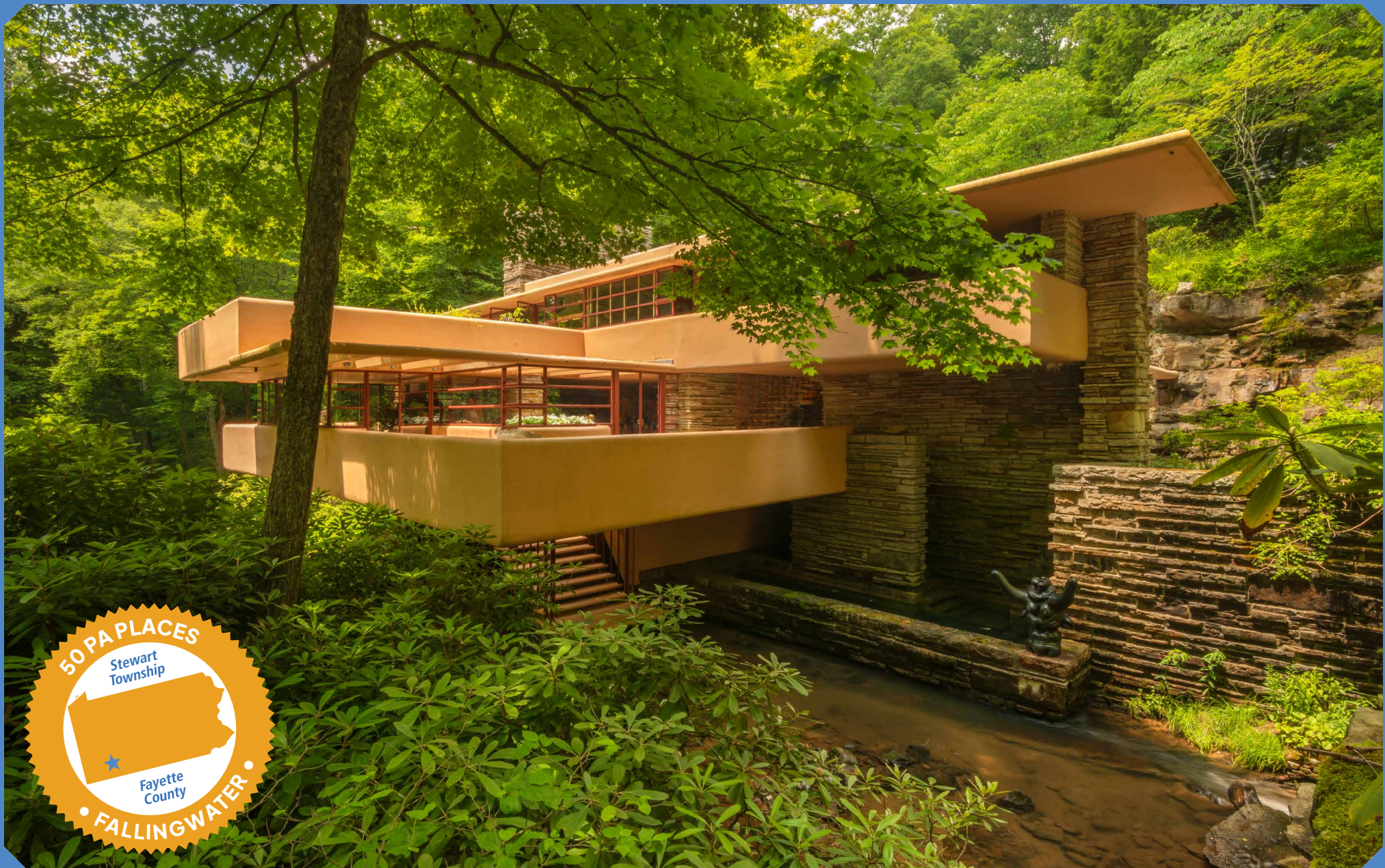
## 2024

The annual allocation to the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit program is raised to \$20 million.



*Neighboring communities of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Association and the Mt Gretna Campmeeting grew alongside each other nestled in a forest of chestnut, pine, oak, and maple trees. Cabin construction on both sides of Pinch Road took place in the 1880s-1910s. The forest was a refreshing place to spend summer days and was easily accessed by the station stop on Robert Coleman's Cornwall and Lebanon Railroad.*





Cantilevered over a waterfall, Fallingwater is a residence inspired by the surrounding environment. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935, the building exemplified Wright's philosophy of organic architecture. On July 10, 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee inscribed Fallingwater and seven other Frank Lloyd Wright-designed sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List at a meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.



# #PreservationHappenedEverywhere

Preservation outcomes take many forms and come in all shapes and sizes. This is one of the core beliefs of #PreservationHappensHere, the 2018–2023 statewide historic preservation plan, and the philosophy behind PA SHPO’s annual Community Initiative Awards.

Sometimes outcomes look like advocacy and awareness-building, while others are reaching important milestones in recognizing a historic place through listing in the National Register of Historic Places or a historical marker. Sometimes they look like documenting an archaeological site before a project begins, the bricks-and-mortar work that keeps a building in use or finding the right group of people to listen and plan for historic places.

The progress that has been made toward achieving the goals set out by #PreservationHappensHere was only possible through the dedicated work of our partners. Although we are unable to identify all of their accomplishments here, their efforts have brought us closer to achieving our vision for preservation in Pennsylvania.

## *Goal 1: Implement the statewide historic preservation plan as a resource that provides solution-oriented steps for preservation outcomes.*

- Started in 2016, PA SHPO’s Community Initiative Awards recognize organizations, municipalities, agencies, and individuals whose work embodies the spirit of #PreservationHappensHere. A list of awardees and their achievements is available on [PHMC’s website](#).
- In 2021, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) integrated historic preservation and historic resources into the statewide disaster plan and standard

operating procedures for the first time. The plan put several years of collaboration on survey efforts between PEMA and PA SHPO into action.

- In 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and PHMC was initiated. The statewide agreement supports efforts to develop a streamlined approach for cultural resource reviews to provide more effective and efficient consultation.
- Throughout the life of the plan, the Certified Local Government program grew by 14 percent. The Commonwealth’s most recent addition to the program was Columbia Borough, Lancaster County.

### REMINDER!

When you see “historic places” in this plan, it includes archaeological sites.

## *Goal 2: Use the power of planning to transform Pennsylvania’s historic places into vibrant and diverse communities.*

- Since 2018, PA SHPO has proactively nominated several resources to the National Register of Historic Places and historical subjects for Pennsylvania Historical Markers. One proactive National Register nomination was the Cameron County Courthouse, whose listing ensured that every county in Pennsylvania has at least one listing. Others include the Crawford Grill in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, Cambria County.
- In 2019, after 20 years of research and archaeological investigation, Pandenarium, in Mercer County, was recognized with a Pennsylvania Historical Marker. Beginning in 1854, the site became home to a group of 63 manumitted African American slaves from Virginia.



- Between 2019 and 2021, Beaver Borough completed and adopted a historic preservation plan and design guidelines. Both were funded as a part of the mitigation for the construction of a petrochemical complex in Beaver County along the Ohio River.
- In 2022, the annual workplan between PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and PA SHPO has funded a variety of efforts from identification of Green Book sites to development of the Historic Metal Truss Bridge Management Plan. PennDOT, FHWA, and PA SHPO have collaborated to develop a plan that supports PennDOT in taking sensible measures to extend the useful life of historic metal truss bridges and maximize the chance of bridge rehabilitation for transportation needs.

### *Goal 3: Position Pennsylvania to better respond to new preservation challenges and opportunities in the 21st century with proactive planning and education.*

- In 2015, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council partnered with Community Heart & Soul to pilot Heart & Soul Communities, a program that works with cities and towns across the state to put people first in community development and planning processes. The program's innovative approach uses the tools of the humanities to creatively engage residents in planning and decision-making processes as a way to strengthen a town's social, cultural, and economic vibrancy. DCNR, through the PA Heritage Areas Program and South Mountain Conservation Landscape, has provided support and funding for some communities to adopt the Heart & Soul program.
- In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pennsylvania Downtown Center piloted the Designing for Distance project, adapting an existing grant to better meet the needs of Pennsylvania's communities in an uncertain time.

- In 2021, PA SHPO launched PA-SHARE. PA-SHARE allows users to find and record information about historic resources, submit projects, and consult with PA SHPO. PA-SHARE's companion app, Surveyor, streamlined the collection and management of information about buildings, bridges, historic districts, archaeological sites, and cemeteries from the field and facilitates its seamless integration into PA-SHARE. Surveyor enabled PA SHPO to undertake Baseline Survey, a three-year effort to collect information about historic places across the Commonwealth—the first statewide survey effort in nearly 40 years. The survey resulted in more than 16,000 new resources in 55 counties added to PA-SHARE.
- PennDOT, FHWA, and PA SHPO partnered in 2023 to further consultation efforts with federally recognized tribes related to archaeological practices in Pennsylvania and hosted a tribal summit in September 2024.

### *Goal 4: Invest in the future of Pennsylvania through the Commonwealth's historic places and the people and programs that protect and celebrate them.*

- In 2018, through a partnership between the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Allegheny National Forest, Skelly and Loy, and PA SHPO, the Cornplanter Grant was listed as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). The Cornplanter Grant traces its history back to the close of the Revolutionary War and remained in Cornplanter's family until 1965, when the land was taken by the US Army Corps of Engineers to create the Allegheny Reservoir.
- Although created in 2012, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit was reauthorized in 2019 and expanded in 2023 through the advocacy of Preservation Pennsylvania and the Preservation Alliance for Greater

Philadelphia. This has ensured that the state tax credit program continues to be a resource for reinvestment in historic properties across the Commonwealth.

- In 2021, the African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c.1644–c.1970, Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) was approved by NPS after several years of work by PA SHPO staff. The MPDF was developed to assist people interested in documenting, evaluating, and nominating properties associated with the Black Church experience and all types of African American cemeteries throughout Pennsylvania. Building on the context developed in the African American Churches and Cemeteries MPDF, Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds and Preservation Pennsylvania launched an African American Cemeteries Stewardship program in 2023. Thirteen cemeteries were selected to receive grant funding to develop plans to address and prioritize each cemetery's needs for long-term preservation.
- Through partnership with DCNR, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, DCNR's Untold Stories initiative began investigation into the Laurel Hill settlement in Laurel Ridge State Park. The Untold Stories program seeks to identify the history of underrepresented populations within DCNR properties. Historical research and ground-penetrating radar investigation into Laurel Hill revealed a community that began with two African American founders but quickly became a multicultural community. The history of the community is currently recounted through GIS story maps.

