The Alliance’s New African American Outreach Initiative

In 2008, the Preservation Alliance received a three-year Partners in the Field Challenge Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, made possible through a gift from the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust. The challenge grant, which must be matched on a one-for-one basis, is designed to enable the Alliance to establish a new initiative to engage African American community organizations, historic sites and residents around issues related to historic preservation and preservation of community character.

The goals of the grant are first, to increase awareness of historic preservation and preservation resources among African American communities and how preservation tools can be used for community revitalization; and second, to increase awareness of African American historic sites and neighborhoods among the general public.

This new initiative incorporates programs already begun by the Alliance including the Old House Fair in March of each year, workshops for homeowners on how to maintain historic properties, grants for low- and moderate-income owners of historic homes to assist with exterior repairs, and a citywide gathering of neighborhood organizations planned for May 15. See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on Old House Fair and Homeowner Workshops. Watch www.PreservationAlliance.com for details of the May 15 event.

With the National Trust grant and first-year matching funds from the Samuel S. Fels Fund and individual donors, the Alliance was able to hire Melissa Jost to coordinate the African American initiative. Melissa comes to the Alliance with eight years of experience at the Philadelphia engineering firm Keast & Hood Co., commissioned by the Historical Commission after Judge Rogers granted the City the right to examine the property. National Penn Bank, the mortgage holder on the property, agreed to pay up to $20,000 for the necessary work under a “protective advance,” secured by its mortgage.

The Garrett-Dunn House, a significant historic structure, was abandoned during rehabilitation, leaving the structure exposed, vulnerable to the elements and unlikely to survive the winter without intervention.

The Alliance retained contractor JRB Historic Restoration, LLC, to protect exposed sections of the exterior walls of the house from the weather, thus up a desecrating section of the first floor and stabilize and protect the gable wall of the adjacent stone barn. In addition, the property was better secured. The scope of work was determined by an evaluation by the Historic Savannah Foundation in Savannah, Georgia, where she ran a similar program of outreach to historic African American neighborhoods.

Since joining the Alliance staff in August 2008, Melissa has covered the city, attending neighborhood meetings, weekend festivals and church services and visiting historic sites. “I’ve been greeted with everything from enthusiasm to suspicion—but everyone is curious to know more about how historic preservation relates to their neighborhood,” says Melissa.

Meetings with community organizations have begun to open up a new dialogue about historic preservation and community revitalization. Lay historians in several communities have expressed interest in doing oral history projects. Even though these projects don’t necessarily involve building preservation, Melissa assures neighbors that these efforts are an important step in documenting the evolution of their neighborhood and may ultimately lead to the preservation and revitalization of their community’s character.

Several specific projects have emerged from these meetings which the Alliance is now exploring with community organizations, including:

(continued on page 6)

Alliance Secures Garrett-Dunn House

In a major historic preservation victory, the endangered Garrett-Dunn House in Mt. Airy has been stabilized and secured after a Court of Common Pleas judge authorized the City of Philadelphia late in December to engage the Preservation Alliance to retain contractors.

Working closely with the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the Philadelphia Law Department and the Philadelphia Department of Licenses & Inspections, the Alliance participated in the court proceedings that culminated with Judge Peter F. Rogers’ order.

The Garrett-Dunn House, a significant historic structure, was abandoned during rehabilitation, leaving the structure exposed, vulnerable to the elements and unlikely to survive the winter without intervention.

The Alliance retained contractor JRB Historic Restoration, LLC, to protect exposed sections of the exterior walls of the house from the weather, thus up a desecrating section of the first floor and stabilize and protect the gable wall of the adjacent stone barn. In addition, the property was better secured. The scope of work was determined by an evaluation by the
Preserving Philadelphia’s African American Churches

By Emily Cooperman

For centuries, Philadelphia has been a center of African American religious activity, and the city’s historic black church buildings are replete with history and tradition. Yet few of these churches are listed in the National or Philadelphia Registers of Historic Places.

Matt Hopper had compiled extensive materials, including 19th- and early-20th-century directories that identified and located the city’s black churches. Using these materials, original information available on the city’s archdiocese and historical records and a variety of denominations and locations (a number of congregations have been lost in over three different places), beginning with the city’s first African American churches of the late-18th century and continuing through to the middle of the 20th century. The information that Hopper gathered was then used to create an inventory of these important historic places which identifies not just the name and denomination of the congregation, but also includes the founding date and the location(s) of the house(s) of worship of these congregations, and gives a brief account of the known information about the buildings or sites associated with them.

