



PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

for greater philadelphia

PRESERVATION

MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FALL 2008

Boyd Theater Designated Historic, New Owner Selected

After many years of languishing in a state of uncertainty, preservation of the Boyd Theater on Chestnut Street moved closer to reality during the past four months. Progress was made on two fronts — protecting the theater from demolition and finding an owner willing to preserve and restore the much-loved 1928 theater, the last of Philadelphia's great movie palaces.

Legal Protection from Demolition

The effort to protect the Boyd Theater got off to a new start in 2008 when the Preservation Alliance placed the theater on its list of Endangered Properties in January. This listing was intended to remind the general public that the Boyd was still in danger as a result of the inaction of Live Nation Inc., the then-owner, to move ahead with plans for renovation as a live performance venue.

The Alliance and Friends of the Boyd submitted a proposal to the National Trust for Historic Preservation recommending that the Boyd Theater be included among its 2008 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Not only did the Boyd make the list, but Senior Vice President Peter Brink contacted Live Nation officials directly to press upon them the importance of preserving the theater.

Adrian Scott Fine, director of the Trust's Northeast Field Office in Philadelphia, told an enthusiastic crowd of about 100 supporters gathered in front of the theater on May 22, "Nearly every major American city has managed to preserve and reuse at least one historic theater. Philadelphia should not be the exception, especially now as Center City is a thriving and vibrant place that can support the Boyd as part of the larger arts and cultural community."

In response to the positive public response to the National Trust's announcement, the Preservation Alliance submitted a new nomination to the Philadelphia Historical Commission to place the Boyd on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Mayor Nutter indicated his support in a public statement: "The Boyd Theater ... is a cherished institution in this city," he said. "I hope that the Historical Commission will give a thorough evaluation of this structure's importance to our city, and I pledge to work with them to preserve this building."

In August, the Historical Commission took the critical step of designating the Boyd, following the unanimous recommendation of its Designation Committee. The designa-

tion legally protects the Boyd from demolition or inappropriate alteration, 23 years after the first efforts to obtain such protection. Noting the intense public interest, Jonathan Farnham, the Commission's executive director, said "For many, the Boyd's designation is the primary gauge of the health of the preservation movement in Philadelphia."



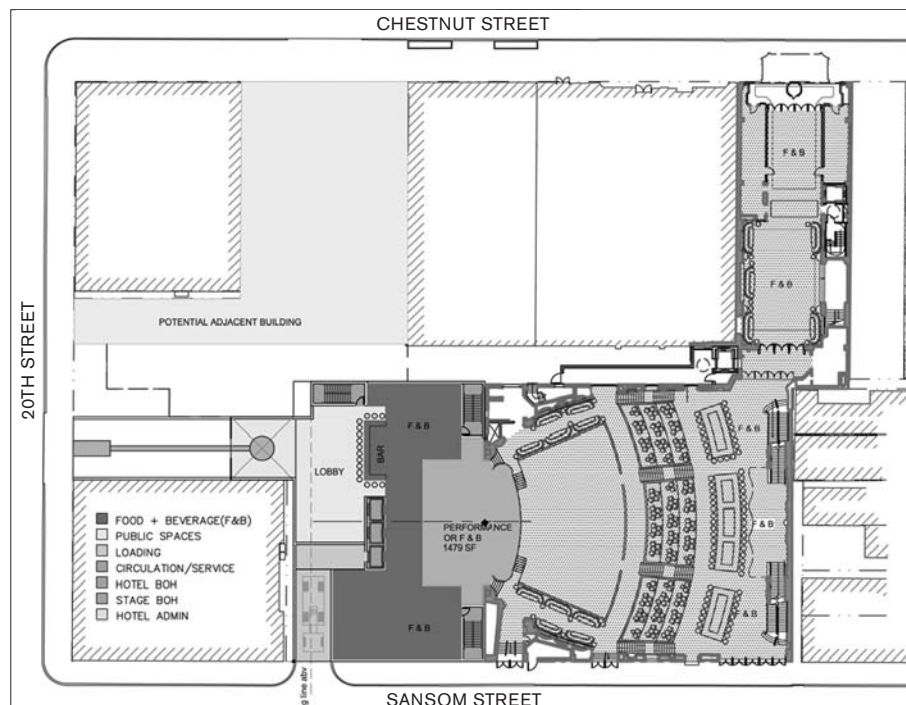
One hundred Boyd supporters rallied in May.

New Ownership Brings New Hope

In conjunction with these efforts, the Preservation Alliance and Friends of the Boyd worked with Live Nation to encourage it to seek a new owner interested in preservation of the theater. In early 2008, Live Nation indicated its intent to sell the property and began serious discussions with a number of developers who had expressed interest. After many weeks of evaluation, Live Nation entered into an agreement of sale with ARC Wheeler Inc. of Philadelphia in August. Hal Wheeler, principal of ARC Wheeler and a member of the board of directors of the Preservation Alliance, stated: "Preservation of the Boyd Theater will not only contribute to the revitalization of the west Chestnut Street area, but will also make Philadelphia more competitive for conventions and corporate meetings."

