

**THE HERITAGE COMMISSION
OF
DELAWARE COUNTY**

**Thirty-Eighth
ANNUAL
PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**Wednesday
May 4, 2016**

Presented by
**Delaware County Council
and the
Heritage Commission of Delaware County**



Delaware County Council

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Heritage Commission of Delaware County

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**THE LEEDOM B. MORRISON
AWARD**

This award was established in 1997 to honor the memory of Leedom B. Morrison, Heritage Commission member who had served as Chester City Planner from 1969 to 1990. He was a determined proponent of the resurgence of Chester City and worked to promote the City, its people, and its future. Trained as an architect, Lee had an appreciation of the historic fabric of the City and the knowledge to match. We hope to highlight the positive activity happening in Chester by giving this award each year to a person or organization that has contributed to preservation of the history of one of the most historic cities in our country.

The Heritage Commission is a volunteer body appointed by County Council with a mission to encourage historical and cultural awareness and preservation within the County. It has been recognizing worthy preservation projects and individuals throughout Delaware County for over thirty years.

38th ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Heritage Commission has been presenting these awards with County Council since 1978 to highlight National Preservation Month. Preservation Month is in May and this year the National Trust for Historic Preservation is remembering their “This Place Matters” campaign.

The Commission selects the award recipients from nominations submitted by residents and organizations throughout the County. They are selected for outstanding contributions to the preservation of our County’s heritage in the following categories: Site Preservation, Publications, Special Programs/Projects, Individual Achievement, Historic Preservation Planning, and Youth.

SITE PRESERVATION

Architectural Detail

Restoration of Historic Lansdowne Theater’s Outdoor Lobby

Lansdowne Borough

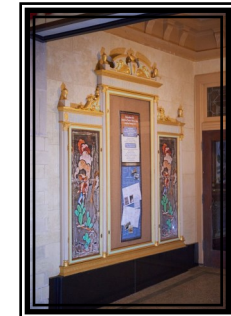
Matt Schultz, Materials Conservation Co., and Mills + Schnoering Architects

The restoration of the 1927 Historic Lansdowne Theater’s outdoor lobby was undertaken after it had fallen into significant disrepair due to the elements and earlier ineffective repairs. Delaware County Council awarded Community Development Block Grant funds to the Theater in 2014 to restore the lobby’s ticket booth, historic poster cases, pendant lights, and missing or damaged corbels. Historic photographs were referenced in the restoration and recreation of original architectural details. This project reused as much of the lobby’s original materials as possible and any newly fabricated components were designed to complement and blend in with the historic materials.

Before



After

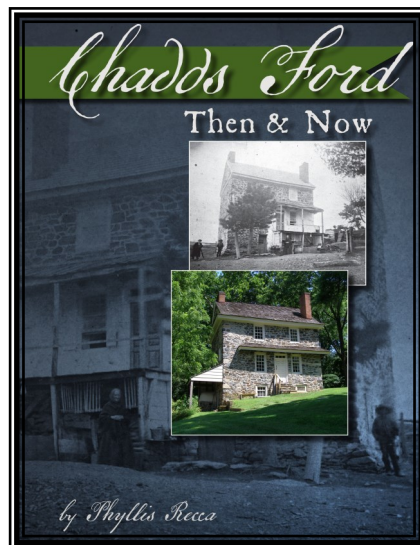


PUBLICATION

Chadds Ford: Then & Now

Phyllis Recca

Phyllis Recca authored this volume on the history of 43 sites throughout Chadds Ford. Ms. Recca incorporated the voices of people throughout the community in the book, enabling readers to learn about culturally significant sites that may have changed a great deal over the course of the centuries. The book also includes images of artifacts, documents, photographs, and oral histories that were provided by local families, museums, and archives. *Chadds Ford: Then & Now* has helped the Chadds Ford Historical society to connect with and form new relationships with local citizens.



LEEDOM B. MORRISON

The Wetherill

Debbie DeSimone and David Dececco
(Best Homes, DDJ, LLC)

In 2014, Debbie DeSimone and David Dececco of Best Homes approached the Chester Planning Department about the idea of reusing the historic 1930s Wetherill School, located on East 24th Street, as an apartment building. Best Homes has a history of transformative redevelopment in the City of Chester through adaptive reuse that has revitalized previously downtrodden neighborhoods. The process of converting the Wetherill school into apartments was completed in November 2015. In addition to the preservation of the historic building's exterior design, Best Homes adaptively reused interior elements, such as portions of the chalk boards, and retained historic details such as the window and door frames, interior brick and woodwork. With the Wetherill, Best Homes has created an upscale, modern living facility while preserving a historically significant reminder of Chester's past.



Before



After

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Patricia A. Theodore

As the President of the Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation's Board of Directors, Patricia A. Theodore has made many significant contributions to the organization. Ms. Theodore skilfully led the Plantation through a transitional period that coincided with the previous decade's financial recession. She implemented many innovative improvements that allowed the organization to remain financially viable during a time when other nonprofits were experiencing significant fiscal issues. Under Ms. Theodore's leadership, each of the Plantation's historic buildings was completed restored. Additionally, she provided oversight to improve the contents, marking and administration of the Plantation's educational programs and events. Finally, Ms. Theodore has ensured that the plantation controls its operating costs and utilizes its resources efficiently and effectively. As a direct result of her leadership, dedication, and energy, the Plantation has provided Delaware County with high quality research-based educational programs, services, and weekend events.

