



HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The African-American Church in Philadelphia

In recognition of the importance of the African-American church in the history of Philadelphia, the Preservation Alliance has begun work to create a Thematic National Register Nomination of African-American churches. A National Register Thematic District consists of a number of historic properties in different locations all of which are significant for the same reason.

This effort to create a thematic district began with an historical research paper, "From Refuge to Strength: The Rise of the African-American church in Philadelphia, 1787 to 1949," prepared by Matthew S. Hopper. The following overview is adapted from Hopper's paper, the full text of which is available on the Alliance's website www.preservationalliance.com.

Philadelphia has been a center of African-American religious activity for more than 200 years, and much of that history and tradition has been preserved in Philadelphia's historic African-American religious buildings.

Philadelphia's first black churches emerged in the late 18th century as products of the Christian sentiment of the city's black leaders, coupled with frustration with the hypocrisy of racism that black congregants experienced from predominantly white congregations. Philadelphia's early Christian leaders established churches that could serve as havens of refuge for the black population. These churches flourished in the early 19th century, giving birth to offshoot churches that served as both places of worship and community centers.

Architecturally, Philadelphia's first black churches—Mother Bethel, founded by Richard Allen in 1794; St. Thomas Episcopal, founded by Absalom Jones in 1794; and Zoar Methodist Episcopal, founded in 1796—looked almost identical to St. George's Methodist, the white church from which they arose. When each of these congregations built a new church between 1880 and 1890 after growing into large and prosperous religious institutions, they hired prominent white architects and chose building designs identical to those of white congregations of the time. These churches saw their role as creating opportunities for congregants to have the same religious experiences they were denied in white churches, and for providing some social programs. However, they were not seen as centers to assert black rights or create movements of social protest.

It was not until the end of the 19th century with the beginnings of the rapid influx of black migrants from the south (1890 to 1910) that Philadelphia's black churches adopted a new role as social organizers and became crucibles of protest within their black communities. In the 20th century, these churches developed into the leading organizational units for African-Americans in the city and adopted an aggressive stance against racial inequality.

The growth and location of African-American churches reflects the historic growth of the city. The first black churches—



The original Mother Bethel AME Church in the early nineteenth century (ABOVE) and the monumental Tindley Temple United Methodist Church (BELOW).



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of which there were six in 1813—were located in what is now Center City. Between 1830 and 1880 the African-American population of the city witnessed tremendous growth. By 1830 there were 10 African-American Churches. This number had grown to 18 by 1857, with most still located in Center City in the immediate vicinity of Mother Bethel. But by 1892 the number had risen to 28 and many were now located in the emerging new residential areas of West Philadelphia and in North Philadelphia, particularly along Ridge Avenue, a growing center of business and industry as a result of the extension of street-car service. Also by 1892, the first black Catholic Church—St Peter Claver—was founded. In fact, in the 1880s and 1890s more black churches were constructed or purchased in Philadelphia than ever before. It was during this period that Mother Bethel built a new church, still in use today. Others built during this period and still in use include St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Bainbridge near 18th Street, and Morris Brown AME at 25th and Ridge Avenue.

By 1923, the churches had followed the growing black population of the city away from the area around Mother Bethel to new concentrations south of Lombard west of Broad Street, along Ridge Avenue, and in other locations in North and West Philadelphia. One of the outstanding buildings of this period is Tindley Temple United Methodist Church, at Broad and Fitzwater streets. Occupying most of a full city block and with an enormous sanctuary, Tindley Temple stands today as a monument of African-American achievement in the first part of the 20th century.

The church buildings of African-American congregations in Philadelphia, both those that were built by black congregations and those that were purchased, tell the stories of religious institutions that grew with their communities, relocated over time, and remained at the heart of black social, political, and religious life through times of prosperity and despair. From their humble beginnings as havens of refuge to their growth into pillars of strength and centers of community organization, Philadelphia's historic African-American churches have left behind a powerful legacy for posterity to cherish and preserve.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This issue of the newsletter, published during Black History Month, draws attention to the African-American heritage in Philadelphia, an important part of the history of Philadelphia that is too often overlooked in historic preservation efforts.

The African-American community has been a part of Philadelphia's history from the very founding of the city. Too often the early role of the African-American community has been overlooked as a consequence of our failure to recognize the contributions made by those who were held in slavery. Some recognition of this has begun to occur in discussions regarding a memorial to those slaves owned by George Washington on the site of the house he occupied as President at 5th and Market streets.