As we look forward to the next 10 years, we can anticipate new challenges and new successes, further partnership and collaboration, and additional efforts to make sure that preservation continues to happen here.



Founded on ground purchased by Richard Allen in 1787, this congregation is the mother church of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination. The present structure, erected in 1889, replaces three earlier churches on this site.





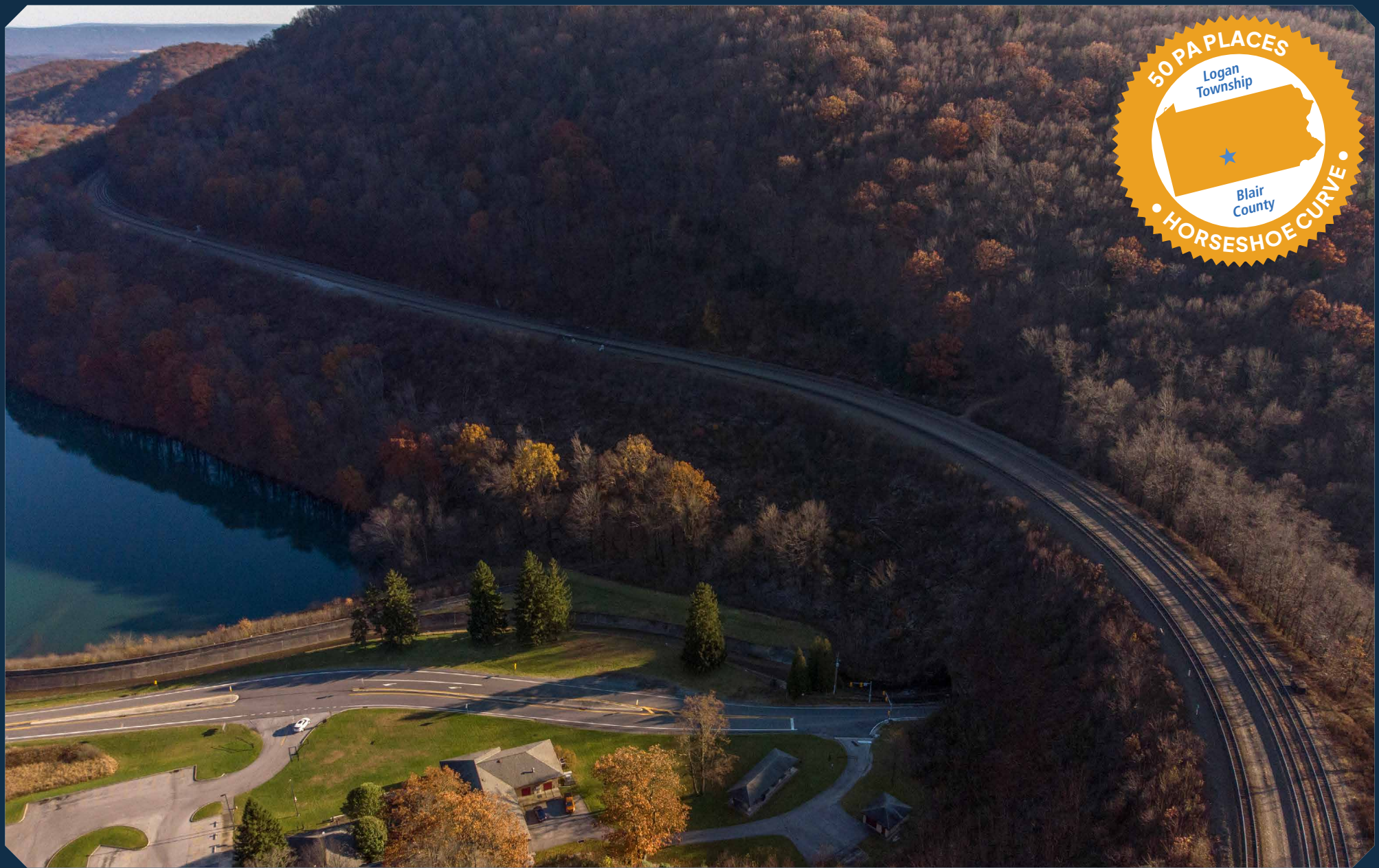
*Schaefferstown is an important example of an early rural Lebanon County town strongly influenced by the Pennsylvania German culture and reflective of its residents' Germanic heritage. Archaeological investigations have provided information on the 18th century distillery practices here.*





The Borough of Hawley was the small settlement of Paupack Eddy until 1825, when the Delaware & Hudson Canal arrived along with the many businesses, industries, and services that supported and profited from it. In 1840, the Pennsylvania Coal Company (PCC) selected Hawley as the terminus for its gravity railroad to quickly and easily transport mined anthracite coal to the canal for distribution to major markets. Hawley, named after PCC's president Irad Hawley, grew quickly with a business district, rail and boat yards along Middle Creek, community institutions, and residential neighborhoods. Hawley's fortunes could have changed in the late 19th century as railroads replaced canals for transporting goods and materials. Starting in the 1880s, several silk mills opened in Hawley and by 1890, several cut-glass factories had opened, replacing coal- and canal-related businesses and the community's economic drivers. In the early 20th, Hawley's economy shifted again as tourism from the newly-created Lake Wallenpaupack brought tourism and outdoor recreation to the area.





Completed in 1854 for the Pennsylvania Railroad, Horseshoe Curve solved a significant engineering challenge that prohibited efficient travel over the Allegheny Mountains into western Pennsylvania. The sharp curve over a steep grade replaced the complicated system of ten inclined planes, allowing faster movement of materials and people and opening critical trade and immigration routes. The curve was such a critical part of American transportation infrastructure that during World War II, Nazis identified it as one of a dozen critical targets to destroy. It is still used today for Norfolk Southern Railway's Pittsburgh Line.



# The Statewide Historic Preservation Planning Process

Statewide historic preservation planning is a relatively straightforward process and involves these key steps: connecting with people, analyzing feedback and data, developing goals to make progress and address challenges, and sharing the results with the public.

The National Historic Preservation Act and related regulations establish requirements for all statewide historic preservation plans. NPS provides specific direction through the Historic Preservation Fund Grants Manual. SHPOs, as leaders of the statewide planning process, must:

- develop a planning process that has broad-based public and professional involvement,
- include a summary of the planning process and how the plan was developed,
- clearly define the plan's cycle,
- provide a summary assessment of current resource conditions, including important issues, threats, and opportunities that affect all resource types, and
- communicate goals and objectives.

The following section outlines PA SHPO's statewide planning process for the 2025–2035 plan.

## Statewide Planning Team

The development and delivery of a statewide plan is a true team effort. Learning from experiences while developing the #PreservationHappensHere statewide plan, PA SHPO combined staff talent with consultant expertise.

## PA SHPO Team

The PA SHPO team included the Director, one project manager, and five staff members who represented PA SHPO's programs and initiatives.

## Plan Ambassadors

One member of the Commission and the Chair of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board served as Plan Ambassadors to represent these two bodies in the planning process.

## Plan Consultant

WSP Inc., a planning and engineering firm based in Philadelphia, was hired to assist with the statewide planning process. WSP's scope of work included designing and executing the statewide plan outreach and engagement and developing the themes and issues that form the basis of the action agenda.



Nearly 13,000 years old, the Shawnee–Minisink site is one of the earliest dated Native American sites in the northeastern United States. Archaeological investigations uncovered hundreds of stone tools left by early inhabitants around a series of campfires. Remains of fish and fruit provided evidence of a more diverse diet than expected for the late Ice Age.



## The SOAR Planning Process

PA SHPO developed a four-point approach to the planning process: SOAR. This stands for survey, outreach, analysis, and results.

### S: Survey

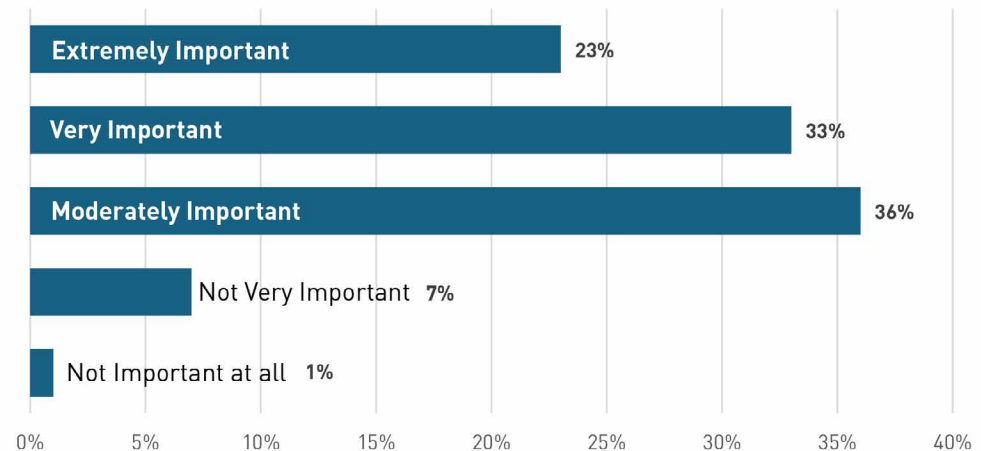
PA SHPO used two surveys—one scientific and one unscientific—to collect information to inform the statewide plan.

#### Lion Poll Survey

PA SHPO hired the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg to conduct a Lion Poll. The Lion Poll is a scientific omnibus survey that provides timely and accurate data to agencies, organizations, and researchers with statewide interests and responsibilities. Between March 6 and April 2, 2023, 1,045 adult Pennsylvanians answered 14 demographic questions and 11 questions about history and historic places.

The benefit of the Lion Poll is that it is a true representation of Pennsylvania, guaranteeing representation by geography, age, and gender and without the bias that comes from connecting with PA SHPO's typical preservation audiences. The methodology and results reports for PA SHPO's 2023 Lion Poll are available on [PHMC's website](#).

