

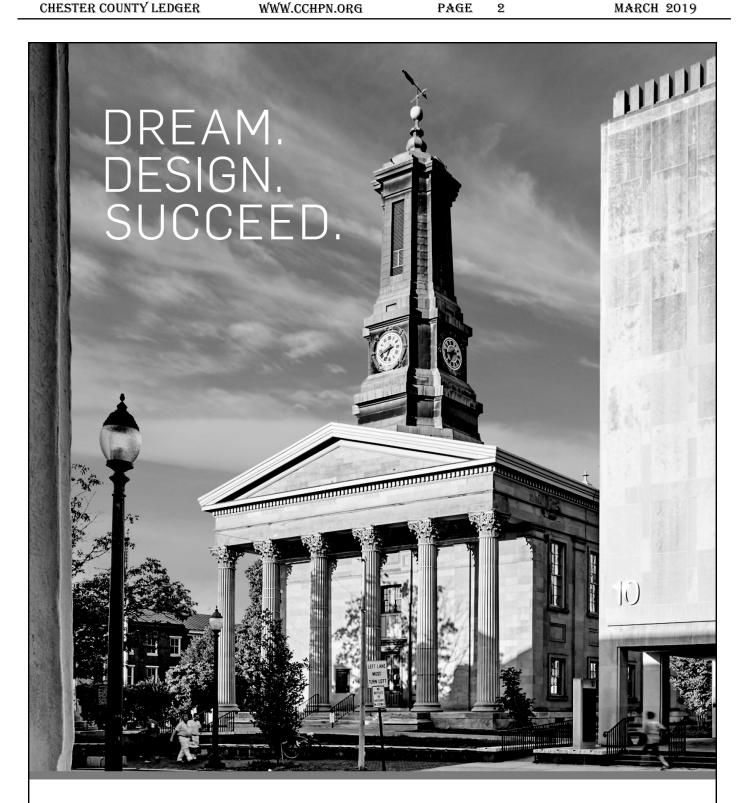
Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network www.cchpn.org

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The 30th Anniversary of "Jane's Army"





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Table of Contents

- Pg. Article and Author
- 3. President's Letter—James B. Garrison
- 4. Word from the Editor—Jane E. Dorchester
- 5. From the CCHPN Board— Susan Marshall

FOR THE RECORD

- 6-7. Network Beginnings—Peter Benton
- 8. Interview with St. Sen. Dinniman—Jane E. Dorchester
- 9-10. Historic Preservation Reminiscences from West Caln Township—Don Hannum
- 11-12. Early Days of the Network and Historic Preservation in Chester County—Robert Layman
- 13-15. Then and Now Photo Essay
- 16-17. From Steering Committee to Board of Directors—the Transition Years—Robert J. Wise
- 17-19. Recollections of the Early Days of the Board of Directors—Ann Bedrick
- 19-20. Preservation Tools—Then and Now—Robert J. Wise

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- 21. Architectural Style Guide: Early Colonial
- 22. Municipal Preservation Leadership Luncheon

BULLETIN BOARD

23. Save the Dates and Other Announcements

THE ADVERTISER

24-28. Thank you to our Advertisers!

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

The President's Letter: Becoming a Trusted Partner

This year the Chester County Historic Preservation Network is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. There have been many accomplishments over the years from the founding to a thriving organization still sustained largely by volunteer efforts from across the County. With thirty years of building an ever-expanding network and developing expertise in the incredibly broad field of historic preservation, the organization has become a recognized place to go for guidance in everything from the smallest local issue to having a voice at a county and state level in preservation matters.

MARCH 2019

In the field of professional services, reputation has to be earned. A good reputation brings credibility and a place at the table where decisions are made. The group effort that has gone into making the reputation of the Network is truly inspirational. It shows that a combination of enthusiasm, interest, and a diverse set of skills can come together with a strong message. Historic preservation does not always have a happy or easy message to deliver, but few issues that arise are really unique or occurring for the first time. Through its depth and range of experience, the Network is a trusted resource for persons on all sides of the table. The Network's experience not only extends to the regulatory duties that local commissions exercise, but also to the celebration of a shared history and an understanding of the different needs of the many municipalities in the County.