ARC Wheeler's plans call for the construction of a hotel on the parking lot to the west of the Boyd with a "film" thematic focus, including private screening rooms. The hotel would be connected to the theater via the stage area and the first floor converted to cabaret-style seating. The theater would be restored and used for live performances, films, conferences, meetings and special events. Lobbies and other areas would be converted for use as meeting spaces, restaurants and bar areas.

"Hal Wheeler is to be commended for both his imagination in coming up with a creative plan for the Boyd and for his courage in taking on such a difficult project," said Preservation Alliance Executive Director John Andrew Gallery.



The ground-floor plan for the Boyd.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is often easy to overlook treasures right in your own backyard, as demonstrated by two articles in this newsletter. First, the Preservation Alliance and the Friends of the Boyd spent many months in 2007 and 2008 striving to find a developer interested in preserving the Boyd Theater. It was therefore a surprise—and a wonderful surprise at that—to find a Philadelphia developer and member of the Preservation Alliance board turn out to be the savior of the Boyd. Hal Wheeler deserves our collective thanks, and all the help we can give in helping him accomplish his plans for the Boyd.

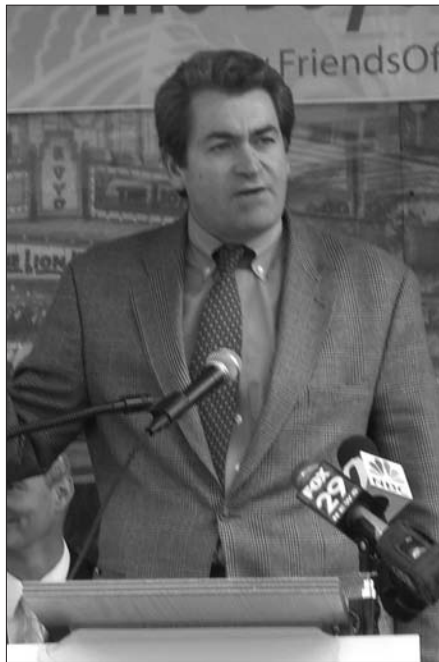
Secondly, the Alliance began searching for a deputy director/chief operating officer in late 2007. We advertised nationally and had applications from New York, New Jersey, Georgia and Hawaii, as well as an incredibly strong group of applicants from Philadelphia. Through the interview process one candidate consistently emerged as having the skills and experience we sought and, quite surprisingly again, that candidate turned out to be one of our board members, Elise Vider. We are delighted that Elise has now joined the Alliance as deputy director.

The idea of "treasures in your own backyard" is an underlying theme in the creation of a preservation plan for Philadelphia, a project described in the newsletter on which the Alliance has just begun work. We are just beginning public discussions to help us define what historic preservation and neighborhood conservation should look like 20 years from now and how we can get there. As part of this process we would like to know what "treasures" you see in your own neighborhood. What are the buildings, places and sites that you would miss if they were destroyed or significantly altered?

The Alliance is working on a new website where you will be able to post pictures and text about such treasures — www.PreservePhiladelphia.org. We hope that you will contribute to it and help us identify the places in your backyard that, like the Boyd Theater, make Philadelphia the distinctive city that it is.

JOHN ANDREW GALLERY
Executive Director

Councilman Green Introduces Interior Designation Bill



Councilman Bill Green

In May, immediately following the National Trust's listing of the Boyd Theater among its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, Philadelphia City Councilman Bill Green introduced Bill #080527 to amend the city's preservation ordinance to allow for the designation of historic interiors. "As Philadelphia continues to be revitalized with new investment and development, it is important for us to make sure that the Historical Commission has the tools it needs to preserve the city's unique architectural heritage," Councilman Green said.

City Council's Rules Committee heard testimony on the bill in June, indicating strong support for the concept of adding interior designation to the ordinance. However, staff of the Historical Commission and City Planning Commission asked for additional time to review and comment on the measure. The Rules Committee, with Councilman Green's support, approved the bill, but postponed final action until City Council re-convenes in September.

Over the summer, the Historical Commission created a Committee on Legislation, which held a three-hour meeting in July to discuss the bill, hear the opinion of the city's Law Department and take comments from the public. With some small revisions, the committee recommended the measure to the Historical Commission, which concurred on August 8. This recommendation was endorsed by the City Planning Commission on August 19. City Council is expected to take up the measure in September.

The Preservation Alliance supports the inclusion of the designation of historic interiors in the city's ordinance and endorses Bill #080527, as amended by the Historical Commission's review. For the latest update on the status of Bill #080527 consult the Alliance's website at www.PreservationAlliance.com/news/currentnews.php

New to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

In addition to the Boyd Theater, the Philadelphia Historical Commission recently added several noteworthy structures to the city's Register of Historic Places. Listing on the Register insures that no demolition or alteration can take place without the Commission's approval.

