

# Heritage Commission of Delaware County

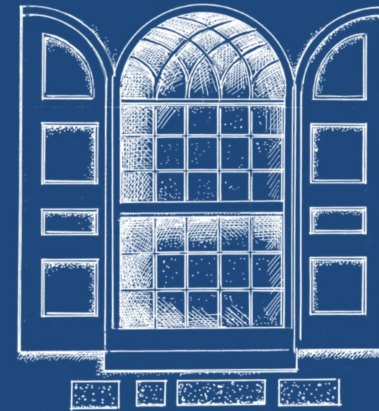
## What We Do

- The Delaware County Heritage is made up of 11 historically minded residents who are appointed by Delaware County Council to make recommendations to the Council on preservation issues in the County.
- Have a seminar annually on some aspect of historic preservation, we present awards to groups and individuals for their preservation efforts each May at a Council meeting.
- Oversee and make recommendations on County owned historic properties.
- Make recommendations to County Council on applications from historic sites for Community Development Block Grants.
- Act as a liaison between County Council and historic organizations in the County.

Information on seminars and awards are available at:

<http://bit.ly/HCWhatWeDo>

To get in touch with a member of the Heritage Commission, contact the Planning Department at 610-891-5200 or [Planning\\_Department@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:Planning_Department@co.delaware.pa.us).



## Forty-second ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

Online presentation

Tuesday  
October 13, 2020

Presented by  
Delaware County Council  
and the

Heritage Commission of Delaware County

# LEGACY AWARD

## Romano's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant



### Delaware County Council

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### Delaware County Executive Director

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*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 forty-two years.*

For more than 70 years, Romano's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant has been a mainstay in Essington, PA.

Founded in 1944 by Nazzereno Romano, the inventor of the Stromboli Sandwich, the restaurant is now in its third generation and is the oldest family owned and operated Italian Restaurant in Delaware County

Romano's has a rich and storied past. From selling Tomato Pies out of a wagon in the 1940s, to the creation of the Stromboli in the 1950s and a visit from President Clinton's Secret Service Detail in the 1990s, the story of Romano's reads like an epic novel spanning oceans, decades and generations.

The restaurant has been in its current location since 1954, but it started in 1944 and celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2019



# LEEDOM B. MORRISON HERITAGE AWARD

## Old Third Presbyterian Church

**David Guleke, Randy Kobetich, Carol Fireng, Doris Vermeychuk, Helen Litwa**

The Old 3rd Presbyterian Church is unlike any other building in Chester. Designed by an architect, Isaac Purcell, a protégé of Frank Furness, this enormous erection was completed in only one year. The cornerstone of the church was laid on July 11, 1895 and the first service on May 17, 1896. It was used as a church until 2012 and taken over by Chester Historic Preservation Committee after it was slated for demolition in 2015. In 2019 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, the only church in Chester on the National Register. They hoped to use the building as a performance space and community building. In 2020 fire destroyed the church, leaving only the stone shell of the building. The award is for the ongoing effort of CHPC to secure, preserve, stabilize and clean the church both before and after the fire. There is hope that the stone walls can still be stabilized and used for community use although in a different form than previously intended.

When CHPC acquired the building, it was full to the brim with trash and garbage and the church also suffered from massive amounts of vandalism, including the theft of the railings, pipes and wires. Cleaning and stabilizing was a massive undertaking, especially with very limited electricity. There were many cleaning weekends and the students of Newman University donated their weekends to help with the removal of tons of refuse.



## 42nd ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Heritage Commission has been presenting these awards with County Council since 1978 to highlight National Preservation Month in May. Due to the global pandemic, the in-person ceremony could not be held in 2020.

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, Youth, and the Leedom B. Morrison Heritage Award.

# INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

## SITE PRESERVATION

Nominations can include exterior and interior restoration, preservation, or rehabilitation of an historical structure and/or landscape in a manner that preserves the building or site's historical, cultural, and/or architectural significance. Projects are divided into the following sub-categories:

### **Residential Rehabilitation**

This includes projects that rehabilitate a building, originally used as a residence, for residential use.

### **Non-Residential Rehabilitation**

This includes projects that rehabilitate a building for the same non-residential purpose that the building was originally intended.

### **Adaptive Reuse**

This includes preservation efforts that have adapted a structure designed for one use into an appropriate alternative use, thus reinventing the use of a space while preserving the architectural integrity.

### **Architectural Detail**

This recognizes efforts to restore exterior details of a building in a manner fitting its historic character. Examples would include, but not limited to, porches, cornice work, and window restoration.

### **Restoration**

This recognizes efforts to accurately depict the form, features, and character of a property or object as it appeared at a particular period of time.

## Carol Fireng

Carol has worked tirelessly as a volunteer for over forty years to help preserve the history and educate the public as to the history of Delaware County. She has been the caretaker and curator of the Finley House (Radnor, Pa.) in the 60s. She has been the vice-president of Chester Historical Preservation Committee since 1985. She has helped preserve the history of Chester including working on saving the Third Presbyterian Church building, and has helped get it on the National Register of Historic Places. She has provided educational tours and helped advocate to the State to rehab the 1724 Colonial Courthouse to the state of Pennsylvania. She was the secretary of the Alfred O. Deshong Cultural Arts Center. She helped to try to preserve the Deshong Museum.

In 1983 she purchased the 1800s Crozer mansion in Upland. She restored it and renamed it the Cheshire House. She has had many historic events in the mansion to educate the public about the history of Delaware County. She was a board member of the Delaware County Historical Society from 1987 to 2006. She was the co-founder of the Passport to History program which won the best Educational Program Award in Pennsylvania.

She assisted with the celebration of William Penn's landing in Chester in 2016 and done numerous lectures to senior citizens at White House Village, Maris Grove and other places about Delaware County history including the Western Delaware County tour of the mills. She is a board member of W3R (Washington/ Rochambeau) National committee with the Interior Department of the United States to re-create the Rochambeau trail from New England to Yorktown where the British surrender ending the Revolutionary War. She has been awarded the Pennsylvania History Certificate by State Senator Dominic Pillegi.



## SPECIAL PROJECT

### The PRIDE Museum, Chester

#### Twyla Simpkins, Heritage Place Library, Museum & Black Repository

Having exhibited the 'Travelin' Black History Museum for years before putting it on permanent loan at the Yes Center's Heritage place, requests continued as there is a renewed interest in Chester's African-American history. Twyla Simpkins pulled from her artifacts to find comparable figures and examples to tell the story of Chester's Black Citizenry.

This exhibit includes local authors, one of whom is a recent Pulitzer Prize winner and another just published female author who is 93 years young, as well as a local dollmaker whose Gladys Knight doll won her much public acclaim. Up and coming artists include the more renowned Andrew Turner were featured as well as the DVD of documentaries recently completed by the Yes staff through the Scribe Video Precious Places Community Project [Also an award winner— see Publications].

The exhibit has most recently appeared at the annual MLK Day of Service and the local Chester Senior Center. The PRIDE Museum is also scheduled to show at after-school housing community presentations.



## Residential Rehabilitation

### Price's c. 1914 Janney Residence, Media

#### Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Barney; 20th Century Preservation, LLC; Keystone Preservation Group; John Reynolds Contracting; Jos. Acchione & Sons Construction Co.

Designed in 1914 for Dr. O.E. Janney, by the renowned firm of Price & McLanahan Architects, this historic residence is located in the Borough of Media, little more than a mile from the community of Rose Valley, which is known for its many Price designed homes. The current owners, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Barney, who are related to the Janney Family, wanted to undertake a number of projects and insisted that any exterior change had to be carried out in a manner sympathetic to the historic character of the original Price design and the materials used in the original construction of the house. Any interior changes had to enhance or improve the existing features and layout of the design, while providing for new ways to use and enjoy the existing spaces. The success of any intervention that might be planned depended on the visual connection of the interior spaces with the natural environment outside.

