



**Forty-third
ANNUAL
PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**Saturday
May 15th, 2021**

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



Delaware County Council

Brian Zidek, Chairman

Dr. Monica Taylor, Vice Chairman

Kevin Madden

Elaine Paul Schaefer

Christine A. Reuther

Delaware County Executive Director

Howard Lazarus

Heritage Commission of Delaware County

Barbara Marinelli, Chairman

Cyndi Charney, Vice Chairman

Harold Finigan, Secretary

Judith Anastasi

Jane Carroll

Kelli Cave

Elizabeth McCarrick

Karen Micka

Mary Quilter

Anne Searl

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-three years.

43rd 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 2020 and 2021 awards were held together in 2021 at Upland County Park.

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.

This year's awards are held in memory of Rich Paul, the longtime Heritage Commission chair who died in December 2020.

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.

Residential Rehabilitation

Chiara Honors House/ Rhodes-Elser House, Aston Township

**Dr. Chris Domes, Dr. Christopher Haug,
Mr. Gene McWilliams, Mr. William Leonard,
Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.**

The Rhodes Elser Mansion has stood on the hill at the corner of Convent, Aston Mills and Concord Roads since ca. 1892, almost 120 years. The home has had many owners and many uses: a two-family home to the Schads and Smithams, a bed and breakfast for owners Jim and Caroline Elser, an apartment building and antique shop and now the Chiara House, a dorm for honors students at Neumann University. An enormous gift to the community, the saving of this building by the educational institution for the township of Aston is invaluable. This is Delaware County's heritage at its finest, an immigrant family working and saving, taking advantage of American capitalism, sharing their success with family, employees and community. This Historic Preservation Project fits the philosophy of Rhodes' Odd Fellows as well as the Neumann University: ethical leadership, service in a complex world, stewardship and transforming spaces!

Work included restoring all of the beautiful and intricate moldings, fireplaces with tilework, grand staircase, wainscoting, and gorgeous multiwood inlaid floors. The wrap-around porch was restored, and original moldings, arched entryways, doors, transom windows, and all exterior leaded glass windows were retained.



Non-Residential Rehabilitation

Bryn Mawr Avenue Bridges Rehabilitation Project, Radnor Township

PennDOT District 6-0, TranSystems and Loftus Construction

Three structures along Bryn Mawr Avenue dating to 1905 underwent rehabilitation. The bridge over Meadowbrook Run is on the National Register of historic places. All three structures have ornamental parapets with brick, stone, and cast stone. All three structures had deteriorated significantly and were in poor condition, requiring rehabilitation to extend their service life.

The rehabilitation program scope of work included in-kind reconstruction of the decorative brick, stone, and cast stone parapets at all three bridges to match existing architectural dimensions. The parapets were reconstructed around reinforced concrete cores tied to moment slabs. All existing bridge date stones, plaques, and medallions were salvaged, conserved, and reset. Cleaning and repair of stone and brick masonry was also included. At the Doom Run Culvert, the stone masonry headwall was reconstructed around a pipe culvert replacement. At the Meadowbrook Run Bridge, the arched bricked fascias were reconstructed on both sides and the brick ringstones were rebuilt to match the original construction of the bridge. The scope of work also included stone masonry abutment repairs, brick arch repairs (for the bridges over a Tributary to Meadowbrook Run and Doom Run), scour repairs, and steel beam cleaning and painting (for the bridge over Meadowbrook Run).



Adaptive Reuse

McCay Avenue School, Upper Chichester Township

Provco/ Pineville LLC, Fiorelli Family, Linn Architects

Constructed in 1867 just after the end of the Civil War, the 2-story brick schoolhouse has been vacant over a decade. Sections of the roof were missing and multiple window panes were broken, allowing for significant water intrusion at the interior. The original building had a footprint of 29 feet x 40 feet, with an addition on the north housing a pair of stair towers and first floor toilet rooms having been added at some unknown later date. Prior to this addition there was an internal stair between floors as substantiated by the framed in stair well opening that was discovered.