Shawmont Train Station

Located three miles west of Manayunk on a wooded embankment of the Schuylkill River, the Shawmont Train Station was built c.1834 for the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad. Attributed to noted architect William Strickland, the Greek Revival structure is thought to be the oldest passenger railroad station in the United States.

Robert A. Goldstein, John Johnstone and Professor William Louis Breard of Philadelphia University submitted this nomination, which encapsulates the development of the railway industry and the contribution of the commuter system to the development of modern suburban America.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

The distinctive yellow-and-brown brick Art Moderne building at 228-238 North 13th Street, which currently serves as the national headquarters of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, was known in the 1940s as the Warner Bros. Pictures Exchange. The building served as a distribution point for film prints and the place where local movie house operators screened the newest films.

The building was designed by William Harold Lee, who specialized in movie house design and was responsible for 150 theaters built throughout the region during the industry's heyday. The Warner Bros. Pictures Exchange building is one of the few local examples of the Art Moderne style and the region's motion picture industry. The building was nominated for listing on the Register by the Preservation Alliance, with research assistance from Elizabeth Lankenau.

Tindley Temple

Tindley Temple at 750-762 South Broad Street, designated for its architectural, cultural and social significance, is named for Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, a pastor and the "Father of Gospel Music." His world-famous compositions include "We Shall Overcome," and "We'll Understand It Better By and By."

The church, constructed beginning in 1924, was built with a seating capacity of 3,200, and Dr. Tindley offered two services each Sunday to accommodate the church's more than 10,000 members. Dr. Tindley called the structure "God's cathedral" and envisioned it as a representation of the 12-gated city described in the book of Revelations.

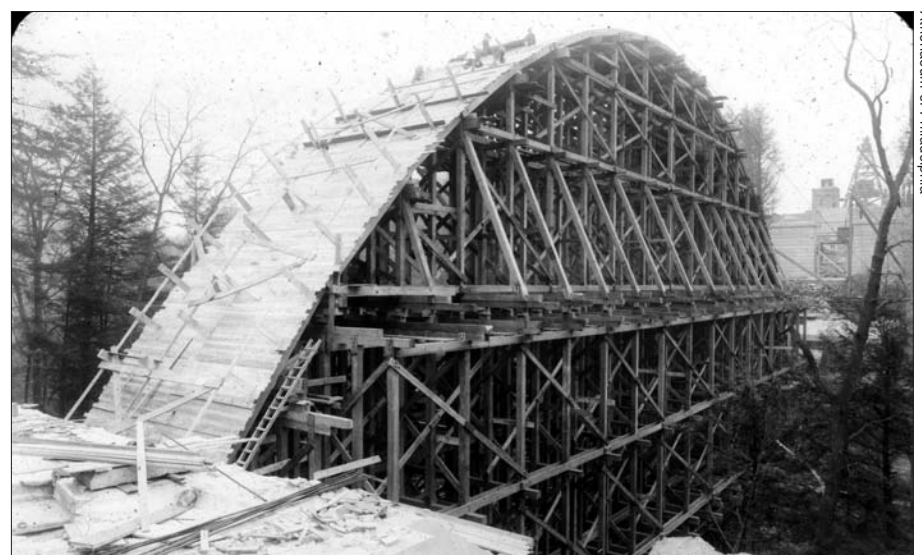
Current congregation members prepared the nomination with the goal of gaining recognition for the church's long history of community service, proud legacy in the African American community and overall significance in the history of Philadelphia.



Warner Bros. Pictures Exchange building



Tindley Temple



Walnut Lane Bridge

Once proclaimed the longest single-span concrete-arch bridge in the world, the Walnut Lane Bridge that connects Roxborough and Germantown was completed in 1908 during an era of reform in Philadelphia that ushered in "City Beautiful" projects like the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The Walnut Lane Bridge is an outstanding example of monolithic concrete construction—the 233-foot central span has minimal metal reinforcement. Designed by George Webster and Henry Quimby, the city's chief and assistant engineer, the bridge's natural finish and graceful, well-proportioned lines blend seamlessly with the rugged landscape of the Wissahickon Valley.



Delong Building

Chestnut Street Properties Nominated

The Alliance recently nominated five historic Chestnut Street buildings for listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nominations grew out of the Alliance's 2007 Endangered Properties List, which expressed concern about historic buildings on Chestnut Street that were being inappropriately altered as new investment occurred.

The nominations for five key Chestnut Street properties were prepared by the Alliance's summer intern, Matthew Holtkamp. (See accompanying story.) This intern position was made possible by a grant from the Samuel S. Fels Fund.