The work included converting a storage room into an artist's studio and the adjacent bedroom into a sitting room and library; roof replacement with architectural shingle similar to the original slate; new/ enlarged dormers; chimney repair; and stucco repair.



## Restoration

### German Field Gun Preservation, Chester City

**Kurt Sellers, Barry Johnson, Ken Jensen, Mike Szelek,  
Dean Zarnas**

The German field gun was captured during WWI and brought to Chester by General William G. Price and was placed at his residence and eventually moved to Crozer Park in c. 1960. No maintenance was done since that time, and it was badly deteriorated with flaking paint and rust when it was rediscovered by preservationists in 2017. All fine details like screw threads, breech markings and knurling on the sight knobs were obscured. Some parts are broken or missing. It has now been sandblasted, rustproofed, primed and painted with all markings preserved.

Preservation began as an individual effort by Kurt Sellers and Barry Johnson on the Pennsylvania World War Centennial Committee. Fisher Tank Co. and G.C Zarnas & Co. generously volunteered to professionally complete the project. It was completed in October 2019 and stands nearby the Mother's Arch, Veteran's Monument and Finnish Settlers Monument, which were relocated to this location when I-95 was laid out.

General Price joined the National Guard in 1886 and in 1917 he commanded the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade. In 1919 he was promoted to Major General and commanded the PA National Guard. He is buried in the Chester Rural Cemetery.

The field gun is a 77mm Model 1916 Field Gun. Only 45 of the WWI guns are known to exist in the world of which only ten are in the United States. One other is in the Chester Rural Cemetery.



## SPECIAL PROJECT

### Delaware County Covered Bridges

**Keith Lockhart, Celia Caust-Ellenbogen**

For a number of years Keith Lockhart has been researching and documenting locations of sites of Delaware County covered bridges from before the 1920s. In that decade the county began to replace the covered bridges with new bridges. This was a ten year-long project for Delco. Roads were also moved and expanded as the state and county spent millions on roads, bridges, etc.

Using old maps, etc., and studying pictures Keith located all the bridge sites and built a spreadsheet of basic information. He then went to all locations and took pictures of the sites today. In a number of cases roads had been closed and/or moved and ruins and foundations of covered bridges could still be seen and pictures were taken to document this. This project took several years to complete locating and identifying bridge locations as in some instances the official names of the bridges changed or are different from the common names.

The information was then put onto an interactive Google Map with the help of Celia Caust-Ellenbogen of the Friends Library in Swarthmore College. The link to the interactive map is on Keith's website, [www.delawarecountyhistory.com](http://www.delawarecountyhistory.com).



## SPECIAL PROJECT

### Franklin Mint Time Capsule Unveiling Ceremony, Middletown

**Susan Mescanti, Kevin E. McLaughlin, Gary Grove, Tony Jochum**

The former Franklin Mint building was being demolished in 2019 when a former employee notified the Middletown Township Historical Society about a time capsule located there. It was rescued by workers and given to MTHS who began planning how best to unveil the contents.

The multi-million dollar Franklin Mint was a significant part of Delaware County employing thousands of local workers since it was founded in 1964, and an equally significant part of Middletown Township since ground was broken for the Franklin Mint Center's major manufacturing and office complex on January 15, 1969, by Franklin Mint founder and President Joseph M. Segel. The time capsule was placed within the walls of that building while under construction on August 15, 1969, at the time of the cornerstone laying ceremony attended by 1,200 guests from all over the world. 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of that placement.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, MTHS opened the capsule and identified the contents and placed them in display cases with descriptions so the public could view and understand them better. It included photographs, coins, documents, flags and an audiotape. The ceremony took place on December 8, 2019 at the Roosevelt Community Center. The video is available at [www.mthsdelco.org](http://www.mthsdelco.org).