Only a few of the churches have been recognized for their historic significance. Mother Bethel AME and the Church of the Advocate are National Historic Landmarks, and Wesley AME Zion Church at 1500 Lombard St. is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eighteen churches are on the Philadelphia Register.

The inventory identifies five churches that the Alliance considers highest priority for evaluation and nomination to the National Register. They are:

- Tindley Temple United Methodist Church
- St. Peter Clover Church and Rectory
- Mother Bethel AME Church
- Union Baptist Church Building
- AME Zion Church

In 1998, the Alliance commissioned the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows Building at 12th and Spruce streets to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Eighteen churches are on the Philadelphia Register. In 2009, the Preservation Alliance intends to seek a grant to develop National Register nominations for two of these churches to serve as models for further nominations. National Register designation will not only honor these important places in Philadelphia’s history, but will also assist the individual churches to become eligible for state and federal grants to help preserve these wonderful historic places.

Preservation Alliance Chairman Jonathan Biddle and Alliance Executive Director Emily Cooperman’s reports are both available from the Alliance’s website on the research reports page.

There Must Come a Change: Murder, Baseball and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America

Wednesday, February 18 6 p.m. at Mother Bethel AME Church, 4193 6th Street

Veteran journalists Dan Biddle and Murray Dubin will read from their intriguingly named forthcoming book, published by Temple University Press on African American baseball legend “Sport” Allen’s long career in Philadelphia and elsewhere in all black baseball, at a Chronicler’s Court, Henry Highland Garnet, Octavius and William Catto, Fanny Jackson Cooper—women who were heroic, canny and courageous leaders. 100 years before Dr. Martin Luther King, Mother Bethel AME Church is a National Historic Landmark and one of the significant African American church buildings in the nation. Free. Advance registration requested: email info@preservationalliance.com or call 215-546-1146 x3.
The 6th Annual Endangered Properties List

The 6th Annual Endangered Properties List

The Philadelphia Historical Commission has decided to move forward this year on three pending proposed historic districts: Ambury Arboretum, Parkside and East Falls.

“At its October and November 2008 meetings, the Historical Commission established a plan to process the nominations for three proposed historic districts during 2009,” said Commission Executive Director Jonathan Farnham. “Before processing the district nominations, the Commission will enhance its processes and procedures to provide additional permit-review capacity without expanding its staff.”

With just 25 properties, Ambury Arboretum is the smallest of the three proposed districts. Located in the Germantown area of the city, it encompasses a picturesque landscape and distinctive portfolio of homes built by successive generations of the Cope family between 1849 and 1922. Nestled among mature trees are Gothic Revival, Italian Villa, Queen Anne, Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival-style structures, as well as Ambury Arboretum itself, developed between 1916 and 1940. The proposed 162-property Parkside District in West Philadelphia was developed following the Centennial Exhibition in 1876 by German immigrant and brewery magnate Frederick Poh. Architectural details such as ornamental brickwork and decorative gables reflect the culturally influenced tastes of the German middle class for whom the residences were intended. The proposed East Falls District encompasses distinctive, English Tudor Revival-style houses on the 3400 blocks of Midvale Avenue, West Penn Street and West Queen Lane. Representing a shift in housing style and function, the residences were built between 1925 and 1931 for speculation, and not as worker housing for near-by factories.

Philadelphia currently has nine local historic districts: Diamond Street (1886), Park Mall (once the Temple campus) (1990), Rittenhouse-Fitler (1995), Historic Street Paving (1980), Society Hill (1991), Girard Estate (1999), E.D.R. Park (2000), Spring Garden (2001), Old City (2003) and Greenbelt Knoll, which was designated in 2006 in honor of its 50th anniversary. Other nominated districts awaiting review include Spruce Hill and Overbrook Farms.

New to the Philadelphia Register

In addition to the Odd Fellows Building (see page 2), the Philadelphia Historical Commission recently added three buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

In December, the Commission approved the Alliance’s nomination of the Stephen Girard Building (1886) at 21 South 12th Street. The building was designed by James Hamilton Windrim, who also designed the Masonic Temple, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and many buildings on the campus of Girard College. Commissioned by the Board of City Trustees/Estate of Stephen Girard, the building is thought to be the earliest extant example of the skyscraper form in Philadelphia and a driving force in the shift of private enterprise and city business toward the new City Hall location.

The Commission also designated John Torrey Windrim’s Bell Telephone Building (1914-1916) at 1631-37 Arch Street along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Windrim, the son of James Windrim, was often referred to as the best-known practitioner of the Beaux Arts style of architecture in Philadelphia and also designed the Franklin Institute and the Philadelphia Municipal Court Building.