The properties are the Commonwealth Building at 1201 Chestnut, an outstanding example of early-20th-century high-rise design by noted architect John H. Windrim, with alterations by his son, John T. Windrim; the Delong Building at 1232 Chestnut; and three buildings on the 700 block of Chestnut—722, 723 and 725 Chestnut. Check the Alliance's website for the latest on the status of the Historical Commission's review of these nominations. (www.PreservationAlliance.com/advocacy)

A Message from Matthew Holtkamp, Fels Intern, Summer 2008

As a graduate student in historic preservation at the University of Vermont, I was excited to work in an urban context. Fortunately, Philadelphia has happily obliged and through the microcosm of Chestnut Street and its incredibly varied architecture, I've come to know one of the great cities. More to the point, I've played a role in keeping it great.

My task this summer was to survey the architecture along Chestnut Street and to nominate several buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. After learning about the street's evolution and historic context and consulting with local preservation professionals, five buildings were identified.

Now it was time to go after the facts. With the aid of my Raleigh 10 speed, I maneuvered the narrow streets from one research institution to another, including The Athenaeum, Pennsylvania Historical Society and Temple's Urban Archives, to find everything from fire insurance surveys to the newspaper clippings which, when you least expect it, provide that missing link. Each building comes to life as facts are woven together. With that, I created narratives for the Historical Commission to review that will, if accepted, afford protected status.

Chestnut Street's potential is palpable, especially if you remember to look at the buildings' upper stories. The street will likely change dramatically in the near



future and I hope the work I've done will influence a sensible approach towards the street's dynamic past. I, for one, have become attached to these buildings, particularly the subtle, brick form of the Delong building at 1232 Chestnut and the soaring, Beaux Arts Commonwealth Title and Trust Company Building at 1201 Chestnut.

With research in hand, I'll return to Vermont and write a final statement of significance for Chestnut Street. With hindsight, there will be added clarity. There will also be time to consider Philadelphia; jazz at Bob and Barbara's on South Street, the calm of Laurel Hill Cemetery and the bustle of the Italian Market.

I want to thank the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia and the Samuel Fels Foundation for a fantastic summer internship.

Local District Designations in Progress

What do the area around Washington Square in Center City, the planned industrial community of Tacony in Northeast Philadelphia and a bucolic block in Southeast Germantown have in common? All three are Philadelphia neighborhoods that have taken the first steps toward designation and protection as local historic districts, thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The grant was obtained by the Preservation Alliance to assist neighborhoods interested in pursuing local designation with the preparation of nominations and historic district surveys.

Washington Square West

Washington Square West is a significant example of 19th-century residential development in Philadelphia. The proposed historic district contains 1,673 buildings, 836 of which are already listed individually on the Philadelphia Register. A significant portion of the neighborhood is already a National

Register historic district. Because of the size of the district and the necessity of hiring a consultant to carry out the survey, West Washington Square Historic District Inc.—a new nonprofit organization—and the Alliance applied for and received additional grant funds from the William Penn Foundation. Kise Straw & Kolodner has been retained to undertake the survey using an electronic database approach developed for the Preservation Alliance.

Tacony

Tacony was developed in the 1870s by Henry Disston, founder of saw-maker Henry Disston & Sons, which remained a family-owned business for 115 years. Henry Disston and his descendants created an industrial/utopian community in the lower Northeast section of Philadelphia that included factories, housing, schools, churches and community buildings near the Delaware riverfront. Although many of the industrial buildings no longer exist, the residential community remains largely intact.

East Logan Street

The 100 block of East Logan Street in lower Germantown is significant as an early suburban-style street that has survived remarkably intact from its development in the 1870s and 1880s. As Germantown became more accessible by public transportation in the 19th century, it began to attract Philadelphians looking for cooler, more spacious surroundings, transforming the rural village into a green suburb and later into a dense, urban neighborhood. Today, East Logan Street, with its spacious lots and freestanding houses, stands in vivid contrast to the close rowhouses that surround it.

The Historical Society of Tacony and Historic East Logan Street were selected for assistance by the Preservation Alliance based on a request for proposals sent to 75 neighborhood organizations, civic groups and community development corporations.

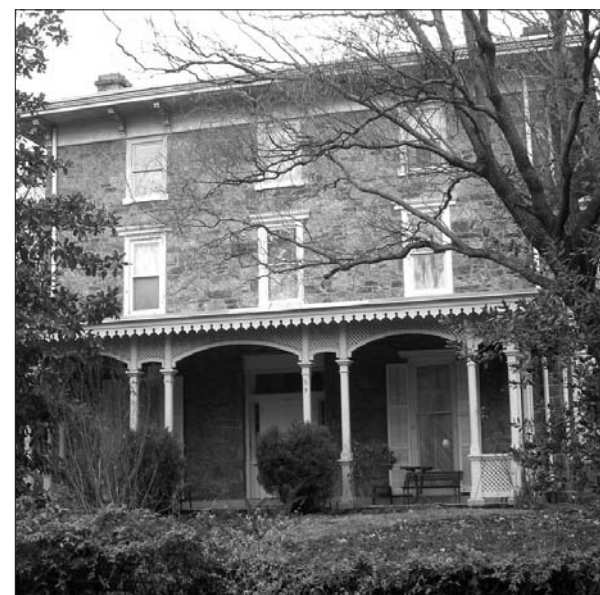
The Preservation Design Partnership, a preservation consulting firm, prepared a statement of significance for Tacony and East Logan and conducted a training session for residents on how to conduct a historic district survey and prepare a nomination.