How important do you think it is for Pennsylvanians to have a well-rounded knowledge of Pennsylvania history? (1045 responses)



*In this Lion Poll question, 92% of respondents, representing a cross-section of Pennsylvania, believe Pennsylvanians should know about the Commonwealth's history.*

#### Public Survey

PA SHPO also developed an unscientific online public survey that was available to the public, partners, and stakeholders from September 2023 through May 2024. An online survey is one of the best ways for us to collect information from a broad and diverse group of Pennsylvanians about the historic places in their communities and historic preservation practice throughout the Commonwealth.

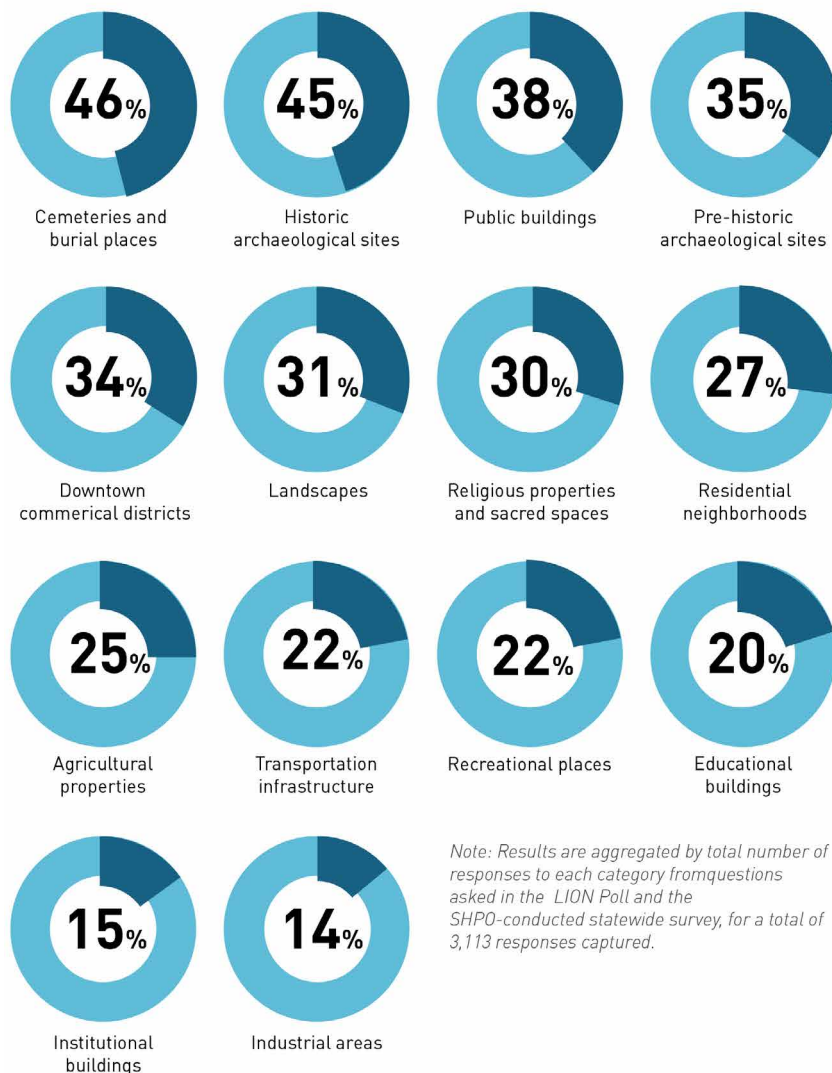
More than 2,230 people completed the online survey and provided representation from every county and many diverse backgrounds. The survey was distributed by PA SHPO staff, PHMC colleagues, Preservation Pennsylvania, and other statewide, regional, and local partners through email, newsletters, meetings and conferences, engagement events, and social media. The online public survey questions and results can be found on the statewide planning page of [PHMC's website](#).

## SHPO-Conducted Survey

Which of the following types of older and historic places would you prioritize for preservation in your community? Select up to 3.

## LION Poll

Which of the following types of historic structures do you think should be preserved in PA? Select up to 3.  
Which of the following types of historic places do you think should be preserved in Pennsylvania? Select up to 3.



*Note: Results are aggregated by total number of responses to each category from questions asked in the LION Poll and the SHPO-conducted statewide survey, for a total of 3,113 responses captured.*

*The aggregated results of Lion Poll and public survey questions about places to prioritize for preservation.*

## O: Outreach

Outreach is one of the most important activities in the statewide planning process. PA SHPO and NPS both place a high value on connecting with people to learn about their experiences and gather their ideas and suggestions. Outreach events are also called “engagements” throughout the plan.

WSP worked with PA SHPO and the Plan Ambassadors to develop an engagement strategy to direct the outreach phase from January through May 2024. They recommended the following:

- dividing Pennsylvania into nine regional divisions to manage engagement and data collection,
- organizing engagement events as education and listening sessions, and
- publishing a wikimap, which is an accessible GIS-based system to capture geographic points.

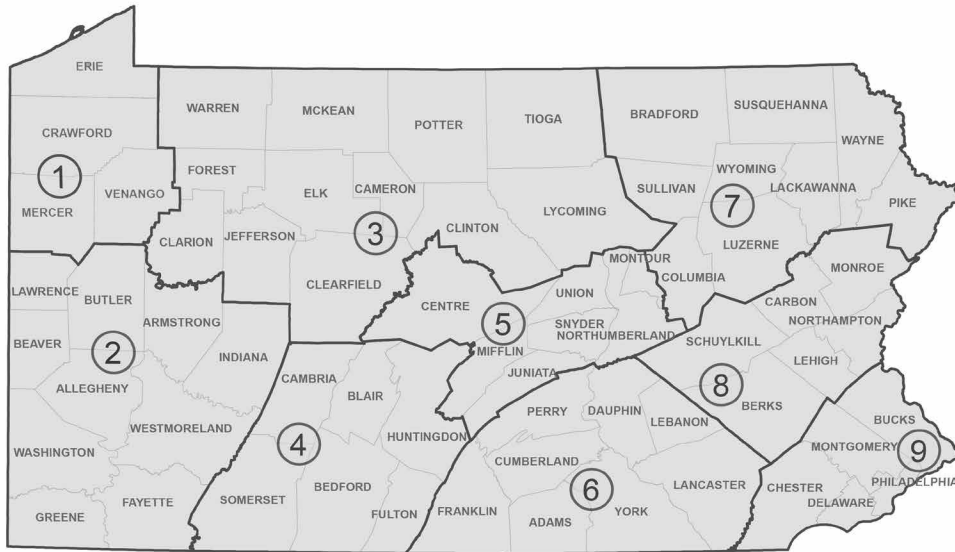
## REMINDER!

When you see “historic places” in this plan, it includes archaeological sites.



## Pennsylvania Regions

The regional divisions used for the 2018–2023 *#PreservationHappensHere* plan were continued in this planning process.



*Statewide plan regions. The only change for this plan is that the regional numbers were reversed, with the far northwest region numbered as “1” and the City of Philadelphia as “9.”*

These regions provided the organizing structure for engagement events and data synthesis and analysis. Summaries for each region, available on [PHMC’s website](#), provide a breakdown of demographic data, assessment of cultural resources, and regional survey results.

## Engagement Events and Opportunities

Between late February through early June 2024, the planning team convened the following focused engagement events ranging from in-person and virtual meetings to individual interviews to questionnaires.

Events with specific audiences:

- PA DCNR’s Bureau of Recreation & Conservation
- Pennsylvania Downtown Center
- Preservation Pennsylvania
- Preservation Pennsylvania’s PA At Risk properties
- Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds
- Certified Local Governments
- Archaeology community
- African American Museum of Philadelphia
- Partners for Sacred Places
- LGBT Center of Central PA
- Pennsylvania’s federal and state Heritage Areas and Heritage PA

Events with regional geographic audiences:

- Hollidaysburg, Blair County
- City of Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh, Allegheny County
- Carbondale, Lackawanna County
- Emporium, Cameron County
- Erie, Erie County
- Pottstown, Montgomery County
- York, York County
- Schuylkill and Lehigh Valleys

The planning team prioritized connecting with people who interact with historic places but not with historic preservation or PA SHPO. This included people working with history and historic places at the local or regional level, groups related to underrepresented histories, historical organizations, and community groups. Participants represented a mix of established partners, new stakeholders, and communities that do not often or typically work in the historic preservation realm.

It is important to note that connecting with these groups did present some challenges, for example:

- Nations and tribes whose ancestral lands are within the Commonwealth were invited to participate in the planning process but did not respond.
- Turnout for the Pittsburgh and Lehigh Valley events was low, with few participants attending these events.
- In some instances, in-person events were transitioned to virtual events or online questionnaires.
- Efforts to connect specifically with small independent retail business owners (main street businesses) were unsuccessful.

A list of planning partners is included in [Appendix B](#).

## SOAR Strategic Planning Technique

Engagement, whether a meeting, interview, or questionnaire, utilized the SOAR strategic planning technique. SOAR, which stands for strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results, is similar to but more results-oriented than the more traditional and widely known SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) technique.

Participants were asked the following questions:

- What does historic preservation mean to you?
- What are the greatest strengths of historic places and preservation in your area?
- What are the best opportunities for preservation in your area?
- What are some aspirations for future preservation successes in your area?
- What could the results of these successes look like? How will your area measure success?
- Consider what your ideal community would look like in 2035. What role do historic places play in that vision?