At its January meeting, the Commission designated the Margaret Esherick House (1959-61) in Chestnut Hill. The Esherick House is one of only a few built residences designed by Louis I. Kahn, one of the 20th century’s most influential architects. Despite its small size, the house exemplifies the design elements that would become characteristic of Kahn’s later work, including strong geometry, the abundant use of natural light and ventilation and the use of an innovative wall construction system.

[Image of the Stephen Girard Building]
Advocacy Updates

Carnegie Libraries

Just as 2008 drew to a close, the Alliance submitted nominations to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places for four historic branch libraries that were slated for closure. The four libraries, each constructed with grants from early-20th-century philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, are Holmesburg (built 1907), Haddington (1915), Logan (1918) and Kingessing (1919). The Alliance is concerned that the four historic buildings could be threatened if the city declares them surplus property and makes them available for sale or lease. Demolition or any alterations to the exteriors of the four buildings would be subject to approval by the Historical Commission as soon as the Commission staff officially accepts the Alliance’s nominations. The Alliance also identified possible legal restrictions on the use of the sites that might limit the City’s right to close, sell or lease the buildings.

As of mid-January, the branches remained open. Meanwhile, the Alliance has included the four buildings on its 6th annual Endangered Properties List. (See page 3.)

Boyd Theater

The restoration of the Boyd Theater on Chestnut Street, the last of the city’s great movie palaces, moved closer to reality in late 2008 with approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment of developer ARC Wheeler’s plans to fully restore the Art Deco theater and build an adjoining 28-story hotel.

The Preservation Alliance has agreed to serve as ARC Wheeler’s nonprofit partner, in order to help obtain funding from philanthropic and government sources. ARC Wheeler is expected to take ownership of the property early this year.

Campus Inn, 40th and Pine

In December, the Philadelphia Historical Commission approved the Campus Inn project, a proposed long-term-stay hotel complex incorporating an 1850s Samuel Sloan-designed mansion and new construction at 40th and Pine streets in the Spruce Hill section of West Philadelphia. The project had earlier been voted down at the Commission’s November meeting, where discussion and public testimony focused on the project’s massing, height and compatibility with its surroundings. As a result of confusion created by the Commission’s contradictory actions, the developers have appealed the November decision; the Alliance and nearby neighbors have appealed the December decision.

Interiors Amendment to Preservation Ordinance

The Preservation Alliance is actively encouraging support for Bill 080527, which has been pending at City Council since mid-2008. The bill, sponsored by Councilman Bill Green, would amend Philadelphia’s Historic Preservation Ordinance to allow for the designation of historic interiors that are open to the public or were designed to be open to the public. (The interiors of private residential spaces are specifically excluded from eligibility.) Councilman Green has prepared, but has not yet introduced, amendments to the original bill to reflect recommendations made by the Historical Commission and the City Planning Commission, both of which voted to support the measure.

The Alliance intends to present a petition urging Council to approve Bill 080527. To sign the petition, visit us online at http://actions.preservationalliance.com/node/19.

The 2009 Preservation Achievement Awards Luncheon: Monday, May 11

The Preservation Alliance will host its 16th annual Preservation Achievement Awards luncheon Monday, May 11 at the historic Pennsylvanian Hotel at the Bellevue.

Honor Outstanding achievements and leaders in historic preservation throughout the region, the luncheon has become a much-anticipated annual gathering for supporters of preservation and a highlight of May, Preservation Month.

The awards include the James Baldy Award for Lifetime Achievement in historic preservation, the Board of Directors Award for sustained stewardship of historic properties, the Community Action Award for achievements by community organizations and the Grand Jury awards, made to outstanding built projects or advocacy, education or documentation initiatives. Visit the Alliance’s website, www.PreservationAlliance.com, for an announcement of the winners.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and benefits, visit the website at www.PreservationAlliance.com or contact Holly Keefe, director of membership development, at holly@preservationalliance.com or 215-546-1146 x3.

In mid-2008, the Preservation Alliance began work on the first phase of planning for a Preservation Plan for Philadelphia and a citywide survey of historic resources. Each Preservation Matters newsletter will include an update on our progress.

Preservation Plan Website

In order to provide ongoing information on the development of the Preservation Plan, the Preservation Alliance has created a separate website devoted solely to this work. The most exciting aspect of the site is a section devoted to Philadelphia neighborhoods that allows users to post photographs and comments about historic buildings and places in their own neighborhood. The site also contains copies of reports being produced by consultants and other information about the project’s progress. Visit www.PreservePhiladelphia.org to stay up-to-date and to submit information about your neighborhood.