The broad achievements of African-American's in Philadelphia can be appreciated through the large number of historic markers that have been placed at various sites throughout the city. These are described in a wonderful publication produced by Charles Blockson in 1992 with the support of the William Penn Foundation. But there are also many buildings still standing that give testimony to African-American heritage. These include the homes of distinguished people, including Paul Robeson whose house is described in the newsletter; and the many, many extraordinary religious buildings that have been created by African-American congregations beginning with Richard Allen and continuing up until the present day.

The Alliance is pleased to acknowledge and honor this heritage as part of our historic preservation mission in Philadelphia.

JOHN ANDREW GALLERY
Executive Director

Paul Robeson House to be Restored

The Paul Robeson House in West Philadelphia is the recent recipient of a restoration grant from a partnership between the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America's Treasures and Home & Garden Television. HGTV will showcase the Robeson House during its 2005 TV season as one of twelve of America's most important historic places being restored.

The Robeson House (4951 Walnut Street) is the last home of Paul Robeson, the legendary African-American scholar, athlete, actor, singer and human rights activist. The house has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark as well as an African-American historic site and tourist destination of both national and international importance.

On February 3rd representatives from HGTV, the National Trust, Save America's Treasures and co-sponsor Urban Cableworks of Philadelphia/Time Warner Cable presented Frances Aulston, executive director of the Robeson House with a \$100,000 check.

The property is owned by the West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (WPCA) whose mission is, in part, "to heighten the awareness of the life, legacy and philosophy of Paul Leroy Robeson — and his historical significance to the Philadelphia region, the State of Pennsylvania, the nation and the world." WPCA's director, Frances Aulston, was instrumental in acquiring the Robeson House when it went up for sale. After Robeson's death in 1976, the house suffered from nearly twenty years of abandonment and damage by squatters.

WPCA is currently in the midst of a capital campaign to raise nearly \$3.1 million for the restoration work, interpretive exhibits, and new public amenities and offices for WPCA.

The project will entail three phases established by a master plan developed by Philadelphia architectural firm Kelly/Maiello and exhibit designers Ueland Junker McCauley Nicholson (UJMN): the restoration and sta-



Paul Robeson house 4951 Walnut Street.

bilization of the exterior; the design of new exhibits to tell the story of Robeson; and the re-creation of the interior spaces to reflect the last ten years (1966-1976) of Robeson's life when he lived with his sister Marian Forsythe at the West Philadelphia house.

The exterior has remained essentially the same from when Robeson lived at the house, but some work is needed: structural repairs to the roof system, restoration and/or replacement of windows and doors, addition of a second means of egress, a porch and minor masonry repairs.

Restoring the interior will include recreating the décor of the 1966-1976 era, including the wallpaper and furnishings. It is hoped that visitors to the Robeson house will be able to enjoy recordings of Robeson's concert, theatrical, and movie performances that will be "broadcast" from period-era radios and TVs in the house.

New interpretive exhibits will be designed

by UJMN Architects, replacing the existing traveling exhibit that was never intended to serve as a permanent exhibit in a residential space. Architect Mark Ueland says "there is no lack of source materials for the exhibit".

Finally, WPCA will re-locate its offices and new reception, lecture and exhibit spaces, and public restrooms to the adjacent property (4949 Walnut) which will have an internal connection to the Robeson House.

Paul Robeson was born in 1898, the son of Reverend William Drew Robeson and Maria Louisa Bustill. Rev. Robeson as a teenager escaped slavery on the Underground Railroad, and later earned a theological degree, and used the pulpit to advocate for equal rights.

Paul Robeson was renowned for his rich baritone voice, superb acting ability, and passionate zeal for racial and human justice. He was a gifted student and athlete while attending Rutgers University in New Jersey. He won honors in debating and oratory and graduated from Columbia Law School. He left the practice of law to pursue a career in singing and acting. Robeson performed on Broadway, and is noted for his leading roles in *Othello* and Eugene O'Neill's play, *Emperor Jones*, and his stunning rendition of the song "Ole Man River" in the musical *Showboat*.

During World War II, he entertained troops and sang battle songs on the radio. Despite his war efforts, he was labeled "subversive" by McCarthyites who were wary of his earlier trip to the Soviet Union, and his support of the 1947 St. Louis picketing against segregation of black actors.

Robeson received death threats from the Ku Klux Klan while campaigning for the Progressive Party candidate in the 1948 presidential election. Concert halls closed their doors to him, and his records began to disappear from stores. Finally, the U.S. State Department canceled

his passport. Robeson sued and the case went to the Supreme Court. After eight years and an international outcry, his passport was returned.