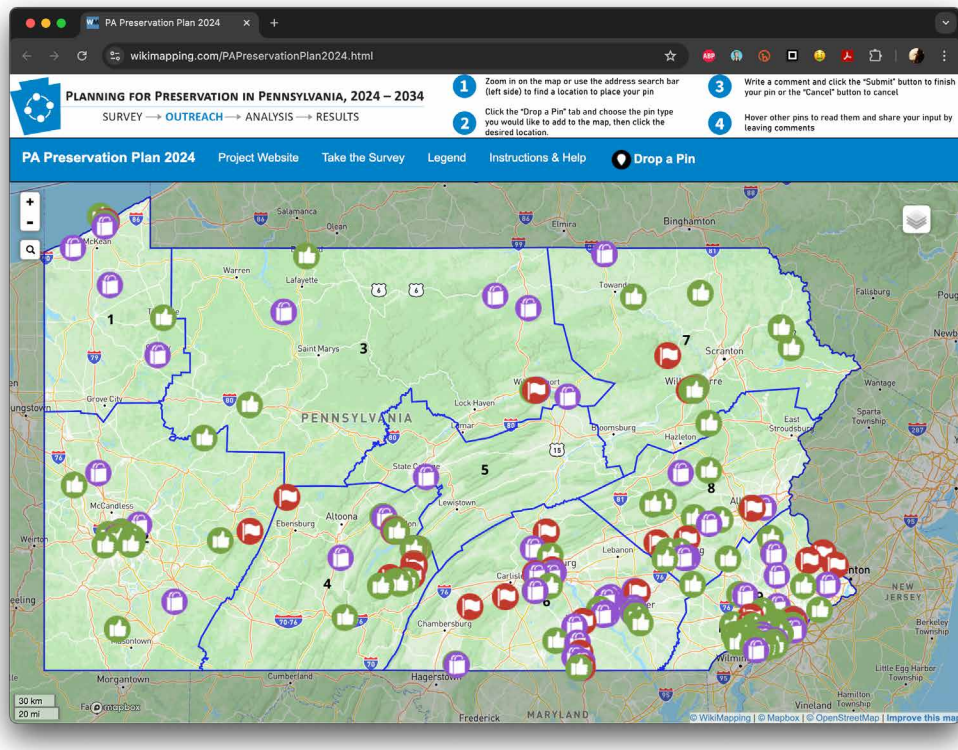
## Wikimap

A wikimap is an online crowdsourcing tool that allows users to add places and comments to a map. Key stakeholders, members of the Pennsylvania Preservation Board, Commissioners, PA SHPO staff, and event participants were invited to identify three types of places on a custom statewide preservation plan wikimap:

- **Preservation successes:** These were defined as a successful project or activity involving older and/or historic places. Success was broadly defined to capture places that may or may not be using traditional preservation programs, have reached important milestones, or made small, incremental change.
- **Preservation challenges:** These were defined as a location or project where historic places are at odds with other activities. The goal of collecting this information was to understand how challenges with funding, education/awareness, and development pressures are reflected in actual places and communities.
- **Local businesses:** These were defined as small independent retail businesses operating in historic spaces. The crowdsourced list of local businesses was used to develop the invitation list for the small independent retail business owners engagement.

The wikimap was available online from January to May 2024. See next page for screenshot.





Screenshot of wikimap website.

## A: Analysis

From April to early July 2024, WSP and PA SHPO synthesized and considered data from a number of sources:

- Census data,
- Surveys,
- Engagement event feedback,
- Current scholarship, and
- Agency and organization plans.

The analysis work informed the development of the statewide themes and issues and action agenda. The themes and issues are available on [PHMC's website](#).

## R: Report

The final step is assembling and publishing the statewide plan to share the results of the planning process.

## Review and Approval Process

NPS, the Commission, PHMC administration, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board, Plan Ambassadors, PA SHPO staff, engagement event participants, and others had the opportunity to review and comment on a draft of the statewide historic preservation plan beginning in August 2024.

## Publication

PA SHPO issued the statewide historic preservation plan in January 2025. The plan is available as a PDF on PHMC's website and a limited number of printed copies are available upon request.

## Planning Cycle

Preservation is often a long game. It usually takes time, effort, and patience to realize preservation outcomes, whether they are small wins or major achievements. At the beginning of the planning process, PA SHPO considered the five-year planning cycles of plans from the 1990s through 2023, looking at how resources, themes, issues, and opportunities changed or didn't change from plan to plan.

Notably, differences were not substantial—even over a 21-year period—in what Pennsylvanians value, worry about, and need to preserve the Commonwealth's historic places and



archaeological sites. There are certainly shifts in priorities and needs, like the types of places that are threatened and why they are threatened or doing a better job of including *all* voices in historic preservation work.

The constants through the last two decades, however, remain the same today: Pennsylvanians have strong connections to historic places and want to preserve the places that matter to them with the help of education, funding, and investment. It is

also clear that more time is needed to implement a plan's goals and objectives in order to make lasting change before moving into a new planning cycle.

PA SHPO is expanding the planning cycle for this statewide historic preservation plan to ten years, from January 2025 through December 2035. PA SHPO will revisit the plan at least once during the planning cycle. **This plan will start on January 1, 2025 and expire on December 31, 2035.**



*The Foxburg Golf Course is a 9-hole course that opened in 1887, giving it the distinction of being the oldest golf course in continuous use in the United States. John Mickle Fox, founder and designer of the Foxburg course was inspired to bring the recreational sport of golf to the United States after visiting and playing at the fabled St. Andrew's course in Scotland in 1884.*





*Wheatland, built in 1828 and restored in 1930s, is the home of James Buchanan, who was a statesman, diplomat and the fifteenth President of the United States (1857–61). Buchanan lived and worked from Wheatland while serving as President.*





*Camp Michaux was started as Pine Grove Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-51-PA in 1933, one of thousands across the country that employed and trained men as part of Roosevelt's programs to combat the effects of the Great Depression. During World War II, the US War Department used this site in deep rural Pennsylvania as a prisoner of war (POW) interrogation camp. As one of three such places in the country, thousands of German and Japanese prisoners were kept at Camp Michaux and provided military intelligence to the US. After the war, Pine Grove POW Interrogation Camp was renamed Camp Michaux and operated as a church camp until 1972. Today, some of the camp's ruins are visible in Pine Grove Furnace State Park.*

## Vision for Preservation in Pennsylvania

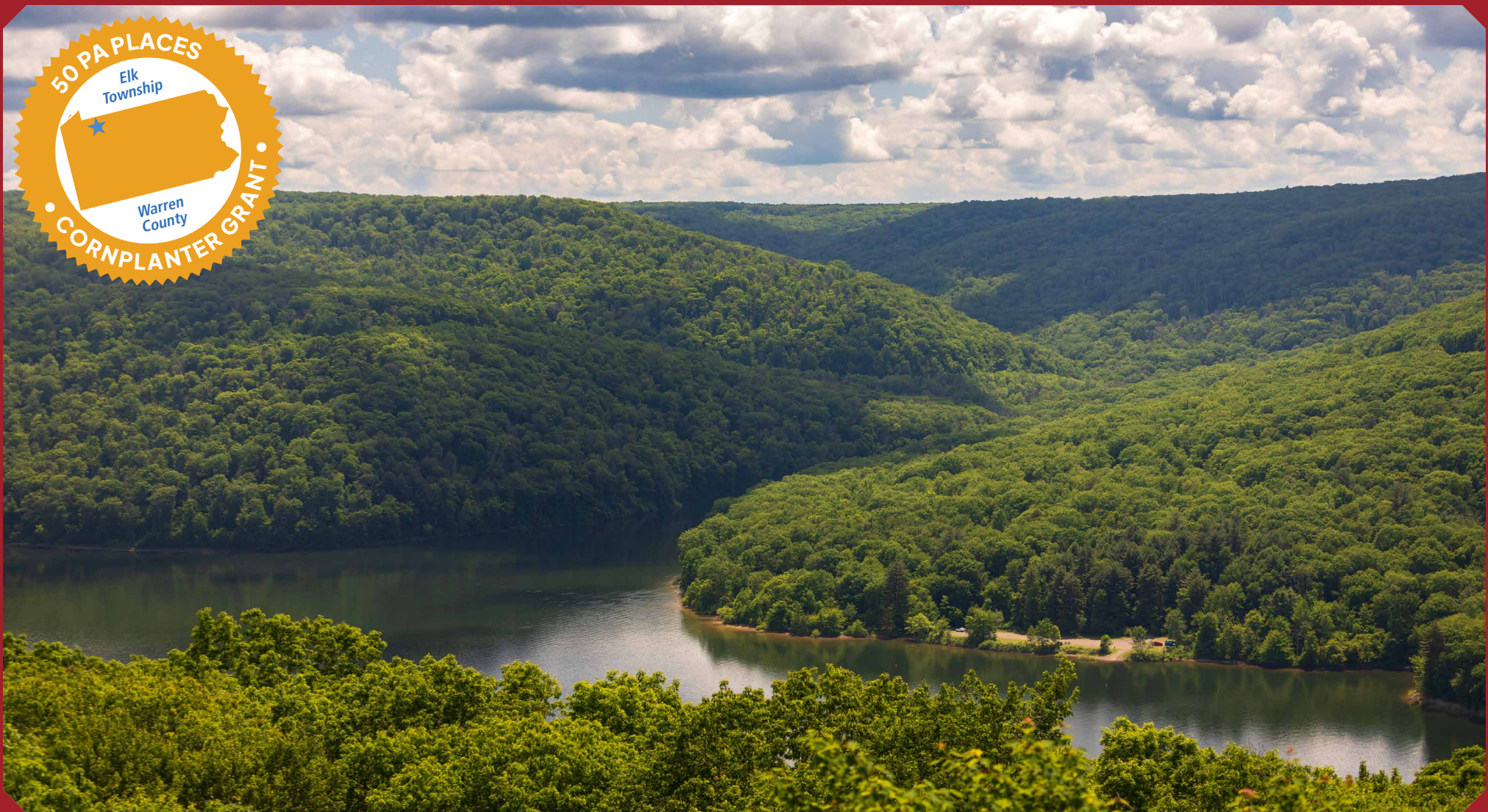
A vision statement is an important part of any strategic plan. A good vision statement is forward thinking, motivational and aspirational, reflects what is valued, and communicates what the future will look like if the plan's goals and objectives are met.

This vision statement is for preservation in Pennsylvania:

### VISION

**Pennsylvanians embrace historic places as opportunities to foster connections, shape unique communities, and provide sustainable solutions for the future.**





*A diplomat and defender of Seneca land and culture, Cornplanter allied the Iroquois Confederacy with the fledgling US after fighting for the British during the American Revolution. He arbitrated conflicts between Native Americans and settlers, though he later became disillusioned when the Nations were not treated equally and fairly. In 1796, Cornplanter and his heirs were granted three tracts of land by the state. The first two tracts passed out of Cornplanter's hands fairly quickly, but he retained and lived on the third tract in Warren County, a piece of land that became known as the Cornplanter Grant. The heirs of Cornplanter would continue to own the land until 1965 when it was taken by the US Army Corps of Engineers to create the Allegheny Reservoir. Before it was inundated, the Grant played a significant role in Seneca culture and identity. It was the place where Cornplanter lived. Cornplanter was a key player in navigating the Seneca Nation through the tumult of the Revolutionary War and the creation of the new United States of America. It was also the home of Handsome Lake, Cornplanter's half-brother and a key Seneca prophet. Because of its isolated location, the Grant was also the location where many traditional Seneca lifeways persisted well into the 20th century.*



# The SOAR Action Agenda

This action agenda synthesizes the results of the SOAR planning process and presents a framework for achieving more preservation outcomes in the next decade. It reflects the problems, opportunities, and ideas Pennsylvanians shared through in-person meetings, online polls, and virtual interviews.