Provco/Pineville LLC saw the historical value of the building and allowed the building to be repurposed rather than demolished. The Fiorelli family, who operated out of a neighboring building became the new owners and occupiers of this vintage property. Linn Architects designed and constructed this project, turning it over to the Fiorelli Family in December 2020. This 154-year old building has now started its new life, without losing its original heritage.



Architectural Detail

Willows Roof Replacement Project, Radnor

**Archer & Buchanan Architecture, Willows Park Preserve,
Gillespie Contracting, Inc., Radnor Township**

Built in 1910, the Willows Mansion was designed by Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen as a wedding present for the bride of a wealthy distillery owner and was originally called Rose Garland. In the 1970s, Radnor Township purchased the mansion and surrounding 47.5 acres and renamed it The Willows in honor of the lovely willow trees that surrounded the pond on the property.

In 2019, Archer & Buchanan began work with Willows Park Preserve to complete a multi-phase project aimed at restoring and rehabilitating the Willows Mansion. The first phase of the project involved the replacement of the existing black Ludowici Georgian shingle tile roof with a Ludowici barrel tile matching the style and coloring of the original roof of the house, along with additional roof improvements. All efforts were aimed at restoring the roof to its original appearance while also providing an important line of defense against weather and water infiltration, thus preserving and protecting the mansion, and allowing for decades of continued use of this valuable community resource.

Work included: Removal of existing EPDM; Restoration of existing chimneys; Replacement of existing shed dormer with three new dormers to match historical photos; Restoration of existing dormer finishes and replacement windows; Addition of three new dormers to match historical photos; Restoration of existing louver dormer finishes; Restoration of decorative eaves and corbels; and Replacement of gutters and downspouts.



Restoration

Nitre Hall Historic Kitchen Restoration, Haverford Township

Theresa Dougherty, Haverford Township Historical Society, Dan Campbell A.I.A., Haverford Township Public Works

Nitre Hall was originally home to William Rogers who owned the gunpowder mill along Cobbs Creek. Nitre Hall was built in 1810. It is a four-story stone structure built on the bedrock of the side facing Cobb's Creek. The mill existed for approximately thirty years, supplying gunpowder for the War of 1812. Nitre Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Nitre Hall is the site of the annual Colonial Living Program for 5th Graders in Haverford Township School District, as well as Heritage Festival, Oktoberfest, open houses and the Township museum.

The historic kitchen was altered to form a modern kitchen which was used by a caretaker and now used by HTHS, but it was not ADA-accessible and disrupted the historic flow of the house. Dan Campbell worked with HTHS on a Preservation Plan which separated the two kitchens, returned an original cabinet back to facing the historic kitchen and created an accessible entrance into the historic kitchen. The original windows were restored and the uneven brick flooring was relaid. A brick recess of unknown use was found in the modern kitchen during the restoration and a window was created to view it from the historic kitchen. The result is a more cohesive and accessible kitchen to be used for years.



Restoration

Lower Swedish Cabin Stair Restoration, Upper Darby Township

Norman T. Glass Restorations, Friends of the Swedish Cabin

The Lower Swedish Log Cabin is the oldest log cabin in the United States. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. The US government's Historical American Building Survey (HABS) documented the site in 1939-1940, producing a record of seven measured drawings and four photographs.

Existing half-boxwinder stairs (c.1790s) were damaged and were removed in 2011 to allow installation of a new cement floor. Access to the second floor (exhibits, archives, storage) was by a wooden ladder. Using HABS drawings, photos, and measurements taken during stairs' removal as well as locally sourced poplar and ash stock, the stairs and surrounding enclosure were re-constructed in Dec. 2020. A historically appropriate railing was added.

A historically-correct handle and turnbuckle were put on the outside of the enclosure's board and batten door. These "new" stairs and closet surround return the cabin to the way it looked in the late 1790s, after alterations to the original Swedish/Finnish log cabin were made by subsequent English settlers. Visitors and volunteers can now safely access the second floor.