By a wide margin, Chester County has more municipalities participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program than any other county in the state. This situation resulted in our comments being taken seriously when the CLG guidelines were re-written. The new guidelines will do much to advance the interests of preservation and give local commissions enhanced standing in matters that come before the public and its elected officials. Several members of the Network were part of the CLG renewal process.

Landscapes3, the County's recently adopted comprehensive plan, contains language that makes historic preservation a core concept in the vision for future growth by integrating it with open space and environmental protection while also enabling the revitalization of our boroughs and towns. The implementation chapter specifically identifies a role for the Network in seven different areas of the plan, a real recognition that we have a voice in planning for the future.

Thirty years has brought us from the "kid's table" to the big table by showing that we represent an important constituency and have a positive, resonant message. The voice of the Network comes from all of our members. We intend to stay strong and grow by staying in touch. The *Ledger*, our events, and the Town Tours are all places where we exchange ideas and news, but beyond these structures, look at the Network as a collection of personal relationships developed over time and constantly being nourished and renewed so we are trusted partners inside and out.

CCHPN MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CCHPN is to connect local governments, organizations, and individuals in their efforts to protect, preserve, and promote the historic resources and cultural landscapes of Chester County through communication and education.

Chester County Ledger Directory

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The front cover illustration of the Barclay is by
Ann Bedrick

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR:

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

In case you haven't noticed, CCHPN is celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary this year. Over the course of 2019, the Network will be offering several special events, including a showing of *Wyeth: The Life of Andrew Wyeth in Bold Strokes* at the Colonial Theater in Phoenixville and a very special Volunteer Recognition Celebration (see page 23). In addition, both of this year's issues of the *Chester County Ledger* will be special. The *Ledger*'s overarching theme for 2019 is the Network and Preservation in Chester County, Past, Present, and Future. The current issue is concerned with the Past and the Present. However, all of this issue's authors mentioned one person as being instrumental in both the founding of the Network and the promotion of historic preservation throughout the County. That person was Jane L. S. Davidson. Hence this issue's specific theme: "Jane's Army."

All the authors in this issue have some connection to the founding of the Network and the early days of its Board of Directors. In addition, we have an interview with State Senator Andrew "Andy" Dinniman who was an early supporter of the Network. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our authors who took time out of their very busy schedules to write down their experiences with the Network and historic preservation. I would especially like to thank Senator Dinniman for taking time out of his extremely busy schedule to allow me to interview him about the early days of the Network and Don Vymazal, of Andy's office, for expediting my interview with the Senator.

You will notice in this *Ledger*, and the next one, that we are using drawings to illustrate our articles. They were all executed by Board Member and artist Ann Bedrick. She is the Board's hidden treasure and I thought it was time the spotlight was shone on her. Ann has been providing the illustrations for the awards that are given out at CCHPN's Volunteer Celebration since the inception of the Awards Program. In addition, she provides the illustrations for the Chester County Historic Resource Atlas Program. I would like to thank Ann for her help in picking out the best drawings to illustrate this issue of the *Ledger*.

Finally, on behalf of the Network's Board of Directors, I would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to long-time CCHPN Board member Kathryn Yahraes for her years of stalwart and inspired service to the Board and CCHPN. Kathryn headed the Education and Programs Committee from its inception. She stepped down from the Board at the end of 2018 for a very well–deserved rest. Thank you very much, Kathryn, for all your support of CCHPN and the *Chester County Ledger*!

As always, I would be delighted to hear from you about possible articles and submissions. And we are ALWAYS looking for advertisers. To contact me, e-mail me at: jeditorhspv@gmail.com.

Jane E. Dorchester, Editor

CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER Mission Statement

As the official newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN), the purpose of the Chester County Ledger is to raise awareness of Chester County's history and historic character, to encourage the public to preserve the physical evidence of that history, and to educate the public and members of municipal historical organizations in best preservation practices.