## Areas of Importance

Ten “Areas of Importance” emerged from the plan’s engagement process. They relate to historic places, as well as historic preservation policy and practice in Pennsylvania. This analysis identifies the strengths historic places and historic preservation bring to communities, reframes issues and problems as

opportunities, understands shared aspirations, and communicates results. Because the Areas of Importance are so interwoven, together they provide the foundation for the goals and objectives that will guide historic preservation in Pennsylvania for the next 10 years.

They reflect broad trends across the Commonwealth, some of which were identified in the previous statewide historic preservation plan and continue to be relevant.

Each Area of Importance is analyzed using the SOAR categories first introduced in the engagement process. They are arranged in a simple table with an introduction and a list of related Areas of Importance:



### Area of Importance: EXAMPLE

**In this plan:** Explanation of how the Area of Importance term or phrase is used specifically in this plan and provides additional details and context, if needed.

Strength	Opportunity	Aspiration	Results
What strengths do historic places and historic preservation have? What is working well? What do we have already to build on or from?	What opportunities do historic places and historic preservation offer? What isn’t working well? What are the challenges and how do they provide an opportunity for change?	What do future preservation successes look like? What historic preservation problems will be solved? What do Pennsylvanians want for historic places and their communities?	What is the result if strengths are leveraged, opportunities are capitalized on, and aspirations are realized?

**Relates to:** Other Areas of Importance that connect to or influence this Area of Importance.



# Area of Importance: ACCESS

**In this plan:** Access is the ability of private citizens and laypersons, advocacy organizations, nonprofits, and local governments to navigate the preservation process and obtain information, grant funding, researching resources, and state and federal requirements to utilize historic preservation tools.



**Relates to:** Community, Context, Development, Economic Opportunity, Education & Training, Incentives, Preservation Trades

# Area of Importance: COMMUNITY

**In this plan:** Community is used broadly to mean a group of people who share a connection through geography, place, demographics, work, values, beliefs, and practices. Community is threatened when the historic places that define a community's identity and its character are lost.



**Relates to:** Access, Context, Education & Training, Planning & Zoning



# Area of Importance: CONTEXT

**In this plan:** Context helps people understand the forces and factors that have influenced history and the historic places that reflect that history. It allows people to understand where they live and why things have happened and can help them make informed decisions.



**Relates to:** Access, Community, Development, Education & Training, Environmental Sustainability, Preservation Trades

# Area of Importance: DEVELOPMENT

**In this plan:** Development relates to pressures in two different types of places: existing developed land occupied by older and historic buildings and places that have been historically green space (fields and forests) in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Development also relates to repurposing historic buildings. Reuse offers options for increasing housing supply; preserves open space and agricultural and natural lands; and supports sustainability best practices.



**Relates to:** Access, Context, Economic Opportunity, Education & Training, Environmental Sustainability, Incentives, Planning & Zoning, Preservation Trades



# Area of Importance: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

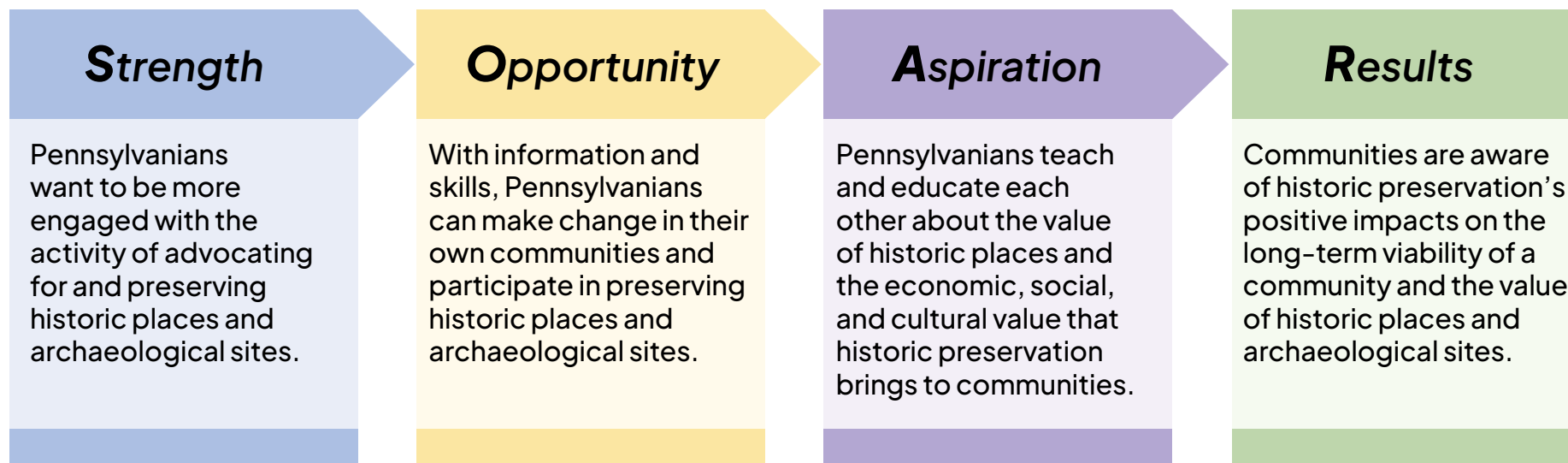
**In this plan:** Economic opportunity focuses on the ways in which historic buildings can be leveraged for solutions and benefits to property owners, municipalities, and communities throughout Pennsylvania. Historic preservation activities are proven methods for community revitalization.



**Relates to:** Access, Community, Development, Education & Training, Incentives, Planning & Zoning

# Area of Importance: EDUCATION & TRAINING

**In this plan:** Education is a foundational part of historic preservation and a critical activity for advocacy, stewardship, protection, and more. Pennsylvanians believe education on historic places and archaeological sites is critical, as they did in the previous historic preservation plan (2018), but place more emphasis on training rather than education related to historic preservation practice.



**Relates to:** Access, Community, Context, Development, Economic Opportunity, Incentives, Planning & Zoning, Preservation Trades



# Area of Importance: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**In this plan:** Environmental sustainability focuses on improving the overall health of the world and its shared environment for current and future generations. One component of environmental sustainability is climate, which is changing from both natural events and human activities. A changing climate, which includes more frequent and severe flooding, increased rain volumes and intensity, and higher temperatures, impacts historic places, archaeological sites, and communities throughout Pennsylvania.



**Relates to:** Context, Development, Education & Training, Planning & Zoning

# Area of Importance: INCENTIVES

**In this plan:** Incentives focuses on how public and private investments can better support historic preservation activities in the Commonwealth. Incentives was identified as an important theme in the previous statewide preservation plan (2018) and, like this plan, centered on the need for more funding and programs.

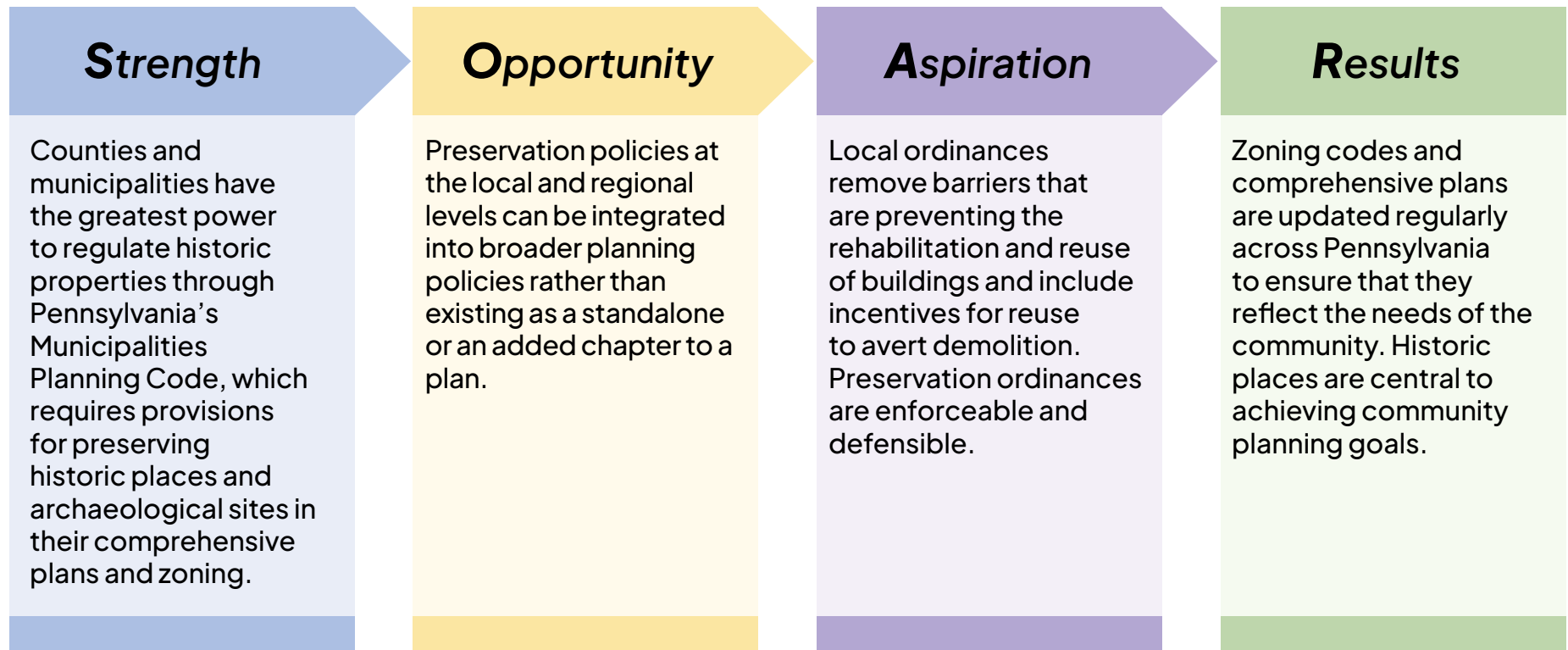


**Relates to:** Access, Development, Economic Opportunity, Education & Training



# Area of Importance: PLANNING & ZONING

**In this plan:** Planning and historic preservation are natural partners in that they are centered around place and community. Like in the previous historic preservation plan (2018), Pennsylvanians continue to want historic preservation, historic places, and archaeological sites as part of planning activities and conversations.