Online Survey

The website also contains a survey intended to gain broader information about historic preservation in Philadelphia. The survey was distributed to various email lists in December 2008. As of mid-January, there were 300 responses. You can contribute to the development of the plan by filling out the survey at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.

Discussion Groups

In the fall of 2008, Donna Harris of Heritage Consulting, Inc. facilitated 14 discussion groups to gain information on current views about historic preservation in Philadelphia. Approximately 70 people participated in groups, covering topics such as house museums and historic sites, commercial corridors, historical identities and African American heritage. Read a summary of the discussions at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.

Strategic Interviews

Prof. Randall Mason of the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate Program in Historic Preservation has been conducting individual interviews with civic, community and non-profit leaders to gain their perspective on historic preservation and ideas about the future. Approximately 25 interviews had been completed as of mid-January. A summary of the interviews will be posted on the Preserve Philadelphia website later this month.

Preservation Planning In Other Cities

Prof. Mason also produced a report on preservation planning in other cities. This report is available at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.

Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation

In addition to preserving landmark buildings and distinctive neighborhoods, historic preservation in Philadelphia creates substantial economic benefits for the City and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To document these benefits, the Preservation Alliance commissioned Econsult Corporation to analyze the economic benefits of preservation between 1999 and 2008. The report indicates that during that time period, historic preservation had a total economic impact on Philadelphia of $862 million, generating nearly 2,800 jobs and more than 86 million in local tax revenues.

In Philadelphia, Haddington (1915), Logan (1918) and Kingessing (1919). The Alliance is concerned that the four historic buildings could be threatened if the city declares them surplus property and makes them available for sale or lease. Demolition or any alterations to the exteriors of the four buildings would be subject to approval by the Historical Commission as soon as the Commission staff officially accepts the Alliance’s nominations. The Alliance also identified possible legal restrictions on the use of the sites that might limit the City’s right to close, sell or lease the buildings.

As of mid-January, the branches remained open. Meanwhile, the Alliance has included the four buildings on its 6th annual Endangered Properties List. (See page 3.)

The restoration of the Boyd Theater on Chestnut Street, the last of the city’s great movie palaces, moved closer to reality in late 2008 with approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment of developer ARC Wheeler’s plans to fully restore the Art Deco theater and build an adjoining 28-story hotel.

The Preservation Alliance has agreed to serve as ARC Wheeler’s nonprofit partner, in order to help obtain funding from philanthropic and government sources. ARC Wheeler is expected to take ownership of the property early this year.

In December, the Philadelphia Historical Commission approved the Campus Inn project, a proposed long-term-stay hotel complex incorporating an 1850s Samuel Sloan-designed mansion and new construction at 40th and Pine streets in the Spruce Hill section of West Philadelphia. The project had earlier been voted down at the Commission’s November meeting, where discussion and public testimony focused on the project’s massing, height and compatibility with its surroundings. As a result of confusion created by the Commission’s contradictory actions, the developers have appealed the November decision; the Alliance and nearby neighbors have appealed the December decision.

The Preservation Alliance is actively encouraging support for Bill 080527, which has been pending at City Council since mid-2008. The bill, sponsored by Councilman Bill Green, would amend Philadelphia’s Historic Preservation Ordinance to allow for the designation of historic interiors that are open to the public or were designed to be open to the public. (The interiors of private residential spaces are specifically excluded from eligibility.) Councilman Green has prepared, but has not yet introduced, amendments to the original bill to reflect recommendations made by the Historical Commission and the City Planning Commission, both of which voted to support the measure.

The Alliance intends to present a petition urging Council to approve Bill 080527. To sign the petition, visit us online at http://actions.preservationalliance.com/node/19.

The Preservation Alliance will host its 16th annual Preservation Achievement Awards luncheon Monday, May 11 at the historic Pennsylvanian Hotel at the Bellevue.

Honor outstanding achievements and leaders in historic preservation throughout the region, the luncheon has become a much-anticipated annual gathering for supporters of preservation and a highlight of May, Preservation Month.

The awards include the James Baldy Award for Lifetime Achievement in historic preservation, the Board of Directors Award for sustained stewardship of historic properties, the Community Action Award for achievements by community organizations and the Grand Jury awards, made to outstanding built projects or advocacy, education or documentation initiatives. Visit the Alliance’s website, www.PreservationAlliance.com, for an announcement of the winners.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and benefits, visit the website at www.PreservationAlliance.com or contact Holly Keefe, director of membership development, at holly@preservationalliance.com or 215-546-1146 x3.