During the 1960s and 1970s, dozens of prominent leaders and world-renown performers visited the classic, 1911 row house in the Walnut Hill community of West Philadelphia. The Paul Robeson House was his last residence, and during the 10 years that he lived here with his sister, ill and in retirement after nearly two decades of enforced silence and political persecution, both he and his home became powerful symbols of the African-American struggle for equality and civil rights.

Marian Anderson Stamp Issued

Marian Anderson is the latest honoree in the Black Heritage Series of 37-cent commemorative stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service. Ms. Anderson's house was designated an historic site by the Philadelphia Historical Commission in 2004 (see *Preservation Matters*, Spring 2004 edition).

Paul Robeson was also honored by a stamp in the Black Heritage Series in 2004.



African-American State Historical Markers

A selection of markers from Charles Blockson's *Philadelphia Guide: African-American State Historical Markers* (1992).

JOHN W. "TRANE" COLTRANE

tenor saxophone player and composer

MARKER 1511 North 33rd Street
site of the John W. Coltrane Cultural Society

FATHER DIVINE

religious leader and founder of the Peace Mission Movement

MARKER northeast corner of Broad Street and Ridge Avenue

ST. THOMAS AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

first African Episcopal Church in the United States

MARKER 5th Street south of St. James Place

JULIAN FRANCIS ABELE

first African-American graduate of

University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture

MARKER in front of Philadelphia Museum of Art

HENRY OSSAWA TANNER

painter

MARKER 2908 West Diamond Street

CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET

first African-American woman elected to Pennsylvania State Legislature

MARKER 5403 Vine Street



BILLIE HOLIDAY

singer

MARKER 1409 Lombard Street

FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

first African-American hospital in Philadelphia

MARKER 1522 Lombard Street

FIRST PROTEST AGAINST SLAVERY, 1688

MARKER 5109 Germantown Avenue

BEREAN INSTITUTE

founded in 1899 to provide training in skilled trades

MARKER 1901 West Girard Avenue

MOTHER BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

oldest church owned by African-American people

in the United States

MARKER 6th and Lombard streets

BENJAMIN BANNEKER INSTITUTE

early African-American literary society

MARKER 409 South 11th Street

MARKER 254 South 12th Street



J. Randall Colton

Alliance Wins 19th and Walnut Appeal

In December 2004, the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia granted the appeal of the Preservation Alliance and Michael Singer, and the Coalition of Rittenhouse Neighbors to prevent the demolition of three historic buildings on the 1900 block of Sansom Street. The demolition of the three buildings had been approved by the City's Historical Commission to allow the Philadelphia Parking Authority to build a garage and movie theater complex. No further appeal was filed by the City or the Authority by the January deadline, thus the Court of Common Pleas decision stands as the final decision.

This was an important case and an important victory for the Alliance. The Philadelphia Historical Commission had based its approval on that section of the City's ordinance that allows demolition of historic properties for projects that are "necessary to the public interest." This section of the ordinance has been rarely used—research by the Alliance indicated that there were only three times in the 15-year history of the ordinance that this provision has been used to approve demolition of an historic building. The Alliance undertook the appeal of the Historical Commission's decision—first to the L&I Review Board and then to Common Pleas Court—because it felt that the project did not meet the standards implied by previous actions of the Commission and that its approval would create a precedent that would weaken this section of the preservation ordinance.

Judge Matthew D. Carrafiello's decision, as briefly described in his Memorandum Opinion, affirmed the Alliance's position that the generation of real estate, taxes and jobs (something all real estate projects do) did not constitute justification that the project was "in the public interest." "If economic advantages were the sole standard for 'necessary in the public interest,'" Judge Carrafiello wrote, "then virtually any historic building in Philadelphia could be demolished when a more economically advantageous use could be foreseen."

This decision is more significant than merely the protection of three historic buildings in the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District. It now provides a precedent for evaluating future proposals that use the "necessary to the public interest" provision of the ordinance as a justification for demolition. The decision is also of national interest because other cities have similar provisions in their historic preservation ordinances but there have been very few court cases interpreting the meaning of the "public interest" concept.