**Relates to:** Community, Development, Economic Opportunity, Education & Training, Environmental Sustainability

# Area of Importance: PRESERVATION TRADES

**In this plan:** Preservation trades are defined as traditional building trades and historic materials, including masonry, roofing, metalworking, carpentry, and plasterwork.



**Relates to:** Access, Context, Development, Education & Training





*Conrad Weiser was born in Germany and arrived in Pennsylvania in 1729, settling in a rural area of Berks County. Weiser is best known for his role in negotiating the major treaties between the colonial government and the Iroquis Nations between 1731 and 1758.*





*This reinforced concrete structure was the largest of its kind ever built when it went into service in 1915 on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. The bridge, 2,375 feet long and rising 240 feet above Tunkhannock Creek, was the focal point of a 39.6-mile relocation between Clarks Summit and Hallstead. The novelist Theodore Dreiser called this viaduct "one of the true wonders of the world."*





Headquartered in South Bethlehem, Bethlehem Steel was one of the most important iron and steel manufacturers in the country. In 1863, Bethlehem Iron Co. began producing railroad rails. Steel manufacturing began in 1873 with armor plate and guns forged for the US Navy. Structural steel produced at this massive facility was used to build many iconic skyscrapers like New York City's Empire State Building and monumental bridges like San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. The plant was a major defense manufacturer for the Allied Forces during both World Wars. A deadly labor strike at the plant in 1910 led to a federal investigation that contributed to industry reforms. The company closed the South Bethlehem location in 1995 and the company was eventually dissolved in 2003 after 140 years.

## Action Agenda

Statewide historic preservation plans help inform decision making, prioritize and coordinate statewide preservation activities, and communicate a statewide vision for preservation. The action agenda is the heart of the plan. The guiding principles, goals, and objectives are a framework for progress, not a detailed blueprint to guide specific policies, programs, or activities.

The three goals to help Pennsylvania realize more preservation outcomes over the next 10 years are:

- **GOAL 1:** Real and perceived barriers to historic preservation have been reduced or eliminated through data-driven and thoughtful investments in relationships, programs, funding, and policies.
- **GOAL 2:** Historic preservation and historic places are valued as integral to community identity, sense of place, economic development, and sustainable growth in Pennsylvania communities.
- **GOAL 3:** Pennsylvanians create more meaningful preservation outcomes by leveraging knowledge and opportunities offered by historic preservation and historic places.

It is up to everyone committed to Pennsylvania's communities and historic places to determine what they can do within this framework and how they can do it.

## Guiding Principles

These guiding principles provide a reference point for making decisions, evaluating courses of action, or confronting difficult challenges that may not end with a preservation outcome.

Most of these principles were first identified in the previous statewide historic preservation plan. Based on the outcomes of the engagement for this plan, they are still valid and useful as they reflect a pragmatic, balanced, and thoughtful approach to historic preservation.

**REMINDER!**  
When you see  
“historic places” in  
this plan, it includes  
archaeological sites.

- Historic preservation is holistic; it is broadly defined to encompass buildings, archaeological sites, structures, objects, historic districts, landscapes, and communities.
- Historic preservation is a public interest, with economic, social, health, cultural, and other benefits.
- Historic preservation is most effective when it is proactive and not reactive.
- There are people, stories, cultures, and places that are underrepresented in Pennsylvania's historical narrative.
- Archaeology tells the story of the people and diverse cultures who have lived in the lands of Pennsylvania for the past 15,000 years. In some cases, it is the only record we have of these diverse cultures and peoples, and in other cases it is an important complement to the oral and written historic record.
- Change to Pennsylvania's communities and historic places, physical or otherwise, is necessary and inevitable.
- Historic places are nonrenewable resources. Some, for reasons outside of anyone's control, will be lost.
- Not all older places are historic, and for those that are, prioritize those that are considered important.
- Older and historic buildings need to be used, reused, and changed to be viable. Conversely, significant archaeological sites and cemeteries should be avoided and left unchanged, managed as open space, or adapted for outdoor recreation.
- Historic places present opportunities to support economic development, create unique destinations, foster community and cultural identity, and more.





**Real and perceived barriers to historic preservation have been reduced or eliminated through data-driven and thoughtful investments in relationships, programs, funding, and policies.**

---

**Objective A: Engage Pennsylvanians to accomplish the goals and objectives of this plan.**

1. Coordinate with key stakeholders to develop implementation plans for years 1–3, 4–6, and 7–10.
2. Convene meetings with local, regional, and statewide preservation, archaeology, history, planning, community, and other leaders to identify objectives and actions, based on their priorities, that they will adopt to make progress against this plan.
3. Develop metrics and systems to capture progress against the plan for annual reporting and Year 5 update.
4. Identify and pursue funding to implement the objectives and activities identified in this plan.

**Objective B: Increase access to historic preservation programs, funding, and policies.**

1. Convene working groups of local and regional stakeholders from diverse audiences to address barriers to historic preservation.
2. Identify and review existing planning, history, archaeology, and preservation programs and tools that discourage or otherwise create barriers to participation.
3. Revise existing programs and tools or create new ones to improve access to programs, funding, and other resources.
4. Develop ways to make archaeology more accessible to the general public to increase knowledge and appreciation of archaeological sites.

**Objective C: Rebuild and expand historic preservation networks.**

1. Expand preservation networks to include people and organizations that have not been represented historically in the preservation, archaeology, and history communities.
2. Create partnerships with Nations and Tribes whose ancestral lands include what is now Pennsylvania that respect Tribal priorities, values, and culture.
3. Build coalitions between preservation and preservation-adjacent organizations and initiatives, such as local economic development and Main Street organizations, to support the use and reuse of historic buildings.
4. Create alliances between preservation organizations and preservation-adjacent organizations such as Heritage Areas, colleges and universities, Main Street organizations, and economic development agencies to foster more holistic community development.
5. Recruit new advocates for preservation, particularly in the real estate and economic development sectors.
6. Recognize and support Pennsylvanians, particularly those representing historically diverse and underrepresented communities, who are documenting and celebrating their histories and advocating for preservation outcomes and historic places in their communities.

**Objective D: Eliminate gaps, outdated concepts, and ineffective language in preservation planning in municipal, county, and regional agencies.**

1. Identify gaps, outdated concepts, and ineffective language in existing historic preservation policies and practices.
2. Develop and implement solutions for adapting existing policies and practices to address shortcomings that hamper effective local preservation programs.
3. Update zoning, municipal ordinances, and codes across Pennsylvania to reflect community priorities related to the identification and protection of historic places.
4. Encourage communities to enact local protections for archaeological sites that mirror those for other historic resources.
5. Encourage communities to advocate to their municipal and county governments for new policies and initiatives that support historic preservation.





## GOAL 2

**Historic preservation and historic places are valued as integral to community identity, sense of place, economic development, and sustainable growth in Pennsylvania communities.**

---

**Objective A: Create opportunities for historic preservation to be central to promoting the overall health of a community.**

1. Promote the inherently healthy design of historic communities, including the benefits of walkability, sense of place, community, public health, and other conversations about place.
2. Leverage historic places to foster community dialogues that expand and strengthen appreciation for and understanding of local history, create context for historic places, and communicate the importance of story and memory to existing historic places.
3. Engage community members and other stakeholders in conversations about community change and development.
4. Engage with small business owners to identify ways in which historic preservation can support the historic downtown commercial area to thrive as the community's historic core.

**Objective B: Integrate historic preservation considerations into practices and policies.**

1. Develop preservation, sustainability, and resiliency strategies that overlap with preservation to foster a holistic approach to climate change and disaster preparedness.
2. Disseminate reliable and understandable strategies for historic places that address sustainability and resiliency.

**Objective C: Encourage property owners to be good stewards and responsibly manage change to their properties following preservation best practices.**

1. Encourage a culture of preventive maintenance for historic properties.
2. Develop programs or initiatives to assist lower- and middle-income homeowners and owners of affordable housing properties to maintain and weatherize their historic buildings.
3. Increase assistance to small and legacy business owners to maintain their historic buildings and manage change in ways that meet their needs and preserve the historic building's character and materials.
4. Create tools for owners and stewards of historic properties that encourage appropriate and preventive maintenance for older and historic buildings.

**Objective D: Increase the use of historic preservation as a tool for economic and community development by connecting sense of place and the reuse of historic places.**

1. Adopt strategies and policies at the state and local levels to promote preservation as a means to housing affordability across Pennsylvania.
2. Provide incentives to encourage developers and the real estate community to utilize existing historic buildings for housing needs.
3. Advocate for additional tax credits and financial incentives for historic places at the federal and state levels.
4. Encourage leveraging new funding sources with existing housing and energy tax incentives.
5. Continue to advocate for improvements to the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit program to further stimulate economic development by investing in historic places.





## GOAL 3

### **Pennsylvanians create more meaningful preservation outcomes by leveraging knowledge and opportunities offered by historic preservation and historic places.**

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#### **Objective A: Expand the public's knowledge of history, archaeology, and historic preservation through coordinated education and training programs.**

1. Create and fund a dedicated program to train interested members of the public in archaeological methods and ethics.
2. Support access to education and training programs that include but are not limited to colleges, universities, and trade schools to create the next generation of preservation and archaeology professionals.
3. Partner with communities that are historically underrepresented in historic preservation in Pennsylvania and assist with access to resources, education, and training about historic preservation and historic places.
4. Use new, interesting, and creative tools and approaches to encourage Pennsylvanians to learn more about the past, appreciate its role in understanding the present, and inspire the stewardship of historic places.

#### **Objective B: Communicate clearly and strategically about historic preservation and its benefits.**

1. Create audience-specific tools and messages that clearly communicate information and data about historic preservation and its benefits to elected officials, municipal and county governments, planning entities, economic development organizations, and others.
2. Partner with communities, stakeholders, and preservation and preservation-adjacent advocacy organizations to educate local and regional governments about the economic, community, and environmental benefits of historic preservation.
3. Create marketing and communication campaigns that emphasize preservation's impact on property values, downtown revitalization, tourism, job creation, and tax revenue generation to show how prioritizing preservation directly improves a community's economic health and well-being.
4. Communicate the importance of small and legacy businesses in a community's historic downtown core and their role in creating positive ripple and halo effects in their communities.
5. Educate local and regional leaders, partners, and others about the importance of and threats to archaeological sites.