In mid-2008, the Preservation Alliance began work on the first phase of planning for a Preservation Plan for Philadelphia and a citywide survey of historic resources. Each Preservation Matters newsletter will include an update on our progress.

In order to provide ongoing information on the development of the Preservation Plan, the Preservation Alliance has created a separate website devoted solely to this work. The most exciting aspect of the site is a section devoted to Philadelphia neighborhoods that allows users to post photographs and comments about historic buildings and places in their own neighborhood. The site also contains copies of reports being produced by consultants and other information about the project’s progress. Visit www.PreservePhiladelphia.org to stay up-to-date and to submit information about your neighborhood.

The website also contains a survey intended to gain broader information about historic preservation in Philadelphia. The survey was distributed to various email lists in December 2008. As of mid-January, there were 300 responses. You can contribute to the development of the plan by filling out the survey at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.

In the fall of 2008, Donna Harris of Heritage Consulting, Inc. facilitated 14 discussion groups to gain information on current views about historic preservation in Philadelphia. Approximately 70 people participated in groups, covering topics such as house museums and historic sites, commercial corridors, historical identities and African American heritage. Read a summary of the discussions at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.

Prof. Randall Mason of the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate Program in Historic Preservation has been conducting individual interviews with civic, community and non-profit leaders to gain their perspective on historic preservation and ideas about the future. Approximately 25 interviews had been completed as of mid-January. A summary of the interviews will be posted on the Preserve Philadelphia website later this month.

Prof. Mason also produced a report on preservation planning in other cities. This report is available at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.

In addition to preserving landmark buildings and distinctive neighborhoods, historic preservation in Philadelphia creates substantial economic benefits for the City and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To document these benefits, the Preservation Alliance commissioned Econsult Corporation to analyze the economic benefits of preservation between 1999 and 2008. The report indicates that during that time period, historic preservation had a total economic impact on Philadelphia of $862 million, generating nearly 2,800 jobs and more than 86 million in local tax revenues. In addition, Econsult undertook an analysis of the impact of historic district designation on property values in the city and concluded that such designation had a positive impact. Watch for a summary along with the full technical report at www.PreservePhiladelphia.org.
A Preservation Plan for “Historic Disston” in Northeast Philadelphia

In fall 2008, a team of graduate students from the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate Program in Historic Preservation researched Henry Disston’s one-time company town along the Delaware River in the Tacony section of Northeast Philadelphia and prepared a preservation plan for the neighborhood, which it dubbed “Historic Disston.”

The team included Alexander Balloon, Pierson Booth, Taryn D’Ambrosio, Elise Kemery, Jessica Kortke, Caitlin Kramer, Meredith Marsh, Kate Ritson, Jayne Spector, Melissa Stecky, Sarah Van Dornelen, Ning Wang and Professor Randy Mason, who also serves on the Alliance’s board of directors. Louis Iatarola, Jr. of the Tacony Civic Association and Anthony Naccarato of the Tacony Community Development Corporation served as client contacts, providing access to archives and background on the neighborhood preservation and planning efforts.

As reported in the Fall 2008 issue of Preservation Matters, the Preservation Alliance continues to work with the Tacony Community Development Corporation and the Tacony Historical Society towards eventual designation of Tacony as a historic district on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

The following article is based on the students’ final project.

The history of Historic Disston began in the 1870s when Henry Disston, owner of Disston & Sons Keystone Saw Works, purchased 300 acres in Tacony in order to relocate his company. He selected Tacony because of its existing railroad terminus and its proximity to the center of Philadelphia. Because the area was still rural, it could accommodate large factories as well as rows of housing for the firm’s many employees. Disston built houses, institutions and workplaces to create a whole town for his workforce—a prime example of a 19th century company town.

Company towns such as Disston’s were regarded as a way to merge industrial development with social responsibility. These towns, built all over the U.S., were inhabited chiefly by the employees of a single company that also owned most of the real estate and houses. By the mid-20th-century, increased worker mobility, government welfare programs and unionization made company towns obsolete, leading companies to sell their residential holdings, frequently along with the company as well.

Disston’s original holdings are still clearly organized into industrial and non-industrial areas neatly separated by I-95 and Sepia’s R7 rail line. West of the rail line, Disston Park buffers a dense collection of town, single and row homes, a commercial corridor along Torresdale Avenue and historic landmarks such as the Tacony Music Hall, Tacony Trust Building and numerous churches. East of I-95 there remains a sizable collection of Disston’s original factory buildings among vacant lots, brownfields and a maze of dead-end streets. The planned North Delaware Greenway would run along the river, renewing focus on Tacony’s waterfront development while providing recreational access to the water and the riverside historic neighborhoods.