Quince Street in Washington Square West



The "Management House" in Tacony



A residence on East Logan Street

Restoring the Sculptures on City Hall

By Michael Holleman
and Nan Gutterman, VITETTA

Anyone visiting Center City over the last several years has certainly noticed the intricate and extensive scaffolding that has been in place at certain times on each facade of Philadelphia City Hall, including its iconic tower. The scaffolding has been used to provide access for the masons and other contractors working on a multi-phase renovation of the building's exterior that began in 2000 and is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2010. The improvements include the replacement of the building's flat roofs; stripping, restoring and repainting the cast iron crestings on the mansards; repairing and repainting the wood windows and restoring and cleaning the stone facades and exuberant sculptural ornamentation.

As the scaffolding has been removed, the vibrancy and beauty of the details of this National Historic Landmark as well as the harmony of its overall design continue to emerge.

The design of City Hall was a collaboration of three artistic giants—all from Philadelphia. John MacArthur, its architect, was assisted in the architectural design by Thomas U. Walter, the architect for the United States Capitol dome. MacArthur was assisted in the design of its ornament and sculptural program by Alexander Milne Calder. City Hall's facades are adorned with over 250 sculptures designed and executed by Calder, father of Alexander Calder (who designed the Swann Fountain at Logan Square) and grandfather of Sandy Calder (famous for his steel mobiles and stabiles). The sculptures on City Hall tell a story of the ambition and might of our city (in 1875 we were the fastest-growing city in the world), our history and culture and the reach and breadth of our industry and trade.

Calder's role was to work with MacArthur and lead the design of the building's stone and metal ornament and sculpture. Each element was modeled in clay and then cast in plaster in his basement studio, which was located on the

south side of City Hall, before being cast in bronze or carved in stone. Calder designed freestanding and bas-relief sculptures and architectural ornament. The stone sculptures were carved from the finest blocks of Massachusetts Lee marble and were crafted to include even the most intricate details, such as the strap on a shoe, the strings of an instrument or the woven straw in a hat.

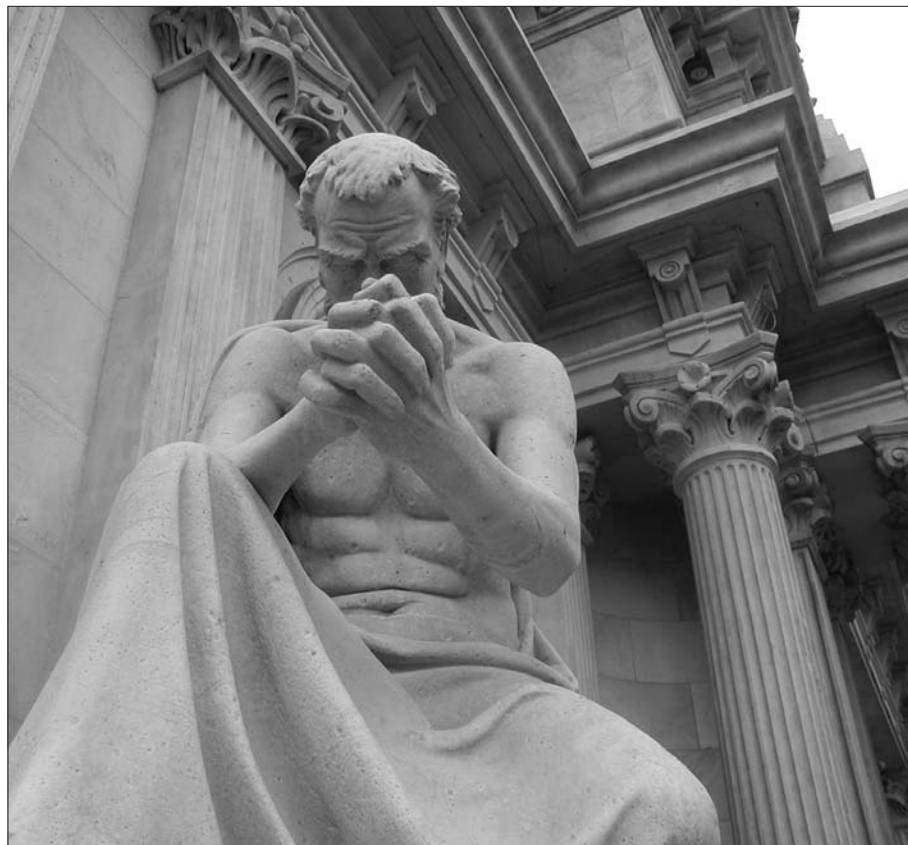
The majority of the stone sculptures on the building's exterior are located on the central pavilions that align with the center of north and south Broad Street and east and west Market Street. Other stone sculptures are located within the building's entry portals, which are at the base of each central pavilion, and at the corner pavilions at the four corners of the building.