***A: Expand knowledge   B: Communicate clearly   C: Develop tools   D: Improve access***

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**Objective C: Assist in the development and delivery of historic preservation tools and programs.**

1. Provide technical assistance to communities, organizations, agencies, municipalities, and others about historic preservation and the care and protection of historic places.
2. Connect audiences with local, state, and federal historic preservation tools that best meet their needs, goals, and abilities.
3. Identify and pursue financial support for new or existing historic preservation programs.
4. Leverage non-traditional and atypical funding and partnership opportunities to launch or sustain historic preservation programs

**Objective D: Improve access to the preservation trades.**

1. Investigate existing models to grow the number of preservation tradespeople in Pennsylvania, both as career opportunities and as an in-demand market.
2. Create and fund programs to encourage Pennsylvanians to pursue opportunities in the preservation trades, particularly in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.
3. Develop programs to enhance access to and affordability of preservation trades for historic property owners.





The Moravians settled in Bethlehem in the early 18th century and established a communal, self-sufficient religious society with domestic buildings, businesses, small industries, schools, and religious buildings. The surviving stone buildings are considered excellent examples of German Colonial architecture and reflect their architectural, religious, and cultural values, emphasizing simplicity, functionality, and community. Historic Moravian Bethlehem District was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024.





The Carrie Furnaces #6 and #7 are the surviving remnants of the former Carrie Furnace complex and reminders of Pittsburgh's late-19th- and early-20th-century industrial legacy. Built in 1884 and operational until 1982, the seven furnaces produced upwards of 1,000 to 1,250 tons of iron per day and fed molten iron to the steelmaking process at the Homestead Steel Mill on the opposite side of the Monongahela River.



# How the 2025-2035 Action Plan Meets SHPO Responsibilities

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and 54 US §302303 set forth the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Offices. PA SHPO meets its federal obligations through this plan in the following ways:

In cooperation with federal and state agencies, local governments, and private organizations and individuals, direct and conduct a comprehensive statewide survey of historic properties and maintain inventories of such properties;

- *Goal 1, Objectives B and D*
- *Goal 2, Objective A*
- *Goal 3, Objectives A and C*

Identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register and otherwise administer applications for listing historic properties in the National Register;

- *Goal 1, Objective B*
- *Goal 2, Objectives A and D*
- *Goal 3, Objective A, B, and C*

Prepare and implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan;

- *Goal 1, Objectives A and C*
- *Goal 3, Objective C*

Administer the state program of federal assistance for historic preservation within the state;

- *Goal 1, Objectives B and C*
- *Goal 2, Objectives B and C*
- *Goal 3, Objectives A, B, and C*

Advise and assist, as appropriate, federal and state agencies and local governments in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities;

- *Goal 1, Objectives B and C*
- *Goal 2, Objectives B and C*
- *Goal 3, Objectives A, B, and C*

Cooperate with the secretary of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and other federal and state agencies, local governments, and organizations and individuals to ensure that historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development;

- *Goal 1, Objectives B and D*
- *Goal 2, Objectives B and D*
- *Goal 3, Objective C*

Provide public information, education, and training and technical assistance in historic preservation;

- *Goal 1, Objectives B and C*
- *Goal 2, Objectives A and C*
- *Goal 3, Objectives A, B, C, and D*

Cooperate with local governments in the development of local historic preservation programs and assist local governments in becoming certified pursuant to subsection C;

- Goal 1, Objective B, C, and D
- Goal 2, Objectives A, B, C, and D
- Goal 3, Objective C

Consult with the appropriate federal agencies in accordance with this act on federal undertakings that may affect historic properties and the content and sufficiency of any plans developed to protect, manage, or reduce or mitigate harm to such properties;

- Goal 1, Objective C
- Goal 2, Objectives A, B, and C
- Goal 3, Objective C

Advise and assist in the evaluation of proposals for rehabilitation projects that may qualify for federal assistance.

- Goal 1, Objective B
- Goal 2, Objectives A, C, and D
- Goal 3, Objectives A, B, C, and D



The National Transit Building was constructed in 1890 as the local headquarters for the National Transit Company, which was one of the most powerful businesses in the country at the turn of the 20th century. After the Civil War, the transporting of crude oil from fields to refineries or shipping hubs moved from barrels and teamsters to pipelines and railroads. The business of transporting oil started as a number of small companies with short pipelines. The process of monopolizing the pipeline industry began in the 1870s as large conglomerates bought up the smaller companies and ended in 1881 when John D. Rockefeller united oil pipelines from Cleveland, Buffalo, Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York City as the National Transit Company. National Transit was part of a larger holding company, Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), which was eventually dissolved by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1911 because of its size and market share.





*Dating to 1703, Elfreth's Alley in Philadelphia is one of the oldest continuously inhabited residential streets in the country. Over its history, it has been home to British, German, Irish, and other immigrant families. Preservation efforts, started in 1934, are credited with preserving this time capsule of Philadelphia's early history.*



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# Appendix A: 50 PA Places

There are many, many more places that every Pennsylvanian should experience and this list only scratches the surface. It would be impossible to characterize Pennsylvania's diverse, eclectic, and extensive history in a state of this size with only 50 places.

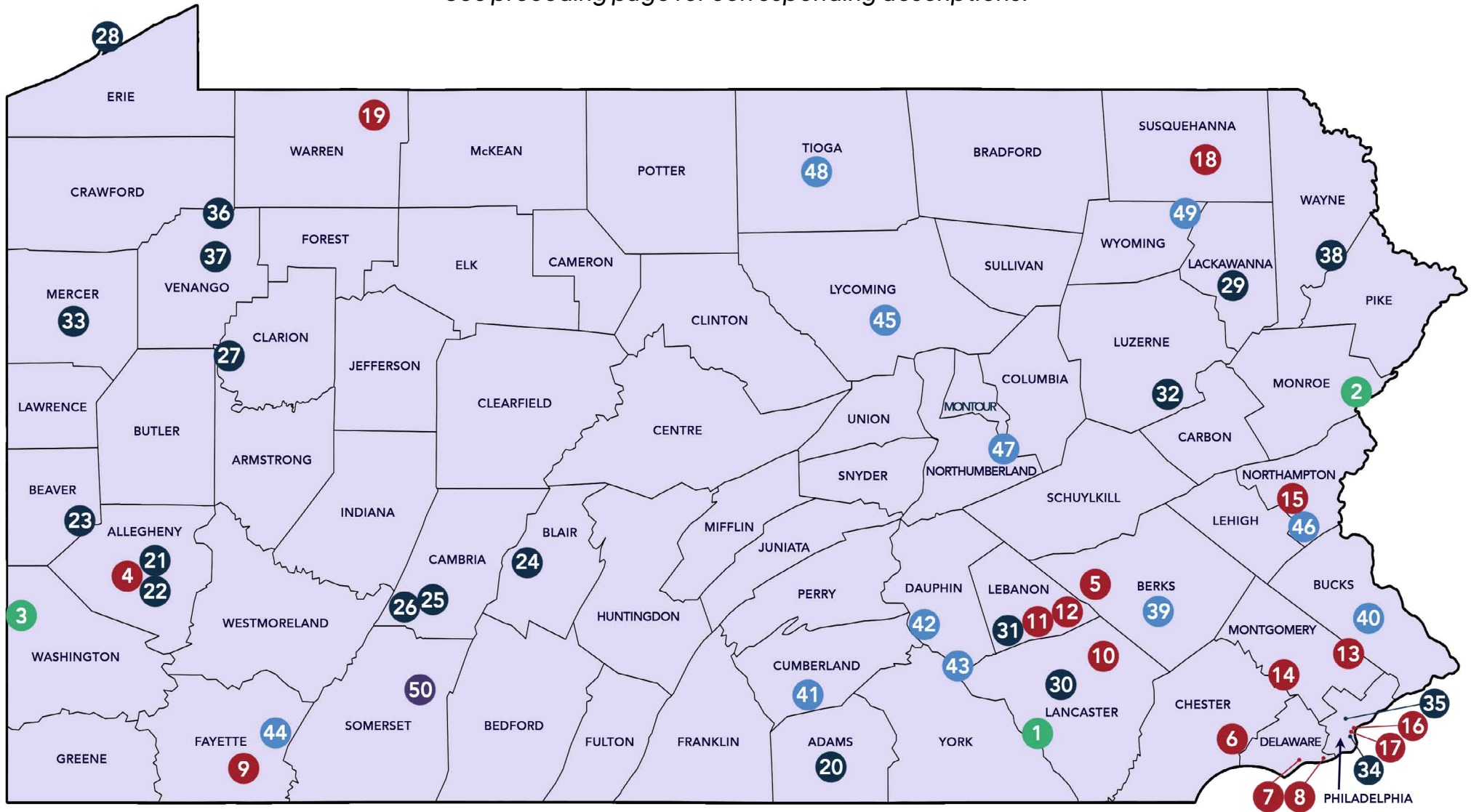
	Place	Location	Page
1	Big & Little Indian Rock Petroglyphs	Conestoga Township, Lancaster County	24
2	Shawnee-Minisink	Smithfield Township, Monroe County	49
3	Meadowcroft Rockshelter	Avella, Jefferson Township, Washington County	2
4	Fort Pitt	City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County	14
5	Conrad Weiser Homestead	Womelsdorf Borough, Berks County	70
6	Brandywine Battlefield	Birmingham Township, Chester County	4
7	Old Chester County Courthouse	City of Chester, Delaware County	13
8	Lazaretto	Essington, Tinicum Township, Delaware County	95
9	Jumonville Glen	Hopwood Borough, Fayette County	26
10	Ephrata Cloister	Ephrata Borough, Lancaster County	37
11	Cornwall Furnace	Cornwall Borough, Lebanon County	88
12	Schaefferstown	Schaefferstown, Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County	46
13	Graeme Park	Horsham Township, Montgomery County	38
14	Valley Forge Encampment	Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County	27
15	Moravian Bethlehem	City of Bethlehem, Northampton County	80
16	Elfreth's Alley	City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County	84
17	Independence Hall	City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County	36
18	Dennis Farm	Brooklyn Township, Susquehanna County	28
19	Complanter Grant	Elk Township, Warren County	58
20	Gettysburg National Military Park	Cumberland Township, Adams County	6, 97
21	Allegheny County Courthouse	City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County	91
22	Carrie Blast Furnaces	Swissvale Borough, Allegheny County	81
23	Old Economy Village	Ambridge Borough, Beaver County	29
24	Horseshoe Curve	Logan Township, Blair County	48
25	Cambria Iron Works	City of Johnstown, Cambria County	96

The table below and the corresponding locations on the map on the next page (as well as the highlights throughout the plan) are organized by color based on the era they're from: **Pre-Contact**, **18th century**, **19th century**, **20th century**, and **21st century**.