The idea of mixed-use development along the waterfront is a potential threat to the historic industrial buildings and the integrity of Disston’s company town.

Team members spent 14 weeks researching Disston’s history and studying the area’s potential. In its work, the team collected many historic maps, photographs, plans and reports, gained an understanding of the neighborhood’s social and physical structure and studied towns with comparable histories. It also surveyed the present-day community and its residents to understand the contemporary relevance of the town’s historic significance.

The team concluded that Disston’s history remains viable in both the physical and social fabric of Tacony. Original architecture, street design, land use patterns and regulations remain integral to the neighborhood’s character. The core of Tacony’s physical fabric remains intact, as seen in the remaining but neglected industrial buildings, the scale and massing of residential buildings, surviving institutional buildings, public transit networks and Disston Park.

The vernacular architectural styles of the industrial, residential and institutional buildings reinforce the visual cohesiveness of the neighborhood. Perhaps most important, community groups—such as the Tacony Historical Society—actively preserve and promote the neighborhood’s history. All these attributes contribute to Tacony’s significance as an irreplaceable asset in Northeast Philadelphia.

While the major objective of the preservation plan is to research, recognize and preserve the history and architectural fabric of Historic Disston, the highest value of such preservation lies in its contribution to the contemporary community. Historic Disston’s unique characteristics support the quality of life of today’s residents and should form a foundation for growth and adaptation into the future. To this end, the students presented a number of recommendations, including:

- Preserve industrial uses along the riverfront. The preserved industrial core, reusing historic buildings in many cases, would serve as Philadelphia’s model for eco-industrial development and would be buffered by creative light industrial, commercial and institutional parcels. This complex would benefit from easy access to I-95, waterfrontconnector streets and the planned waterfront greenway. This development approach preserves Historic Disston’s industrial heritage, employing existing models of sustainable industrial use while responding directly to local demographic, economic and infrastructure needs.
- Designate both the residential and industrial resources within Historic Disston to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. These designations will help document and protect historic resources, as well as qualify contributing historic buildings for federal preservation funding and tax incentives for rehabilitation. Protecting historic factory buildings from the potential threats of future demolition or insensitive development is critical to the preservation of Historic Disston, likewise, the residential, commercial and institutional buildings west of the railroad are important aspects of the historic landscape and designation will help encourage appropriate maintenance and historically sensitive alterations.
- Brand Historic Disston. “Historic branding” will increase residents’ awareness of the historic significance of their neighborhood and homes, encouraging maintenance and improvements. Branding can also attract new residents and businesses to fill vacancies, realize development opportunities for the industrial waterfront and welcome visitors to appreciate the area’s historic character.

The full report can be viewed at the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation’s website: www.design.upenn.edu/new/hist/index.php.
New Easements Protect Historic Properties in Perpetuity

Andalusia, built in 1795, but best recognized for its imposing Greek Revival colonnade added in 1835–36, was awarded $50,000 by Save America’s Treasures to restore the interior of the library wing (designated in 1843 by Thomas Ustick Walter) and provide museum-quality climate control for the Library’s historic collection. The easement protects both the exterior and interior spaces of the library and study.

The Alliance received a generous $275,000 Save America’s Treasures grant for the restoration of its roof and exterior features. The easement protects the exterior of the manse, an outbuilding and the site’s open spaces.

In December the owners of a group of six historic townhouses in Center City donated preservation easements for 309 and 311 South 12th Street, 1915 and 1820 Pine Street, 900 Clinton Street and 406 Spruce Street. The 406 Spruce property differs from the five other Federal-era properties in that it features an unusual, large rear addition designed in the early 1970s by architects Adolph Mars that resembles a hybrid of traditional and Brutalist architecture.

The Alliance now protects more than 225 historic properties throughout the Philadelphia region with its easement program. Most property owners qualify for a charitable-gift tax deduction by donating an easement to the Alliance. For more information on the easement program, contact Randy Cotton at randy@preservationalliance.com or 215-546-1146 x2 or visit the “Programs” section at www.PreservationAlliance.com.

The Alliance’s New African American Outreach Initiative

Yorktown

Residents of the historic Yorktown neighborhood in North Philadelphia invited the Alliance to advise on preservation options as they seek tools to protect their neighborhood. Yorktown, developed in the 1950s, is significant for its modern-era architecture and as Philadelphia’s only residential development specifically for African American homeowners before integration. The Alliance is now exploring next steps with Yorktown leaders, including a possible historic district nomination.