## Restoration

### Lansdowne Theater Facade Restoration, Lansdowne

**Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation, Materials Conservation, Atkin Olshin Schade Architects**

Through the support of Delaware County's CDBG allocation, Presser and Collely foundations, and individual donors to the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation the facade of the 1927 Lansdowne Theater was restored during the summer of 2019. The facade was cleaned, cast stone repointed, long missing cast stone finials recast and installed, damaged stucco replaced and repainted, damaged marble details replaced with matching marble, metal railings repainted. In 2018, the same contractor, Materials Conservation, completed the restoration of the original double-hung windows.

This is part of an ongoing restoration project of the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation. Previous projects include: Marquee Restoration (2012), Outdoor Lobby & Ticket Booth (2014-2015), and Window Restoration (2017-2018). The interior restoration and roof replacement are future projects to be done in order to bring this landmark back into use as a theater.



## Restoration

### Finley House, Radnor

**Radnor Historical Society, Frens & Frens (Patterhn Ives LLC), 18th Century Restoration LLC**

The Finley House has been the home of the Radnor Historical Society since its founding in the 1940s, using the basement of the home of Miss Dorothy Finley. Miss Finley's parents owned the home beginning in the 1880s, but its history goes back a century earlier when the first portion of the house was built by Captain John Pugh in 1789. It is the oldest house in North Wayne and one of the oldest in Radnor Township.

In recent times, the Board of Directors recognized a need to perform a more extensive renovation of the Finley House to ensure that the building envelope remained a safe place for their unique collections to be housed and for their visitors to experience.

Work commenced in 2019 and included the following: Stucco repair and repainting; Repair of gable treatments; Carpentry; New paint colors; Roof repainting; Window restoration; New storm windows; and Second floor interior reconfiguration.

The superficial changes to the house are obvious, but the Society wants its visitors and members to know that the work that took place goes much deeper. The improved condition of the Finley House will ensure that it will continue to serve as the Society's headquarters and as a museum to the community for generations to come.



## PUBLICATION

### Precious Places Community Documentary Project, Chester City

**Twyla Simpkins, Tara Watts, Yes Center Chester, Scribe Video, Chester Housing Authority**

Scribe Video Center's Precious Places Community History Project reveals bypassed neighborhood sites as bright landmarks that surprise and inspire residents and visitors alike. Using the video documentary as a storytelling medium, neighborhood residents have come together to document the oral histories of their communities.

The Yes Center Chester has teamed up with Scribe Video to produce videos about special places in and around Chester. available at [www.yescenterchester.org/videos](http://www.yescenterchester.org/videos). They will also be seen on WHYY-TV in the fall/winter along with other videos. The recent videos include:

Coming to Herself– the YWCA Chester Story: A historical recap of its past as the YWCA Chester and now its present as the Yes We Can Achievement & Cultural Center.

Finding Home: The Ruth L. Bennett Story: For many women and children who arrived in Chester, PA, in the early 20th century, the Ruth L. Bennett Home was their first safe haven. A pioneering woman, Bennett's life of service is explored through first-person accounts, archival photos, and historical documentation

Beyond the Sunset– the Greenlawn Cemetery Story: The Greenlawn Cemetery has been the final resting place for generations of Chesterites for over 100 years. A website was created at [www.greenlawnchesterpa.com/](http://www.greenlawnchesterpa.com/) for the video and to raise interest in the maintenance of the cemetery.





## Restoration

### PUBLICATIONS

Publications may include books, articles, magazines, videos, calendars, etc. that present the heritage of Delaware County.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Examples may be in education, research, archival activities, or any other creative process used to preserve Delaware County's heritage. These submissions can be ongoing or on a one-time basis.

### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Individual Achievement recognizes a single person who has made a significant contribution by his or her support of and involvement in preservation projects or activities.