Although this decision prevents demolition of the three historic buildings, that in itself does not guarantee their preservation. The Alliance will work constructively with the City and the Parking Authority on the



John Gallery

future of this site and assist in whatever way we can to obtain developers for the site and the historic properties. The Alliance is indebted to Robert Sugarman, Esq., who represented the Alliance in this matter; to Samuel Lehrer, Esq. of Dilworth Paxson, who represented Michael Singer; and to William Binderman, Esq. who represented the Coalition of Rittenhouse Neighbors.

Boyd Theater Restoration Announced

Mayor John Street (shown above) started the New Year off on a positive note for historic preservation by joining with Ken Goldenberg of the Goldenberg Group and David Anderson of Clear Channel Entertainment's Theatrical Division to announce the restoration of the 1928 Art Deco Boyd Theater. This announcement culminates nearly two years of work by the preservation and film communities to build support for preservation of the theater, an effort that was led by the extraordinary commitment of the Friends of the Boyd and Howard B. Haas, its president.

In making the announcement, Mayor Street indicated that there would be no state or local public funds required for the project. Clear Channel Entertainment, which will take ownership of the Boyd Theater from the Goldenberg Group, will be investing \$30 million to \$35 million to restore the theater, which is expected to open in later summer or fall 2006 for traveling Broadway musicals, concerts, film and other performances. Mr. Anderson indicated that Clear Channel decided to invest in the Boyd because of Philadelphia's vibrant entertainment life and because Philadelphia is underserved by theaters.

The Boyd Theater is the last of Center City's fabulous movie palaces. Its magnificent Art Deco interior will be fully restored by Clear Channel and a new stage house will be built to provide a stage of sufficient size to accommodate major productions. The Goldenberg Group will retain ownership of the site of the three small movie theaters added in 1980, and will rebuild this site for retail and restaurant uses supportive of the theater.

Speaking at the press conference, John Andrew Gallery, Executive Director of the Alliance, praised Mayor Street's leadership for historic preservation, and expressed appreciation to Councilman Darrell Clarke for his assistance and support of the project. He also noted the outstanding contributions of Howard B. Haas of the Friends of the Boyd, and Leslie Smallwood, Development Director of the Goldenberg Group.

Excerpt from Judge Carrafiello's Memorandum Opinion

December 8, 2004

If economic advantages were the sole standard for "necessary in the public interest," then virtually any historic building in Philadelphia could be demolished when a more economically advantageous use could be foreseen. On the contrary, the fact that we have a system of ordinances protecting historic buildings recognizes that historical properties need protection because they cannot compete with more profitable uses. But

the City has chosen to protect them because, as a matter of public policy, the buildings have intrinsic worth. As a part of our history, they are irreplaceable; solely because of their historical status, they are necessary.

Therefore, since demolition is permitted when necessary to the public interest, that interest must be of such an overwhelming nature so as to override the necessity of maintaining our own historical architectural past.

1,000 Support Dilworth House Preservation

The Society Hill Civic Association has gathered over 1,000 signatures of individuals who support the preservation of the house of former Mayor Richardson Dilworth and his wife. The Colonial-revival house on South 6th Street facing Washington Square was built by the Dilworth's in 1957 as their personal residence. "Mayor Dilworth was one of the most significant political figures in the history of the city," said Paul Boni, Esq., chair of the Civic Association's Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee. "He chose this location to show his strong commitment to the renewal of what was then a severely blighted part of town. His house stands as a reminder of an important chapter in the history of Society Hill and we feel it should be preserved."

The current owner proposes to demolish the house to build a 13-story condominium. It is anticipated that such a proposal will be submitted to the Historical Commission for review in February or March. Individuals interested in signing the petition may contact the Society Hill Civic Association by fax at 215-629-9914 or by email to MattDeJulio@aol.com.



Matthew DeJulio

Eight Historic Properties Protected by Alliance Easements

Last year was a busy one for the Alliance's easement program: eight owners donated protective preservation easements on their historic properties including a cast-iron mercantile building, the estate house of a locally prominent Bucks County Quaker family, and several notable townhouses in the Society Hill and Rittenhouse neighborhoods. The Alliance now protects 182 historic properties in the Philadelphia region with preservation easements.

Preservation easements held by the Alliance require all current and future owners to maintain the historic appearance of the protected exteriors of the properties. In certain cases (see below), historic landscapes, interiors, and the works of notable modernist architects are also protected. The easement donations also entitle the property owners to a federal income-tax deduction.