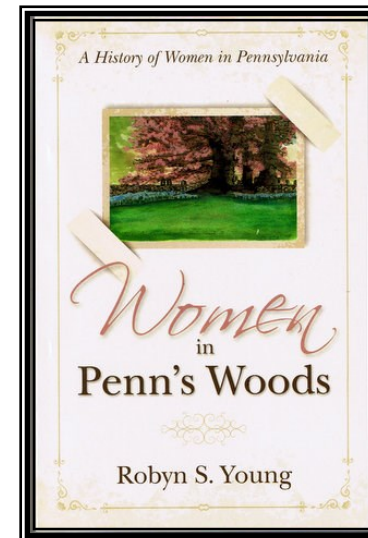


PUBLICATION

Women in Penn's Woods: A History of Women in Pennsylvania

Robyn S. Young

Robyn S. Young's study of women's history in Pennsylvania includes biographical sketches of 11 Delaware County women. This 200-page self-published book introduces readers to the 1852 Women's Rights Convention that was held in Pennsylvania, and to 175 women who made a significant impact on the history of the Commonwealth. Ms. Young is a women's historian, artist, author, is the founder and Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Women's History Project, and is responsible for the installation of 14 historical roadside markers throughout Pennsylvania.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Aston Township Historical Society Museum

Betty Graham, Patricia Smith, and Sheila Withelder

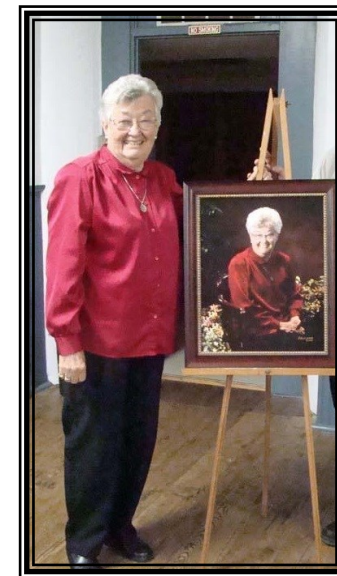
After several years without update, the Aston Township Historical Society Museum was restored and its artifacts were sorted and categorized in 2015 in order to set up rotating displays in both the museum and along the main hallway of the Township's Community Center. Additionally, research materials are now readily accessible to visitors in the museum's research center. The room within the updated facility was dedicated to Paul Dougherty during Aston Township's Community Day in October 2015, honoring one of the Museum's founders and chief contributors of artifacts.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Virginia Merion DeNenno

Ginny DeNenno has been an instrumental member of Delaware County's historic preservation community and has a long legacy of involvement with several organizations concerned with highlighting and interpreting the history of the County. Ms. DeNenno served for many years as the Board President of Concord Township Historical Society and was one of its founding members in 1967. When it opened its educational center in 1995, the Historical Society named it the Virginia Merion DeNenno History & Educational Center in honor of her work and commitment to its mission. Ms. DeNenno co-authored a 1998 history of Concord Township's early development entitled *Concord Township: Progress and Prosperity in the Nineteenth Century*.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Clarissa Dillon

Over the course of the last 20 years, the 1696 Thomas Massey House has been fortunate enough to have Clarissa Dillon as its official “Kitchen Gardener”. Dr. Dillon works diligently each year to obtain the correct kitchen garden plants to ensure that the Massey House’s garden is as historically accurate as possible. Additionally, she has worked with the organization’s school programs and at annual events in order to educate visitors about how our ancestors grew their garden plants. She is also the caretaker of the garden and works year round to maintain it. Dr. Dillon has written and published several books on colonial kitchen gardens. She has also been featured in several articles about the Massey House garden, most recently in *The New York Times*.



PRESERVATION PLANNING

Rose Valley Centennial Foundation

Andrea Detterline

The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (RVCF) was incorporated in 2013 and resulted from the efforts that went into the Rose Valley Historic District being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the center of the Historic District is the 1904 Thunderbird Lodge, one of the most important Arts and Crafts style buildings in the United States. RVCF took ownership of Thunderbird Lodge in 2015 and began a campaign to repair and renovate the structure, as well as create the Rose Valley Museum to be located in the artist studios of former occupants Alice Barber Stephens and her husband Charles Stephens. RVCF kicked off its fundraising campaign for the new museum with a tour of six homes designed by Will Price, the founder of the utopian Arts and Crafts community, culminating in an exhibition of artifacts in Charles Stephens’ studio. RVCF has now raised nearly \$100,000.



YOUTH

Jenna Miele

Jenna, a senior at Haverford High School, produced, directed, filmed, and conducted interviews for a lively and informative 15-minute video that highlights the Haverford Township Historical Society's (HTHS) historic buildings, programs, and collections. Her work was done entirely on a volunteer basis and not as a part of a class or club activity. The video, titled "The Haverford Township Historical Society," is shown twice daily on Haverford Township's cable channels 10 and 38, and can also be viewed on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/oC5y4vDF5MM>. Jenna's exemplary work contributes to the larger community's understanding of HTHS' mission to promote the preservation of the County's rich heritage and its efforts to make historical sites and collections available to the public.



YOUTH

John Lyons

John Lyons began volunteering at the 1696 Thomas Massey House in April of 2015. His first task was to catalog and digitize the organization's research library of more than 250 books. Once he completed this significant undertaking, John moved on to digitizing the Massey House's collection of photographs and the Hilda Lucas collection of slides. He goes to the Massey House every Thursday morning and works diligently into the afternoon. John possesses a great love of history, especially the American Civil War, and has been a wonderful asset to the Massey House.