"Reading" the Sculptures

There is an iconography for the sculptures that can be understood, but no written records describing MacArthur's or Calder's ideas or concepts have been located. The marble sculptures on the tower below the

bronze figures represent the elements: "air" on the north, "fire" on the east, "water" on the south and "earth" on the west. The sculptures at the top of the center pavilion pediments represent people and animals of the four major continents, with Europe on the north, Asia on the east, Africa on the south and the Americas on the west. Supporting the raked pediments are caryatids (columns shaped like women) and telamones (male and female figures), which also represent the people of the world. It is easy to forget that places like Antarctica had only been discovered 30 or 40 years before City Hall was designed and these sculptural representations told the city of our ties to distant lands.

The city seal and motto can be seen below the arched pediments on the west, north and east; the state seal of Pennsylvania is situated in the same position at the south center pavilion, the entrance closest to the State Supreme Court chambers. There are two seated sculptures at each center pavilion that represent human goals and endeavors. The



Photos Courtesy VITETTA

sculptures on the corner pavilions represent themes related to the interests and reach of Philadelphia at the time: the sea, commerce, arts, building trades, agriculture, science, mechanics and industry. Other sculptures relate to the three branches of government housed at City Hall: executive, legislative and judicial.

Cleaning and Restoring

This splendor has been made more accessible to view through the great efforts of many talented masons and tradespeople working with our design team. Surface soiling from the facades has been removed with a two-step cleaning process. First, racks of sprayers attached to hoses apply a fine water mist to the facades to saturate and swell the soiling, which breaks the electrical bond between it and the stone. This step, which takes up to three eight-hour cycles, removes most of the dirt. Next is a low-pressure micro-abrasive cleaning process using water with a crushed limestone cleaning media (think of sandblasting so gentle that you could spray it on your skin with no harm).

The process for cleaning each sculpture is even more controlled. Representatives of

our firm (VITETTA), the structural engineer and the art conservator individually determine the exact of scope of repair and restoration for each sculpture. The repair work has included the installation of marble "Dutchman" patches, repair of cracks, installation of stainless steel pins to reinforce portions of the sculptures, tooling of the surface to allow water to drain and pointing of the mortar joints. Throughout the process, the restoration work has been photographed and the locations of our repairs clearly documented to aid future generations in their stewardship efforts.

When you next visit City Hall, take a moment to look at its facades and enjoy the results of our efforts. Study the sculptures and try to understand and interpret the story that they tell. Relish being a part of the first generation of Philadelphians to enjoy our palace of art in its current state of pristine beauty and delight in discovering its hidden details.

Michael Holleman and Nan Gutterman of VITETTA are part of the project team that is restoring the exterior of City Hall. Michael also serves on the Preservation Alliance's board of directors.



With the completed cleaning and restoration of hundreds of statues that adorn Philadelphia City Hall, ours is the first generation in more than a century to clearly see the building in all its architectural and artistic glory. The grimy cherub, above left, shows the impact of decades of pollution and soot before restoration. The results can be seen on the right.

CITY HALL PROJECT TEAM

- City of Philadelphia, Capital Program Office, Owner
- C B Development, Owner's Representative
- Kelly Maiello, Architect for the windows and roofing, Project Administrator
- VITETTA, Architect for the masonry
- Marianna Thomas Architects, Architect for the cast iron
- Keast & Hood, Structural Engineers
- Norton Art Conservation, Conservator
- Daniel J. Keating, General Contractor
- Lepore/Mark, Masonry Contractor
- Milner+Carr, Masonry Conservator

PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA

Creating a Citywide Preservation Plan and Survey



The Preservation Alliance, in collaboration with the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, the Philadelphia Historical Commission, Penn Praxis and other partners, is at work on the first phase of a preservation plan for Philadelphia. This first stage of the project includes preparation of a strategic preservation plan based upon extensive public consultation, a statement of historic significance defining the important themes in the history of the physical development of the city and the development of a methodology for a citywide survey based on the use of the latest in contemporary technology.

Although Philadelphia is widely recognized as a city with abundant historic buildings and neighborhoods, the city has never had a historic preservation plan or a citywide survey of historic resources. There was no historic preservation component in the 1960 Comprehensive Plan for Philadelphia and, although plans have been made subsequently for Center City and some neighborhoods, no new comprehensive plan or preservation strategy has been created. Equally surprising, no citywide survey of historic resources has ever been undertaken. According to a recent study for the Preservation Alliance, only four percent of the properties in the city have ever been evaluated in terms of their historic significance.