The new easement properties are:



Moreland Manor

Cinnamon Drive, Lower Moreland Township, Bucks County

Moreland Manor has been continuously occupied since the early 1800s by five generations of the Hallowell family. Israel Hallowell, Jr., and his descendants were very active in local banking, politics, and Quaker social causes including the abolition of slavery. Originally 70 acres, the Hallowell property was eventually reduced to 3-1/2 acres in the 1970s as the surrounding land was developed as a residential subdivision.

The easement protects not only the stone farmhouse, but also the remaining

open space and public views, a carriage shed, and the principal historic interior spaces of the house. "Moreland Manor is one of the few remaining 19th-century farm houses in our community," writes the township manager of Lower Moreland. "The well-maintained house and bucolic setting provides a glimpse of life in Lower Moreland 200 years ago. The preservation of this property contribute[s] to the Township's goals ... to protect the quality of life in our community."

Merchants' Row

59 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia

Merchants' Row is the name now given to three adjacent five-story buildings on 3rd Street in Philadelphia's historic Old City. Originally used by merchants and wholesalers, the property was restored and adapted last year as 19 apartments and ground-level retail spaces by Yaron Properties. (The project won a 2004 Preservation Achievement Award from the Alliance.)

The section at the corner of 3rd and Arch streets is a 1852 Italianate-style cast-iron façade; two doors down 3rd Street is a circa 1860 brownstone building (photo, right), and sandwiched between the two is a 1926 tapestry-brick storefront. The properties were vacant and deteriorating for many years and required major restoration of the severely eroded brownstone and cast iron.



Townhouses in Society Hill

261 South 4th Street was built between 1810 and 1813 in a block of Federal-era townhouses once known as "Lawyers' Row", although this property was first occupied by Dr. Charles Caldwell, a prominent physician. It has been restored to a single-family dwelling after suffering from the effects of conversion to multi-family use in the early 1900s. Among the fine Federal-style features are the elliptical fanlight and the carved ornament in the entablature over the front door.

320 South 4th Street is known as the "Bussey-Pouison" House, named after two early owners, a printer and a University of Pennsylvania mathematics professor respectively. It was built circa 1783 and retains such Georgian-style features as Flemish-bond brickwork with glazed headers on the façade. It is also notable because the property now includes a two-lot-wide side yard containing an enclosed garden and a 1960s pool house addition designed by modernist architect Oskar Stonorov, who was also responsible for the restoration of the original house.

264 South 3rd Street was built in 1815 and is known as the Francis Borden residence; Francis Borden was a bricklayer. The town-



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: 320 South 4th Street, 240 South 3rd Street, 264 South 3rd Street and 261 South 4th Street.



house features a raised basement faced with marble, and an entryway to the basement under the exterior stairs.

240 South 3rd Street dates to 1829 and was originally the home of merchant Henry White, and later Charles Boker, a banker who restored Girard Bank to solvency after the panic of 1837. The façade is highlighted by a delicate leaded-glass fanlight over the door, and a wrought-iron stair railing with neoclassical details.

Townhouses in the Rittenhouse Neighborhood

1810 Delancey Street is part of a row of four Italianate-style townhouses built in 1856, although this property is distinguished from its neighbors due to a renovation done in 1923 by the architectural firm of Wilson Eyre and Charles McIlvain who added the balcony and



French doors on the 2nd floor, and the arched window opening on the 1st floor which contains two carved caryatids.

2304 Delancey Street, like its adjacent neighbors, is a handsome mid-Victorian townhouse that retains its Mansard roof covered with scalloped slate shingles and Eastlake details such as the turned and incised ornament on the door and dormer. It is also notable for the fact that it is faced with marble and has a projecting bay window, two features not commonly seen in this Rittenhouse neighborhood.

1810 (LEFT) and 2304 Delancey Street.

Interested in donating a preservation easement to the Preservation Alliance?

For more information contact Randy Cotton at 215.546.1146 x 21 or randy@preservationalliance.com; or visit the Easement Program page at www.preservationalliance.com.