Marden Anderson Society and Residence Museum

The Alliance recognizes the importance of Philadelphia’s African American history and the city’s diversity, and has pledged to work with community partners to ensure that the protection and interpretation of these historic resources is provided for the present and future generations.

Citywide Conference

The Alliance hopes to encourage its contacts with African American communities. In order to accomplish this, the Alliance is now planning the May 15–17 citywide neighborhood preservation gathering which will provide preservation training and tools to community organizations, with a special emphasis on African American neighborhoods. To participate in the conference or to learn more about the Alliance’s work to save Philadelphia’s rich African American heritage and historic resources and strengthen the city’s diverse neighborhoods, contact Melissa Leit, neighborhood preservation program coordinator, at 215-546-1146 ext 40 or melissa@preservationalliance.com.
The 2009 Old House Fair Saturday, March 28

Tickets are on sale now for the Preservation Alliance’s popular Old House Fair, which returns Saturday, March 28, to the Germantown Friends School, 31 W. Coulter Street, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The 2009 Fair will feature over 70 booths marketing products and services related to the preservation and maintenance of older and historic homes—everything from windows and doors to green products to roofing and masonry, along with specialty craftpeople and products, interior designers and hardware purveyors. A select group of preservation consultants and representatives of non-profit preservation and design organizations will also be on hand.

All day long, there will be presentations, workshops and hands-on demonstrations on a variety of skills and techniques related to old-house preservation. Design and preservation professionals, including “The Color Doctor,” John Crosby Freeman, as featured in the Old House Journal, will also provide four, 15-minute, personalized consultations at the “Ask the Expert” table. Also at the Fair, the Alliance’s 2009 Homemakers Awards will be presented. Plan to make a day of it—breakfast, lunch and snacks will be available at the on-site Tastebuds Café.

To buy tickets or for more information, visit www.preservationalliance.com or contact George House at 215-546-1146 x7 or george@preservationalliance.com. Would you like to help make it happen? If you are interested in being a volunteer, presenter, sponsor, advertiser or sponsor, please contact Patrick Hauck, director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs, at 215-546-1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

The Preservation Alliance expresses its appreciation to the following organizations and individuals.

THANK YOU! The Preservation Alliance expresses its appreciation to the following organizations and individuals.

CORNERTOWN SPONSORSHIP
Kenneth Y. and Bunny Bulkin
Mrs. Deborah Bulkin
Mr. Kelly Boyd
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Buerger*
Mr. John C. Haas
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Haas
Mr. Douglas Alexander Haas
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Alexander Haas
Mr. Ronald Rubin
Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Mr. David Robb
Mr. H. P. Longley* Mr. L. G. Lawr
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Marshall
Don and Betsy Maggipoty*
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Miller
Mr. John Miller
Mrs. Nancy Most
Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Bevah Palmer
Mr. Paul Prine
Pete and Carolyn Prin
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Prin
Mr. Michael Scott
Mr. Paul Stokey
Ms. Rebecca Stokey
Ms. Kate F. Street and Mr.
Timothy D. Wool
Tod and Steve Wolf
* Leadership Circle Members

CORPORATE SPONSORS
ABC/WHYY
The Benevolent Brown Hill Development
Citizens Bank
Cohen Segal Pallas Greenhald & Partners PC
DOMUS Construction
Drannel Properties, Inc.
The Goldholp Group
13. Carroll & Son
John Miller Architects, Inc.
Kehr Harrison Harvey Brandburg
Ellen LLP
Miller + Caurie Conservation, LLC
Philadelphia Management Co.
Preservation Initiatives, Inc.
Saul Eising LLP
The Shukenman Foundation
Mr. Wayne S. Spivak
Tell Brothers, Inc.
Unico Bros Construction
VITIETS

PATRON MEMBERS
Joseph T. Burnham III
Mr. Eugene Easley, III and
Mr. Colin Libam
Mr. Richard M. Cole
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Haas
Mr. Henry G. Jr., Jr.
Ms. S. Tomsen Novak and Mr.
Assaf-Windling
Mr. David Rubb