Data about historic resources in Philadelphia is woefully inadequate for setting preservation priorities and integrating historic preservation into planning and development decisions and neighborhood revitalization.

To fill this gap, since 2006 the Preservation Alliance has been exploring how to create a preservation plan for Philadelphia and how to undertake a citywide survey of historic resources. Now, as a result of grants from the William Penn Foundation, the Barra Foundation and the Heritage Philadelphia Program funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Alliance has initiated the first phase of work toward the creation of a preservation plan. This initial phase has four components:

Strategic Preservation Plan

A preservation plan begins with an evaluation of the current state of historic preservation in the city followed by the creation of a vision for preservation in the future. This includes examining the attitudes of Philadelphians toward historic preservation and neighborhood conservation as well as the resources and organizational capacity necessary to

accomplish such a plan. Working with Penn Praxis and the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania, the Preservation Alliance will, during the coming year, engage a wide range of individuals and organizations, including the general public, in a discussion of the state of historic preservation in Philadelphia and a vision for the future.

Statement of Historic Significance

Historic resource surveys need to be guided by a framework that outlines the significant themes in the history of the physical development of the city. During the coming year, the Alliance will engage a group of historians, coordinated by

Emily Cooperman, PhD, to identify the key themes in the history of the development of the city and to develop initial statements of significance related to several of those themes, as models for further work to be done over the following two years.

Citywide Historic Resources Survey

Current technology, such as GIS mapping and digital photography, makes it much more feasible to undertake a citywide survey of historic resources than has been possible in the past. The Alliance has been experimenting with a technological approach to historic resource

surveys for several years. In the coming year, the Preservation Design Partnership and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia will assist the Alliance in refining the use of technology and establishing a methodology for undertaking a citywide survey.

Website

A new website—www.PreservePhiladelphia.org—is under development to report on the preservation plan as it proceeds and to allow members of the

public to submit photographs and comments about historic buildings, sites and distinctive neighborhoods worthy of preservation.

Meet New Alliance Staff

The Preservation Alliance welcomed three new staff members this summer.

Elise Vider joined us as deputy director, a new position created to strengthen senior management leadership of the Alliance. Longtime members will remember Elise as an Alliance staffer from the time of the organization's establishment in 1996 until 2000, when she joined the Center City District as director of communications. Prior to that, Elise served on the staff of the Preservation Coalition, one of the Alliance's predecessor organizations.

Elise was an active member of the Alliance's board of directors starting in 2005, serving on the advocacy and development committees. Elise has also served on the Preservation Achievement Awards jury for many years.

Elise has a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a co-founder and member of the steering committee of the Design Advocacy Group (DAG) and, before moving to Philadelphia, served as chair of the Haddonfield NJ Historic Preservation Commission.

In an earlier stage of her career, Elise was an award-winning journalist, specializing in real estate, architecture, design and historic preservation.

Elise brings to us a longstanding commitment and professional engagement with historic preservation as well as outstanding

administrative and communications skills.

Sabra Smith is the Alliance's new advocacy associate. Sabra holds a master's in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania where her training included preservation policy, law, economics, historic research and documentation, architectural history and urban studies. Her master's thesis, "Dead Men Tell No Tales," explored the challenges historic sites face attracting and engaging potential visitors.

Previously, Sabra worked as a historian in the Preservation Assistance office of the National Park Service with an emphasis on National Historic Landmarks. Before that,

she worked at the Lower Merion Conservancy.

Prior to moving to Philadelphia, Sabra worked in public relations in New York and as a publicist for a major publishing company, where her passion for photography, art and architecture led her to develop a marketing program for the art book imprint (and the personal benefit of meeting idols such as Ansel Adams, Andre Kertesz and Yousuf Karsh).

Melissa Jest has joined us as neighborhood preservation program coordinator, a new position that will expand and enhance the Alliance's neighborhood programs under Director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs Patrick Hauck. The coordinator's focus is on outreach to African American communities of Philadelphia.

Melissa relocated to Philadelphia from

Savannah, where she served as neighborhood coordinator for the Historic Savannah Foundation and was the first African American to join the foundation as fulltime preservation staff.

Melissa's work with residents in Savannah's historic neighborhoods earned her awards and recognition as a National Trust for Historic Preservation Emerging Leader in 2001.

She presented to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network on gentrification and creative approaches to preservation in Savannah's minority and low-income historic district.

Melissa holds a master's of urban studies from Savannah State University.



Elise Vider



Sabra Smith



Melissa Jest

Alliance Elects New Board Members and Officers

At its May meeting, the Preservation Alliance board elected three new directors as well as officers for the coming year.