An Explanation of the Term "Jane's Army" and Our Cover and Other Illustrations.

The term "Jane's Army" is explained in the interview with State Senator Andrew Dinniman (p. 8).

Our cover illustration is of "The Barclay," officially known as the "Hartshorne Mansion," located in West Chester. This building is the second place where the Network Board used to meet: It was the home of John Milner Associates for years. For more information, please see Peter Benton and Robert Wise's articles (ps. 6 and 16).

The illustrations for the articles are of resources associated either with the authors or the content of the articles.

And finally, the additional illustrations are of historic resources that we consider to be iconic. These resources are: Primitive Hall in West Marlborough Township (p. 10), Historic Sugartown in Willistown Township (p. 12), and Oxford Presbyterian Church in Oxford Borough (p. 20).

FROM THE CCHPN BOARD:

[Editor's Note: By the end of 2018, Kathryn Yahraes was the longest-serving member of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network's Board of Directors. In celebration of her thirteen years on the Board and her untiring dedication to the cause of historic preservation, fellow Board member Susan Marshall interviewed her and then wrote the following column.]

Kathryn Yahraes was originally from Racine, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Parkside. She has spent the last thirty-seven years as a resident of East Goshen Township. Through her husband, Jack, who has long been part of the Municipal Authority in East Goshen, Kathryn joined the East Goshen Historical Commission in 2003. Her dedication to history is evident in her active participation in many historical organizations: She is a Plank House Volunteer, a Chester County Historical Society Member, and a Judge for the regional competition on National History Day (2010 – 2016). As a consequence of her commitment to the East Goshen Historical Commission, Kathryn met the late Jane L. S. Davidson, Chester County's Preservation Officer, who invited her to join the CCHPN Board in 2005.

She served as the Chairman of the Education and Programs Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the pre-MuSA Municipalities Subcommittee. Preferring to operate behind the scenes, Kathryn has been a tireless worker responsible for the efficient planning of workshops, the Volunteer Recognition Celebration, and educational programs. In addition, she helped revamp the current iteration of the Chester County Ledger. Many of you know her as the 'roll-call' coordinator at the annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration. Kathryn's creative ideas contributed to over a decade's worth of lively and varied topics presented in CCHPN's Spring and Fall Workshops. You may remember some of these: Historic Resource Impact Studies (2007); Perspectives on the Demolition of Historic Structures (2008); Grants, Grant-writing, & Fundraising (2009); Green Preservation (2010); Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (2011); Cultural Resource Notice – The DEP's Powerful Preservation Tool (2012); Make your Community's History Come Alive (2013); Working Effectively in Your Municipality (2014); CAMP – Sponsored by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (2015); Public Relations and Preservation 50 (2016); True Life Adventures in Historic Preservation: Refining Our Local Commitment to *Historic Preservation* (2017).

Discussing the changes she has seen over her years of service to the Network, Kathryn mentioned the formalization of roles and responsibilities through a committee structure. In the 'old' days, it wasn't always clear 'who did what'. For the future, Kathryn envisions CCHPN becoming more visible through the addition of a substantial number of individual members to the organization.

Kathryn retired from the CCHPN Board at the end of 2018, but she plans to remain active on the Education and Programs Committee as a volunteer.

Susan Marshall, outgoing CCHPN Board of Directors Member and MuSA #6 Representative

FOR THE RECORD:

Network Beginnings by Peter Benton, Network Co-Founder, Board Member Emeritus

Jane Davidson was a character, there is no doubt about it! From her initial involvement with Chester County in the late 1970s until her passing in December 2012, no one has done more for historic preservation in the County than Jane. Singlehandedly – through force of personality and tireless enthusiasm – she knitted together a diverse range of interests and individuals from across the region to recognize and preserve historic resources in their local communities.

