



## PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

*for greater philadelphia*

For Immediate Release

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### **Preservation Alliance Announces 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Endangered Properties List; Vacant Religious Properties and Historic Windows Among the Threatened Resources**

(January 4, 2010) – The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia today announced its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Endangered Properties List, highlighting 14 significant historic resources in the region that are threatened by neglect or redevelopment proposals. The sites range from vacant church properties like Christ Memorial Church in West Philadelphia and St. Boniface Church in Norris Square to William Penn High School on N. Broad Street and the Cruiser *Olympia* at Penn's Landing.

“Our goal is to draw attention to the significant historic resources in the region that are threatened by demolition, neglect, or new development,” said John Andrew Gallery, the Alliance's executive director. “Hopefully, we can help to focus the work and resources that may lead to the preservation of these vulnerable treasures.”

The full Endangered Properties List includes:

#### **Vacant Church Properties** City-wide

Vacant historic religious buildings throughout the region are threatened by neglect and demolition once they lose their congregations. Currently endangered church properties include Christ Memorial Church, the Church of the Assumption, Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Boniface Church, St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Germantown.

#### **Sidney Hillman Medical Center** Philadelphia

This distinctive mid-century Modernist building is threatened with demolition for a mixed-used development that will include a 33-story apartment tower.

#### **Divine Lorraine** Philadelphia

This 1893 apartment building has been vacant since 2000, and is currently owned by a Dutch company with no offices in the U.S.

#### **William Penn High School** Philadelphia

This school building, designed by noted architect Romaldo Giurgola, has been allowed to deteriorate and is threatened with closure by the School District of Philadelphia.

**Historic Windows** Region-wide

Historic windows have become an easy target in the push to make buildings more energy efficient, even though replacing older windows is not always the best environmental solution.

**Cast-Iron Subway Entrances of Philadelphia** Citywide

The distinctive cast-iron guardrails and lamp standards marking entrances to Philadelphia's subway system are threatened by ongoing station remodeling by SEPTA.

**Cruiser Olympia** Philadelphia

Known for its service in the Spanish-American War, this 1892 steel warship needs significant hull repairs in dry dock to ensure that it will remain afloat.

**Pennhurst State School and Hospital** Spring City, Chester County

An important catalyst in the movement to end institutionalization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this 112-acre central campus is threatened with demolition, though its current owner is supporting efforts to consider how the site might be adaptively reused.

**Deshong Mansion and Gallery Building** Avenue of the States / Edgemont Avenue, Chester, Delaware County

This public park is vulnerable to being subdivided for new development, which could threaten the ca. 1850 Deshong mansion and 1916 museum building.

“Endangered” status does not ensure protection nor does it provide funding. However, concerned neighbors and community groups may nominate properties to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places or the National Register of Historic Places. Other properties may find new owners, or existing owners may be spurred to find funding for restoration.

“Especially as ‘sustainability’ and ‘green’ have become key components of public policy, it seems inappropriate to demolish existing buildings before exploring all options for possibly re-using them,” said Gallery.

For full descriptions of the endangered structures, the nature of the threats and the Alliance's recommendations for the properties, visit

<http://www.preservationalliance.com/advocacy/supportingdocs/EndangeredNewsWin10.pdf>.

NOTE: Digital images are available for most sites on the Endangered Properties List. Please contact [john@preservationalliance.com](mailto:john@preservationalliance.com).

*The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia actively promotes the appreciation, protection and revitalization of the Philadelphia region's historic buildings, communities and landscapes. To learn more, visit [www.PreservationAlliance.com](http://www.PreservationAlliance.com).*

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