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE
WINTER 2005
EVENTS

FEBRUARY 18

**Preservation Alliance Day
at the Marian Anderson House:**
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Open House tour day available to Alliance members and friends. Hourly tours of the Marian Anderson Residence Museum will be available from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Learn more about the history of Marian Anderson and the Marian Anderson Historical Society. Reservations Required: 215-546-1146 ext 10 or email: info@preservationalliance.com. Free event.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23

**The Life and Architecture of
Julian Abele, Philadelphia's first
African-American Architect**
6:00 pm
Location T.B.A.

Join us for a special presentation by Henry Magaziner Jr., EFAIA, to learn about Julian Abele, Philadelphia's first African-American architect. Abele was the first African-American to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture. He went on to



become the chief designer in the office of legendary architect Horace Trumbauer where he was involved in the design of some of Philadelphia's most distinctive buildings, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Lynnewood Hall in Elkins Park, "Gray Towers" at Arcadia College, and the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Please refer to the Alliance's online event calendar for the location of the event. www.preservationalliance.com. Reservations required: 215-546-1146 ext 10 or email: info@preservationalliance.com. Lecture and reception: \$20 for members of the Alliance, PhilaNOMA, and AIA Philadelphia; \$30 Non Members.

FEBRUARY 26

**Historic Black Churches
of Philadelphia Walking Tour**
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Join Co-sponsors the Preservation Alliance and Partners for Sacred Places for this wonderful walking tour through Southwest Philadelphia to celebrate Black History Month. Tour includes First Colored Wesley Methodist Church, United House of Prayer for All People, Metropolitan AME, Greater Mt. Olive AME, Union Baptist, First Tabernacle, St Mary's Episcopal Church, Varick Memorial AME, and New Light Beulah Baptist. Some stops will include the interior of the church, some a sidewalk talk of their rich history. Reservations Required: 215-546-12146 ext 10 or email: info@preservationalliance.com. \$25 Members, \$35 Non Members

**OTHER EVENTS TO CELEBRATE
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

FEBRUARY 6

**African-American Cinema
and the Underground Railroad**
3:00 – 5:00 pm

The Johnson House Museum

Larry Richards, Free Library of Philadelphia Archivist and Editor of *African-American Films through 1959*, presents how the Underground Railroad and enslavement were depicted in the African American cinema of the early 1900's. Light supper to follow presentation.

Free for Johnson House Members, \$5.00 for non members: Reservations Required: 215-438-1768.

EVERY SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY

The African American History Museum
Each Saturday in February features the Museum's Sharing Heritage Family Days. Activities including storytelling by Philadelphia's premier storytelling group, Keepers of Culture; drum workshops, gallery talks, and book signings for all ages. For more information please call 215-574-0380.

APRIL 20-23

**28th Annual Conference on
Black History in Pennsylvania**
Holiday Inn, 400 Arch Street

"An Historic Black Capital of America, Philadelphia, PA." The conference is focused on preserving the history, culture, and style of the first and largest free Black community in American. Keynote speaker: Donna Brazile, Senior Fellow at the Academy of Leadership, University of Maryland. For registration contact Karen James, Conference Coordinator, at 717-783-9871.

APRIL 29

**Traditional Building Exhibition
Pub Crawl and Tavern Tour**
6:30 pm

Trolley tour of Philadelphia's most famous and historic taverns and ale houses.

MAY 6

**Preservation Night at the Opera
Academy of Vocal Arts**

5:30 Reception: 7:30 Performance

Enjoy a tour and pre-performance reception at AVA's distinctive historic theater followed by Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme*. Reservations required: \$50 per person. Contact 215-546-1146 ext 10 or email: info@preservationalliance.com.

MAY 12

Research Your Historic Home
5:30 pm

A workshop presented by The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Designed for beginners. This workshop will cover the basics of researching the history of your home, research strategies, documents you should consult and much more. This event is free and open to the public. For more information please visit www.hsp.org or call the Historical Society at 215-732-6200.

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday May 5, 2005

12TH
ANNUAL
PRESERVATION
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS

at the Crystal Tea Room
The Wanamaker Building

**New Membership
Campaign Begins**

The Preservation Alliance is beginning a campaign to attract new members. Thanks to grants from the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative and the Samuel S. Fels Fund, the Alliance will be mailing 25,000 copies of a new membership brochure to individuals in the Philadelphia region. The membership brochure highlights the various ways the Alliance is being successful in preserving the historic resources of the Philadelphia region.

If you are a member of the Alliance, you can help us. Do you have friends who love the historic character of the Philadelphia region and who might be interested in helping support our work? Send us their name and we will send them a membership brochure or contact us and we will send you some membership brochures you could distribute yourself. If you are not a member, you can help us too — JOIN TODAY (see membership application in this newsletter or join online at www.preservationalliance.com) and then ask some of your friends to join too!

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WINTER 2005 PRESERVATION MATTERS 5



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The Preservation Alliance for
Greater Philadelphia actively promotes
the appreciation, protection, and revitalization
of the Philadelphia region's historic buildings,
communities and landscapes

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