Restoration

Spring Valley AME Church, Concord Twp.

Concord Township

In 1880, the African American community of Concord Township purchased a one-acre parcel and they then built a small wooden church, along with a Social Hall and outhouse. Later they embellished the small church with a Victorian style foyer addition to the front door.

This building served the African American community in Concord for over 100 years when the local population dwindled to only a few who could not keep it up. It was purchased by a local developer who repaired the church after the social hall burned down, but did very little to achieve his original dream of a non-denominational chapel that could serve the entire community.

In 2014 Concord Township bought the site and completed in 2020 the first step in its restoration. The exterior has been carefully preserved in its original state, with colors selected to match the original paint, and repairs were done to replicate the original fabric. The color of the front door was chosen by a representative of the African American community that the church served.

As far as is known, only four properties in Concord were purchased by free blacks before the Civil War and only two homes built by them remain. This is the only public building for the black community at large that the township has, and maintaining it is a statement to honor their place in our heritage.



Restoration

Black Horse Inn Mosaic Tile Restoration, Middletown Township

**Susan Mescanti & Mary Anne Eves, MTHS;
Kristin Cardi & John Carr, Materials Conservation**

In the spring of 2015 Middletown Township Historical Society (MTHS) was alerted to the existence of a lost piece of Township history, a custom-made mosaic tile that at one time decorated a hearth at the former Black Horse Inn. The Inn once stood at the intersection of today's Baltimore Pike (US Route 1) and Middletown Road (PA Route 352) in Middletown Twp. The Inn building was torn down in 1939 to make way for the construction of the current Cloverleaf interchange.

The tile had been outdoors for over 80 years. It was still in decent condition, but MTHS knew that conservation/restoration would greatly improve the appearance. Plus it was embedded in a thick piece of concrete which would make displaying the tile very difficult. Over the past five years, MTHS gathered proposals for the restoration of the tile and raised the funds needed for the project.

In the summer of 2020 the beautifully conserved tile was returned to the MTHS Museum along with a custom-built stand for display. MTHS is awaiting a time after COVID-19 when they can reopen the museum and welcome the public to a new exhibit on the Black Horse Inn that they are creating around the tile.



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 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This Award recognizes an individual who has dedicated many years of service to the heritage of Delaware County. The recipient is chosen by the Heritage Commission.

PUBLICATION

Delaware County History Blog, Delaware County

Keith Lockhart

Over eleven years ago, the Delaware County Daily Times asked Keith Lockhart to write a history blog for their website. The blog posts include photographs and postcards from Keith's personal collection and newspaper articles from Delaware County newspapers, primarily Chester Times.

The blog is no longer associated with the Delaware County Daily Times, but Keith has continued writing weekly posts, often including upcoming events throughout Delaware County beneath the newspaper article.

The blog is available for free to everyone to view, and does not require a Delaware County Daily Times subscription. It is also reposted to several Facebook pages and sent via email to anyone who wants to receive it. <http://dtimeshistory.blogspot.com/>

Delaware County History

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Delaware County Township Names and history events in the area for Black History Month etc.



A picture of Providence Rd, aka Route 252 from 1897 during rush hour. You are standing at Possum Hollow Rd, looking north toward Media. The house on the left is still standing and the bridge is over the West Chester R.R. local line.

SPECIAL PROJECT

100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Aston Township

**Rachael McCullough, Karen Micka, Judge Diane Holfelder,
Cadance Kelso**

For the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, in August of 2020 The Traveling Women's History Museum alongside Aston Historical Society and Judge Diane Holfelder hosted a ceremony at Five Points in Aston and invited residents to view a virtual ceremony honoring the women who fought for the right to vote 100 years ago.