	Place	Location	Page
26	Johnstown Flood	City of Johnstown, Cambria County	35
27	Foxburg Golf Course	Foxburg Borough, Clarion County	55
28	Presque Isle Light Station	City of Erie, Erie County	18
29	Scranton Electric Building	City of Scranton, Lackawanna County	30
30	Wheatland	City of Lancaster, Lancaster County	56
31	Mt. Gretna Campmeeting & Chautauqua	West Cornwall Township, Lebanon County	41
32	Eckley Miners Village	Foster Township, Luzerne County	89
33	Pandenarium	East Lackawannock Township, Mercer County	32
34	Eastern State Penitentiary	City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County	12
35	Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church	City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County	45
36	Drake Well	Cherrytree Township, Venango County	39
37	National Transit Building	City of Oil City, Venango County	83
38	Hawley	Hawley Borough, Wayne County	47
39	Reading Pagoda	City of Reading, Berks County	90
40	Fonthill/Mercer Museum	Doylestown Borough, Bucks County	31
41	Camp Michaux	Cooke Township, Cumberland County	57
42	Pennsylvania State Capitol	City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County	22, 99
43	Three Mile Island	Londonderry Township, Dauphin County	33
44	Fallingwater	Stewart Township, Fayette County	42
45	Little League Stadium	City of Williamsport, Lycoming County	92
46	Bethlehem Steel	City of Bethlehem, Northampton County	72
47	Knoebel's Grove	Ralpho Township, Northumberland Township	8
48	Wellsboro Diner	Wellsboro Borough, Tioga County	23
49	Tunkhannock Viaduct	Nicholson Borough, Wyoming County	71
50	Flight 93 Memorial	Stonycreek Township, Somerset County	11, 98

# 50 PA Places Map

See preceding page for corresponding descriptions.







Cornwall Iron Furnace operated from 1742 to 1883 and is the only surviving intact charcoal cold-blast iron furnace in the Western Hemisphere. Peter Grubb located the furnace in south-central Pennsylvania to take advantage of rich ore deposits and acres of forest for charcoal.





*Founded in 1854 as Fillmore, this company-owned town was renamed for noted mining engineer Eckley Coxe. It was built to house anthracite coal miners and their families, many European immigrants. Coal patch towns like Eckley were common in northeast Pennsylvania in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Colliery operations declined by the 1950s, but the site was restored for the 1970 film *The Molly Maguires*. Historic archaeology on Back Street, the poorest block of Eckley village, documented the self reliance of families who needed to hunt and garden to supplement their meager earnings in the mine.*





The Reading Pagoda, positioned 620 feet above the City of Reading, has offered its 30-mile panoramic view to visitors since it was built in 1907. William Abbott Witman Sr. spent \$50,000 to build the Pagoda, which is based on Japan's Pagoda of Nagoya Castle, as a seven-story luxury resort. The resort never came to fruition and Witman donated the Pagoda to the City in 1911. Since that time, it has been used as a public observatory and, before the advent of radio, a news and weather station that flashed coded messages from its rooftop lantern.





Completed in 1888, the Allegheny County Courthouse is one of the most important works by American architect H. H. Richardson. Richardson's work is rooted in the European Romanesque Revival styles of the 19th century but his incorporation of other stylistic elements into his buildings, like monumental arches that spring from the ground rather than a pedestal, led to the development of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the United States. This style, also executed in masonry, was popular from the late 19th century until about 1900 and can be seen in houses, schools, churches, and civic buildings throughout Pennsylvania.





Today, Little League is a fixture in most communities each spring as an organization for young children to learn and play baseball. In 1942, Carl E. Stotz established the first Little League field along W. 4th Street in Williamsport and this site became home to the new organization for 9-to-12-year-old-boys. By 1958, Little League had expanded from the small single league in Williamsport to almost 5,000 leagues around the world. Today, the Little League World Series draws international teams together and is considered one of the most popular events in youth sports.

## Appendix B: Planning Partners

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals participated in the statewide historic preservation planning process:

### Academia

Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Juniata College  
University of Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Program  
West Chester University  
York College

### Advocacy

Abolition Hall & Hovenden Homestead  
African American Cemetery Stewardship Program  
Bradley Maule, Local Preservationist  
Chester County Historic Preservation Network  
Melania Ramsey, Community Organizer  
Ophelia Chambliss, Artist  
Partners for Sacred Places  
Pennsylvania Archaeology Council (PAC)  
Pittsburgh Modernism Committee  
Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia  
Preservation Erie  
Preservation Pennsylvania  
Preservation Pittsburgh  
Society to Preserve Philadelphia African American Assets  
Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance

### Architects and Developers

Bridge the Gap Development  
David Macharola, Architect  
Kidder Architects  
Philly Office Retail

Royal Square Development & Construction  
Susquehanna Real Estate

### Consultants

A.D. Marble  
AECOM  
Big Pine Consultants LLC.  
Christine Davis Consultants Inc.  
MAKE Advisory Services LLC  
NTM Engineering Inc.  
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
The Markosky Engineering Group Inc.

### Community and/or Economic Development

Called to Serve Community Development Corporation  
Diamond City Partnership  
Erie Bayfront East Side Taskforce  
Erie Downtown Partnership  
Manayunk Development Corp  
Our West Bayfront Erie  
Spark Community Capital  
Strawberry Mansion Community Development Corporation  
Valley in Motion  
York County Economic Alliance

### Governments – Local and County

Berks County  
Borough of Ambridge  
Borough of Beaver  
Borough of Carbondale  
Borough of Carlisle  
Borough of Ebensburg  
Borough of Gettysburg  
Borough of Hollidaysburg



Borough of Huntingdon  
Borough of Sewickley  
Borough of Sewickley Heights  
Borough of Strasburg  
Bucks County  
Cameron County  
Chester County  
City of Bradford  
City of Erie  
City of Pittsburgh  
City of Reading  
City of St. Mary's  
Concord Township, Delaware County  
Crawford County  
East Bradford Township, Chester County  
Lancaster Township, Lancaster County  
Lower Makefield Township, Bucks County  
Lycoming County  
Tredyffrin Township, Chester County  
Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County  
Willistown Township, Chester County

### **Government – State**

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Pennsylvania Downtown Center  
Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

### **Heritage Areas and Conservation Landscapes**

Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area  
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor  
Endless Mountains Heritage Region  
Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area  
Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor  
Lumber Heritage Region

National Road Heritage Corridor  
Oil Region National Heritage Area  
PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor  
PA Wilds Conservation Landscape  
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area  
Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area  
Susquehanna National Heritage Area

### **Historic Property Owners or Stewards**

Anthracite Hotel  
Camp Archbald  
Curtin Village  
East Broad Top Railroad  
Eastern Lights Cemetery  
Eckley Miners' Village  
Friends of Camp Security  
Friends of Fort Halifax  
Friends of the Tanner House  
Lincoln Cemetery, Gettysburg  
Mt. Tabor Preservation Project  
US Hotel

### **History Organizations**

African American Museum of Philadelphia  
Blair County Historical Society  
Cameron County Historical Society  
Carnegie Museum of Natural History  
Hagen History Center  
Historical Institute of Culture and African American Experience  
Johnstown Area Heritage Association  
Monroe County Historical Association  
Nicholson Heritage Association  
Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds  
Project Penny Heaven in York  
St. Mary's Historical Society  
State Museum of Pennsylvania

## Nonprofit Organizations

Brandywine Conservancy  
Explore Altoona  
Friends of the Joseph Priestley House  
Heritage PA  
LGBT Center of Central PA  
Lower Merion Conservancy

Neighborworks NE PA  
NEPA Alliance  
Pennsylvania Humanities Council  
Roxborough Manayunk Conservancy  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



*A rare surviving example of a quarantine station, the Lazaretto was the introduction to America for many immigrants. Established in 1799 in reaction to a yellow fever epidemic, it operated until 1893 to inspect cargo and passengers for infectious diseases. Affected cargo was fumigated or destroyed and ill passengers were hospitalized and quarantined until recovery or death. The cemetery was here and original structures remain nearby.*





The Cambria Iron Works was one of the world's leading producers of iron and steel from 1852 to 1916 and a model for the American steel industry. The massive complex in Johnstown operated until 1992, when it was finally closed by its last owner, the Bethlehem Steel Company. For over 140 years, the iron works played an important role in the history of Johnstown and southwestern Pennsylvania, occupying over 60 acres of land and employing thousands of people, including Irish and Eastern European immigrants and African Americans. Today, the industrial campus is being redeveloped through efforts like the Center for Metal Arts, which operates in several of the 19th century buildings.





First dedicated in 1910, the Pennsylvania State Memorial stands as the largest monument in Gettysburg National Military Park. It commemorates the 34,530 soldiers from the Commonwealth who fought for the Union in the Battle of Gettysburg from July 1 to July 3, 1863. Constructed of granite and topped by the 21-foot Goddess of Victory and Peace, the Memorial features eight statues including President Lincoln, Governor Curtin, and six Union generals. It likewise has 75 bronze tablets honoring Pennsylvania's regiments and several bas-relief sculptures depicting battle scenes.





The Tower of Voices stands 93 feet tall and is a unique landmark that is both visible from nearby US Route 30 (the Lincoln Highway) and removed from the more solemn Flight 93 crash site two miles away. The tower contains 40 wind chimes, one each to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93. The field surrounding the tower is populated by large-flowered tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora*), a native perennial plant that symbolizes hope and healing.





Architect Joseph Huston envisioned the Pennsylvania Capitol building as a “palace of art.” Sculptures, stained glass, and paintings throughout the complex feature motifs celebrating Pennsylvania’s labor, industry, and history. Pictured here is the rotunda, featuring murals by Edwin Austin Abbey.





**State Historic Preservation Office**  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION: THE KEYSTONE OF COMMUNITY**

**Pennsylvania's Statewide  
Historic Preservation Plan  
2025-2035**