Katherine A. Dowdell, AIA, of Blackney Hayes Architects, was elected as board chair. Peter C. Benton, AIA, of John Milner Associates was named vice chair; Christophe Terlizzi of Citizens Bank was elected treasurer and Rosemarie Fabien was named secretary.

New directors are John Carr of Milner + Carr Conservation, Michael Holleman, AIA, of VITETTA and Diane-Louise (D-L) Wormley of NeighborhoodsNow.

Kathy Dowdell has over 20 years experience in architecture, interior design and historic preservation, and her expertise includes the restoration, conversion and adaptive re-use of historic buildings. At Blackney Hayes, she has successfully managed the renovation of a historic paper factory, dating to the late 1800s, and

the conversion of a power plant to office space.

Kathy has been on the Alliance's board since 2003, most recently serving as vice chair. She is also active with the Philadelphia AIA Historic Preservation Committee and the Association for Women in Architecture.

Peter C. Benton is a senior associate at John Milner Associates, with over 25 years experience in the design and execution of architecture, planning and heritage development projects. Central to his work has been a recognition and respect for the character and historical development of buildings and the landscapes in which they are located.

The Preservation Alliance wishes to express its great appreciation to outgoing directors Carl E. Dranoff, John D. Milner, FAIA, Romona Riscoe Benson and William Schwartz for their dedicated service and to past board chair Marian Kornilowicz for his excellent leadership.



Katherine A. Dowdell



Peter C. Benton

Entertaining, Informing and Celebrating Preservation: Alliance Events

Preservation Alliance events continue to entertain, inform and celebrate accomplishments in historic preservation throughout the region. The 15th annual Preservation Achievement Awards luncheon drew 570 to the grand ballroom at the historic Park Hyatt at the Bellevue during Preservation Month in May. Award winners were featured in an exhibit at the Center for Architecture from mid-May to mid-June, which also included award winners from the past 15 years of the awards program.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Alliance hosted a lecture series at the Center for members and the general public. Presentations included a preview of Jim

Garrison's forthcoming book on historic houses of Chestnut Hill and vicinity, the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed synagogue in Elkins Park and the Boyd Theater.

In July, about 40 Preservation Alliance Professional Partners got a sneak preview of work at the former YMCA Building on Arch Street at an exclusive hard hat tour. The 1907 Horace Trumbauer building is being adaptively re-used for conversion to a four-star luxury Le Meridien Hotel. Members got a chance to see restoration-in-progress of significant interiors, including the original lobby, ballroom and library.

Visit www.PreservationAlliance.com for fall special events and tours.



2008 Community Action Award recipients, Michael Coard, Esq. (LEFT), Edward Lawler, Jr. and the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition at the Preservation Awards luncheon in May.

Homeowner Workshops

Nearly 200 owners of older and historic houses learned some of the best and most economical ways to renovate their homes at the Preservation Alliance's spring series of free homeowner workshops in April and May. Sessions were conducted in Germantown at the carriage house at Cliveden and at the Sheep Barn in West Fairmount Park and focused on topics including how to incorporate "green design" with historic preservation.

The Alliance is conducting its next round of free workshops in September in West Philadelphia and Queen Village. Attendees will learn how to research, restore and main-



Tom McPoyle demonstrates wood repair at a recent Alliance homeowner workshop.

tain their historic homes. These workshops are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. **To reserve a space, or for more information, please contact Patrick Hauck, director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs, at 215-546-1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.**

As always, we depend on the generosity of the many volunteers who give their time and talents to make the workshops possible by sharing their expertise through great presentations. The Alliance extends special thanks to: Alison Pottage of SavATree; Paul Macht, AIA; Sara Sweeney, AIA; John Dorety, John Dorety Antiques; Liz Robinson and Hank Wierzbicki of the Energy Coordinating Agency and the terrific staff of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust—Lucy Strackhouse, Ray Tschoepe, Jessica Baumert, Joy Naifeh and Tom McPoyle.

Old House Fans! Mark Your Calendars!

The 2009 OLD HOUSE FAIR
will take place on Saturday, March 28
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FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA**

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HELP

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

SAVE HISTORY!

**DEADLINE
OCTOBER 1**

Historic buildings add to a neighborhood's character, serve as distinguishing landmarks and remind us of those who came before.

Yet, every day distinctive historic structures are threatened by neglect, development and demolition. When they're gone, they leave a hole in the fabric of the community. If you've been saying "someone should do something," now's the time and you can be that someone. Advocate for a neighborhood treasure that may disappear without attention and public support. Nominate a historic resource to the Preservation Alliance's **6th annual Endangered Properties List**.

View previous years' lists and download an online nomination form at www.PreservationAlliance.com/advocacy or request a form by calling 215-546-1146 x 8.

The deadline for nominations is **Wednesday, October 1**.



Race Street Firehouse

Photo Courtesy: Howard B. Haas