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network was Jane's creation and the vehicle through which to organize preservation interests countywide. The core idea and significance of the Network was to bring

preservation activists from the county's many municipalities together to meet each other, share experiences, and become empowered through the interaction with like-minded colleagues. It was also a vehicle for education and training, and for exerting influence at the county and municipal levels. I have been using and promoting the Network idea in my preservation planning work wherever I go for the past three decades.

The beginnings of the Network emanate from Jane's work in helping to prepare the Chester County Historic Resource Inventory between 1979 and 1982. The Inventory was a state-wide project coordinated on the county level by the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) and was conducted municipality by municipality by local volunteers. Jane, along with several others, was involved as a volunteer coordinating the overall Inventory on behalf of CCHS. I believe it was through this work with local volunteers at the municipal level that "Jane's Army" – the countywide array of local preservation volunteers and groups – came into being. She worked with them not only to inventory resources but to organize into historical commissions. They looked to her for guidance and support.

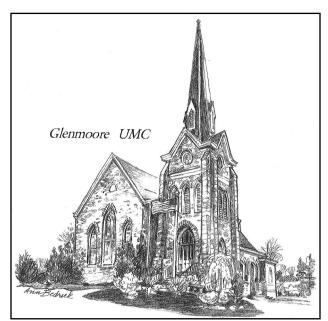


Illustration of Glenmoore United Methodist Church, Wallace Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

Jane had begun teaching local history research and genealogy in the late 1960s. In 1975, she was appointed to the Downingtown Historical Commission and she served as Downingtown Borough's historian and preservationist from 1977 to 1980, writing a book, *A History of Downingtown*. In the late 1970s, Jane met Earl Baker, Chester County Commissioner from 1977 to 1988, through whom she became involved in organizing the celebration of the County's 1982 Tricentennial. She was employed as the "County Historic Preservation Officer" in 1982.

Jane and I were neighbors in Wallace Township; she was involved with the Township Historical Commission and I was involved with the Planning Commission, so we'd known each other a while. I went to see her in her office on Market Street in 1989 to get a better sense of what was happening in historic preservation at the county level. It was sometime after that that Jane came to me with the idea for the Network, I am not sure when. We kept no paperwork.

Under her initiative, we held our first organizational meeting in the conference room of the office where I worked, John Milner Associates, at 309 North Matlack Street, West Chester. Present, as I recall, were Jane, Don Hannum, Baylen Kaskey, Diane Snyder, and me. Don was a Supervisor in West Caln Township. Baylen was a rocket engineer who had moved after retiring to Chester County for its historic and cultural attractions and then became involved in preservation in East Marlborough Township. Diane Snyder had been instrumental in groundbreaking historic preservation initiatives in West Whiteland Township and later became a Supervisor.

Diane left the leadership group shortly thereafter, and Bob Layman (North Coventry Township Manager), Bob Wise (the Brandywine Conservancy's Preservation Planner), and Linda Saunders (London Grove

FOR THE RECORD: Network Beginnings, Continued

Township) came on a bit later.

Our plan for the Network was to convene four meetings/workshops a year, two in the fall and two in the spring, to get municipal preservationists together. Each workshop would be hosted by a municipal preservation group – usually a historical commission – with venue and refreshments provided. We were responsible for organizing the program. It turned out to be pretty easy to implement due to Jane's contacts. Municipal groups jumped at the chance to host a workshop and showcase their historic communities. They began conducting tours of historic sites before each workshop. And they wanted to talk about their preservation experiences. Supervisors of some communities supported the events – some hired buses for the tours. This eventu-

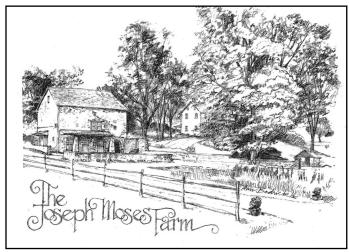


Illustration of the Joseph Moses Farm, West Vincent Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

ally led to the annual volunteer picnic/dinner in the late Spring, hosted and often paid for by the municipality. Whoda thunk?