The event included a wreath laying and speeches by Rachael McCullough, Judge Diane Holfelder and Cadance Kelso. While the event itself had a limited audience, it was recorded and is available to view on the Traveling Women's History Museum Facebook page.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Preservation of the Work of Wharton Esherick, Rose Valley Borough

Rose Valley Museum & Borough of Rose Valley

Hedgerow Theatre, America's first resident repertory theater, has hit upon hard times. Founded in 1923 in Rose Valley, Pennsylvania, the organization was championed by legendary furniture maker and sculptor Wharton Esherick. Looking for a quick fix, the theater's board decided to sell off its inheritance of exemplary Esherick furniture and staircase.

Ryan Berley of the Rose Valley Museum brought together a group of interested parties to purchase some of the most important Esherick pieces. Their goal was to keep this important heritage in Rose Valley, for the benefit of the public.

The Museum hosted a curated, in-person and online auction on Oct. 25, 2020 of Arts and Crafts antiques and fine art from the turn of the 20th century. All the proceeds were designated to be used to bid on Hedgerow's Esherick collection of tables, staircase, and hammer-handle chairs that were auctioned Oct. 29 by Freeman's in Philadelphia.

The Museum was able to successfully bid on two chairs and the lobby staircase and are continuing to raise money for the restoration of these items.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Upper Darby Underground Railroad Tour Guide, Upper Darby Township

The Upper Darby Historical Commission, Stephen Nitz, Robert Seeley

This is the first iteration of a guide to Underground Railroad sites in Upper Darby. Due to Covid the Upper Darby Historical Commission and Bob Seeley made this a self guided tour by providing a map and a text and image printable PDF that has a page on each of the 8 locations.

The locations include Riverview House/ Cleveland Farm, Thornfield, Riverview Farm/ Fernland Farm (Arlington Cemetery), Museum at Arlington (Garrett Collection), Hoodland (Sellers Library), Howard House (Pica's), Sellers Hall (St. Alice Church Property), and Friends Southwestern Burial Ground. It includes a walking tour overview map and plans are underway for an interactive tour on an app.

You can view the materials on this web page:

<https://greaterupperdarby.com/upper-darby-underground-railroad-walking-tour/>

Upper Darby Underground Railroad Trail Guide

1 Riverview House/ Cleveland Farm

475 Shadeland Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Thomas Garrett was born at Riverview House on August 21, 1789, to his parents Thomas Garrett Sr. and Sarah Price. In 1790 the house was enlarged by Thomas Garrett Sr. and his wife Sarah Price, and near the roof was a stone on which may easily be seen the inscription "T. & S.G. - 1790". The house, torn down in 1906, was located on the playground area of Holy Child Academy on the back and left side property area. In 1822 Thomas Garrett Jr. his wife Mary Sharpless, and children would move to the slave state of Wilmington, Delaware to help more than 2,700 people to freedom, including Harriet Tubman and her parents.

Thomas Garrett Jr. would send many people enslaved to his brothers and friends here in Upper Darby, Pa. In 1839 Edward Garrett and his wife Abigail Sellers Daughter of George and Anna Ash Sellers, owners of Sellers Hall inherited the house and about 140 acres of land. In this 1838 letter from Thomas Garrett to William Still he states "a colored woman and 7 children was taken to my brother Edwards in Upper Darby" This was Anna Maria Jackson and her children.

The year 1850 was a monumental one to the lives of Ann Maria Jackson and her family in that year she bravely took destiny into her own hands and escaped from her Maryland slave owner. With her she took seven of her nine children, ranging from two to about sixteen years old.

Philadelphia abolitionist and Underground Railroad stationmaster William Still helped the family on their way north to Canada in his book, The Underground Railroad, Still remarked how unusual it was to see a woman with so many young children taking such a risk in making a bid for their freedom.



Riverview House

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1850.
ANN MARIA JACKSON AND HER SEVEN CHILDREN—MARY ANN, WILLIAM HEWES, FRANCES PARKER, WASHINGTON, JOHN HEWES, EDWARD THOMAS, AND REBEKAH ALBERT.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Kate Clifford

Kate Clifford grew up in Havertown and has been interested in architecture from a young age. She attended Penn State and graduated with a degree in Art History and certificates in Architecture and Architectural History. While there she helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity, gave tours at local house museums and helped restore a log house. After her junior year she spent 10 months in Americorps where (among other projects) she helped build houses for migrant workers. She studied art history in Italy and gave tours in a French castle. After graduation she continued pursuing historic preservation and worked for 18th Century Restorations.