### THE LEEDOM B. MORRISON HERITAGE AWARD

This Award recognizes preservation projects in the City of Chester that involve restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of an historical structure or any other type of project that preserves the heritage of Chester City.

### LEGACY AWARD

To recognize and award the efforts of long-standing members of the business community that have demonstrated good stewardship through the long-term care and maintenance of local historical buildings.

## Grange Estate Lower Springhouse Restoration, Haverford

Haverford Township, Pennoni Engineering,  
Donald E. Reisinger Inc

The Grange Estate is a National Register property in Haverford Township on an original William Penn land grant. It presently resembles the mid-19th century mansion and gentlemen's country seat as envisioned by John Ashurst. It includes two springhouses, a carriage house, long barn and other outbuildings. The Lower Springhouse was in need of a new roof, but a large 40' tree fell, destroying half of the roof, creating a more immediate need.

The entire roof was replaced with cedar shakes and the rafters were replaced with rough sawn rafters and collar ties similar to the original. The cupola was originally planned to be repaired but was found to be in poor condition so it was replaced with an exact replica and topped in copper. Additional work was done including masonry repointing, front porch reconstruction, wood siding replacement, and removal of interior termite-damaged wall.

The restoration of the Lower Springhouse is another step in fulfilling the mission of the Friends of the Grange to educate and preserve the early history of Haverford Township and Delaware County through their restoration efforts.



## Adaptive Reuse

### Media Men's Club, Media

**Timothy Sullivan, Thomas Broadt, Lawrence Strohm,  
Linn Architects**

Designed by Architect Stephen Appleton, the Media Men's Club was constructed in 1894. It was designed as a private club for the gentlemen of Media, complete with a billiard room, card room, basement shuffleboard court, and grand entertaining space on the second floor.

Over the years the building served many purposes, and in latter years it was predominately used as office space, complete with newly erected interior walls and drop ceilings.

Restorations included removing interior walls to return the first-floor interior spaces to their original room sizes, and eliminating the acoustical tile ceilings to expose the original tin ceilings. A surprise find discovered that five (5) sets of 3½ foot wide x 8 foot tall pocket doors, weighing 200 pounds each, had literally been sealed off inside the walls. Stripping off the green paint allowed them to be restored to the original oak finish. A new brick and slate set of front stairs was added, complete with pier lights, to form a more fitting entrance.

This building is today occupied for fully functioning law offices, but even in 2020 it pays great respect to the time when it was constructed 126 years ago.



## Adaptive Reuse

### Philadelphia Lazaretto, Tinicum

**Tinicum Twp. Board of Commissioners, Lazaretto  
Preservation Association of Tinicum Twp., Vitetta  
Architects**

Built in the Georgian Style between 1799 and 1801, the Historic Lazaretto was the second quarantine station constructed in Philadelphia. Located along the Delaware River, each vessel scheduled to deliver goods or passengers to the city was required to stop at the quarantine station so the passengers could be examined for yellow fever and/or other contagious illnesses. Anyone found with symptoms was quarantined until they either recovered or passed away. The building continued to serve as the city's quarantine station for nearly 100 years.

In 1895, the building was sold and the use transformed into a leisure and recreation center for the Athletic Club of Philadelphia. It functioned with this use until 1912. In 1913, the building was sold again and the use changed to the Essington School of Flying and the site was used as a seaplane base until it was sold for the third time in 2000 to an airport parking company. In 2004, the Lazaretto was placed on the Preservation Alliance's list of ten most endangered buildings in the region.

The Tinicum Township Commissioners saw the need to save the Lazaretto from demolition. Through the last 15 years the commissioners worked together to gather the necessary funding for the purchase and restoration of the Lazaretto. It was an adaptive reuse of the property in that it will now be the home of the Tinicum Township Administrative offices. There will be a dedicated area for a museum describing the time it was used as a Quarantine hospital and Sea plane base. This area will be a public area opened during normal township business hours.