Nonetheless, it was a lot of work. Email didn't exist. At first, we got the word out about the workshops by personal contact and by sending information to municipalities. Sometimes the information was not passed along to the historical commissions. Eventually, we started collecting names and addresses of commission members from each municipality and sending out mailings, which was a lot of work. Jane and her assistant, Annette Jewett, collected, typed, and printed the labels. We had folding/licking/stamping parties to get them out. Everyone pitched in a few bucks to cover the costs.

A lesson I learned through the Network was: *If* you act like you are real, people will think you are real. Because we were able to have workshops and pull people together, everyone thought we were a real organiza-

tion. In 1992, Andy Dinniman and Karen Martynick were elected as County Commissioners, and they took us seriously and attended our workshops. I generally served as the MC, and we always gave them the opportunity to speak. Both were interested in history and supported preservation, but I also think they thought we were a force that was able to marshal supporters at the municipal level. Colin Hanna was elected Commissioner in 1996, and he, too, was supportive.

In the mid-1990s under Colin, Karen, and Andy, the County undertook preparation of its comprehensive plan, *Landscapes(1)*. It was fantastic, using incentives to get municipalities to upgrade their planning countywide. This taught me another lesson: *Open space preservation results in historic preservation – preserving open spaces preserves historic landscapes and historic resources*. We were not instrumental in the crafting of *Landscapes(1)*, but we were consulted – because they thought we were real.

A primary reason that we sought commissioner participation was to support Jane's work – and save her job. She was self-trained and was not supported by some senior county staff. Earl Baker had been her patron, but he left the county in 1988 and was elected State Senator. Jane was housed in the Department of Community Development (not Planning), and her main work was to oversee Section 106 compliance. She was not authorized to work with local historical commissions or the Network, which was all done on the side. We sought support from Andy, Karen, and Colin so that Jane could continue her work and to emphasize the good she did in her work with municipalities.

The Network helped. When the new county building was opened, Jane was transferred to the Parks Department, thanks to then Director, Bill Mineo. The Planning Department wouldn't have her. She stayed with Parks until she retired in 2006. Her title was Historic Preservation Coordinator – I don't think the title she preferred, "County Historic Preservation Officer" (great title!), was ever real.

The important thing is that the Network has survived and grown and, in fact, become a reality. It is my hope and expectation that it will continue to grow and develop as an effective local non-profit organization into the future. Thanks to everyone involved!

FOR THE RECORD:

Interview with State Senator Andrew "Andy" Dinniman: An Overview of Historic Preservation in Chester County by Jane E. Dorchester

I recently had the honor of interviewing State Senator Andrew "Andy" Dinniman who served as the lone Democratic Commissioner in Chester County for fifteen years from 1991 to 2006. During his time as Commissioner, he actively supported both historic preservation in Chester County and the budding Chester County Historic Preservation Network (the Network). As State Senator, one of the positions he now holds is as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). I asked him to give me an overview of historic preservation in Chester County, past and present.

JED: The Network is going to be thirty years old in 2019. When did you first learn about the Network?

AD: When I first took office as County Commissioner in 1992.

JED: You were the one who coined the term "Jane's Army": What was the term in reference to? Do you remember when you first used the term?

AD: Jane L. S. Davidson was an inspirational leader who had many followers who shared her commitment to historic preservation and whom she had gathered into the Network. I first used the term "Jane's Army" in



Illustration of Jane L. S. Davidson, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

the mid-1990s in reference to the members of the Network and in respect for their hard work and their willingness to speak up for historic preservation.

JED: What do you consider to be the greatest contribution to preservation that the Network has made over the past thirty years?

AD: The Network's greatest contribution is creating an understanding in Chester County that preservation is important to our understanding of our past, of where we are going in the future, and of its value to our quality of life here in Chester County.

JED: Your championing of historic preservation goes back at least to when you were a County Commissioner – what do you consider to have been your greatest achievement in preservation as Commissioner?