In 2008 she moved to England to pursue a Masters in Historic Building Conservation and worked as a planning and historic building consultant there for 7 years. She moved back to Delaware County in 2016 and began volunteering with the Haverford Township Historical Society, where she is now on the board as the program and volunteer coordinator and organizer of the Oktoberfest silent auction fundraiser. She volunteers as a tour guide for the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia and for Historic Rittenhousetown in Fairmount Park. She is also on the Lansdowne HARB and a member of the Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance.

In 2017 she began working for Delaware County as a Preservation Planner. In that role, she has become involved with the Delaware County Historical and Preservation Network (DCHPN), the Heritage Commission and various other groups. She maintains the DCHPN website and sends out the monthly e-blast of events and announcements to groups. She is working on digitizing all of the county Historic Resource Surveys. She has mapped the 1936 WPA Survey sites, created the 2019 Mill Study and organized all of the Heritage Commission events, including virtual programs in 2020.

Kate continues to work with local historical organizations on updating their surveys and having stronger protective ordinances. She was nominated to the state commission for America's 250th birthday in 2026 and created and is the chair of the local America250Delco committee.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

Historic Resource Property Studies Project, Thornbury Township

**Thornbury Historical Commission, Thornbury Historical
Society, Thornbury Board of Supervisors,
Mary Sue Boyle & Co., LLC**

With the Board of Supervisors permission, in 2014 the Historical Commission was tasked with gathering extensive factual genealogical and anecdotal histories on three of Thornbury's Historic Resource Properties (HRPs) annually. With over 204 HRPs at hand, their goal is to research each by the time the project is completed.

Starting with the oldest and most significant properties and continuing with the properties that were standing during the Revolutionary War to present, the in-depth information is heavily researched, documented and provides an interesting story of our little town and its surrounding environs. To give easy access, these studies are uploaded to the website and a hard copy of each is available for viewing at the Thornbury Historical Society's reference library.

All the data, including the historical, anecdotal, and genealogical information is very detailed. The Historical Commission presents a completed binder, at no cost, to the HRP owner(s). The in-depth research in these reports has amazed most of the recipients. The knowledge becomes a welcome addition to the history of these properties and is our township's gift to the individuals and families who continually preserve them.

**The Vernon/Hickman Farmstead
545 Cheyney Road, Thornbury Township
Delaware County, PA
HRP # 179**



**Mary Sue Boyle and Company, LLC
West Chester, PA
2020**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Rich Paul 1943-2020

Rich worked tirelessly to preserve and promote Delaware County History. He also worked tirelessly on behalf of the Heritage Commission of Delaware County since 1999. His extensive contributions on behalf of the Commission were numerous. He was the driving force and the face of the Heritage Commission for several years. There are not many people who would devote all the time and effort that he had. His love and knowledge of our County History was vast. Rich had a great relationship with the various historical groups and individuals not only in Delaware County but throughout the surrounding counties.

He served on the Marple Township Historical Society since 1991. He also served on the board of the Thomas Massey House since 1992 and was Vice President of the Board of Directors. Both of these jobs required a lot of work in organizing meetings, programs, overseeing the finances, site interpretation, site security, Massey family genealogy and much more. These were very demanding positions that required a lot of work.

Rich went above and beyond to help other historical societies, groups and historians. He gave up many evenings to attend local historical meeting to lend support. In addition, Visit Delco PA consulted with him on heritage tourism.

Rich was a major asset to the Heritage Commission and our County. He did this out of love and passion for our heritage. He never did this for personal gain. He put the work in and got the job done and led by example. His death is a great loss to Delaware County and to all who worked with him.