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS
1T1 Technologies Incorporated
A.D. Marble & Company, Inc.
AIA Philadelphia
Allied Construction Services II, Inc.
AmeriPointe Realty
Architectural Windows of Philadelphia, Inc.
Alkin Architectural
Alkin Architectural
American Foundation for the Blind
Atkin Oliver Architects
BAM Illuminating Architecture, Ltd
Blackley Hayes Architects
Blue Rock Construction, Inc.
Brewer & Hampton Architects
Bruce E. Brookes & Associates
Buell Knuter Powell Ltd
Campbell Thomas & Co.
Cecil Baker + Partners
Church Future Preservation Trust
Cloud Gehman Associates
Daniel J. Keaning Co.
Dinnie Jr. Ventures, Inc.
F. Mary D. Dinnon
Dinne Morris LLP
E. Allen Reeves, Inc.
East Radnor Township
Eastern State Penitentiary
Farmers Park Historic Preservation Trust, Inc.
G.J. Olson Architects, Inc.
George Woodward Co.
The Hunter Group
Hanson General Contracting
Havernick-Bethelton Company
Harshberger Consulting Group
Harshberger Consulting Group
Mr. George C. Huso
INTCH
J.D. DeLay Company Inc.
J.R. Keller Partners LLC
John Canning & Co.
John Miller Associates, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan
Joseph Dugan Inc.
Kehoe Company, Inc.
Kent & Foot Co.
Kidy/Markle Architects

FREEL HOMEOWNER WORKSHOPS APRIL & MAY

The Preservation Alliance’s ongoing series of free workshops for owners, and aspiring owners, of historic homes continues in April and May, offering a great opportunity to learn about the best practices for the restoration and maintenance of older and historic homes. These workshops are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. To reserve a space, or for more information, contact Melissa Jost, neighborhood preservation program coordinator, at 215-546-1146 x8 or melissa@preservationalliance.com.

Lecture Workshops in Queen Village
All Queen Village workshops start at 7 p.m. at Wessagow Playground Building, 400 Block of Catharine Street (south side).

Energy and Resource Efficiency in Older Houses Wednesday, April 15
Masonry and Lime Mortars Wednesday, April 22
Insuring Older and Historic Homes Wednesday, April 29
Repairing Historic Windows and Replacement Options Wednesday, May 6

Hands On Workshops in West Philadelphia
All West Philadelphia workshops start at 6 p.m. at Calvary Center for Culture and Community, 801 S. 48th Street.

Self-Inspection of Historic Homes Thursday, April 16

Historic Windows Thursday, April 23

Masonry and Painting Thursday, April 30

Traditional Roof Repairs Thursday, May 7

The Alliance’s free homeowner workshops are sponsored by the William Penn Foundation and are presented in collaboration with the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, the Queen Village Neighborhood Association, the West Philadelphia Tool Library and the University City Historical Society.

www.preservationalliance.com
ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Your Preservation Alliance membership helps to preserve the architectural treasures and historic places of the Philadelphia region. For details on exclusive member benefits, go to www.PreservationAlliance.com.

Join online or use this form:

- Student $25
- Individual $35
- Household $50
- Contributor $100
- Sustainer $250
- Patron $500
- Benefactor $1,000

Corporate membership:

- Non-Profit $75
- Professional Partner $250
- Corporate Sponsor $1,000

Please charge my: 
- Visa
- Master Card
- American Express

Corporation?

- Non-Profit $75
- Professional Partner $250
- Corporate Sponsor $1,000

My check (payable to Preservation Alliance) is enclosed

Card #: __________________________ Exp. Date _______________

Name _______________________________________________________ ______

Address ___________________________________________________________

Phone ________________________ Email ____________________________

I prefer not to receive membership gifts.

Please mail this application to: Preservation Alliance
1616 Walnut Street, Suite 1620, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Memberships are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

There Must Come a Change:
Murder, Baseball and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America

Wednesday, February 18
6 p.m. at Mother Bethel AME Church
See page 2 for details.

The Old House Fair

Saturday, March 28
Germantown Friends School
31 W. Coulter Street
Tickets on Sale Now!
See page 7 for details and sponsorship opportunities.

The 16th Annual Preservation Achievement Awards Luncheon

Monday, May 11
The Park Hyatt Philadelphia at The Bellevue
See page 4 for details and sponsorship opportunities.

A Sense of Place: Preserving Philadelphia’s Neighborhoods
A Citywide Conference for Philadelphia Neighborhood Leaders

Friday, May 15
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Temple University Center City
1515 Market Street

Neighborhood organizations and leaders from throughout Philadelphia are invited to convene for this first-ever citywide conference focusing on historic preservation in neighborhoods. Participants will have the opportunity to expand their understanding of the important role of preservation in neighborhood stabilization/revelitization, learn about successful examples from local communities and meet with representatives of the nonprofit and governmental organizations that are playing an active role in these efforts.

Visit www.PreservationAlliance.com in the coming weeks for more details or contact Patrick Hauck, director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs at 215.546.1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.