AD: My greatest achievement was in helping to establish a historic preservation ethic or belief in the County. I did my best as a public official to make a reality of the late Eleanor Morris's statement "Chester County is open spaces and historic places."

JED: Where do you think preservation is today? In a better place than it was thirty years ago, the same place as it was thirty years ago, or a worse place than it was thirty years ago?

AD: I believe it is in a better place in our County as a direct result of the great work done over the last thirty years by the Chester County Historic Preservation Network.

FOR THE RECORD:

Historic Preservation Reminiscences from West Caln Township by Don Hannum, Former Steering Committee and Board Member

I became a Supervisor of West Caln Township (WCT) in 1975. The Township completed a new building in 1989. At the dedication ceremony which was held on December 9, 1989, I talked briefly about the history of West Caln. I knew very little, since my family and I had only moved to the Township in 1967, but I did know that my family's home, Bent Pine Farm, was built in c. 1740. During my talk, I presented the audience with a challenge to learn more about the history of WCT and become involved to help form the West Caln Historical Society (WCHS) and the West Caln Township Historical Commission (WCTHC). Not long after the ceremony, Joan Lorenz (creative writing teacher at Downingtown High School) came forth to offer her assistance with the history. Joan was the wife of J. Roberts Lorenz, former pastor of St. John's Episcopal Church, Compass. From my meeting with Joan, a committee was created to research the history of

the Township and put it in the form of a book. Not a history book, but a book full of interesting historical facts about WCT. This committee consisted of long-time residents John and Dorothy Givler, Raymond and Nerissa Kelso, Christine Fuller, Joan, and myself.

It took several years to accumulate the information and write the book. Herb Leslie Printing, Wagontown, did the printing (pro bono) and stored them for our distribution. This was a major contribution. From this relatively small group, in number only, further events were planned to showcase the Township's history, including recording a video of oral histories collected during a series of round-table sessions. For WCT's 250th Anniversary, the committee organized an interdenominational church event celebrating 250 years of "Hymnody" and a parade that was held on October 8, 1994 in Hibernia County Park and around the Township. The pa-



Illustration of Bent Pine Farm, West Caln Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

rade was an enormous success, thanks to many volunteers in addition to the small committee. In addition, the committee organized a huge banquet that was held on October 7, 1994 at Harvest Drive Restaurant, Intercourse, Pennsylvania, with attendance of more than 200. The keynote speaker was Paul Rodebaugh, teacher and noted historian.

These activities caught the eye of Jane L. S. Davidson, Chester County Historic Preservation Officer, and she talked to me about being a part of the Steering Committee of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN). As I was from the northern part of Chester County, and they needed a representative from that area, I was invited to join, which I did with enthusiasm.

Jane's first offices were on the second floor of the Benson Building, West Market Street, West Chester. They were very small and cluttered (something carried over to the Government Services Center). From this little complex of files and assorted stacked papers, the Chester County Historic Resource Map was created. Historic property surveys were done prior to this creation. As I recall, the first Steering Committee meetings were held in the downtown West Chester office of Peter Benton. On-street parking was always a problem, but it was held there anyway. Present at these meetings were: Davidson, Peter Benton, Diane Snyder, Baylen Kaskey, and myself. The meetings were later moved to the former Barclay Home in the

FOR THE RECORD: Reminiscences from West Caln, Continued

northern part of West Chester. What a lovely place to have a meeting! It seemed like we were visiting, not holding a meeting, as the atmosphere was such that made it more like one of our homes.

When the Board of Directors superseded the Steering Committee, I changed from the Committee to the Board of Directors. Some other Steering Committee and Board members that I remember were Bob Layman, Bob Wise, Linda Saunders, Matthew Roberson, Jane Dorchester, and Mary Sue Boyle.

One of the events our WCHS organized was a township tour and meeting as part of the County's Town Tours program. It was held at Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company (WVFC). It seemed embarrassing at the time, but we had to charge for this event; we were the first township to do so. It was a huge \$5.00. No one seemed to complain. It involved a bus tour (Krapf Bus Company donated the buses and drivers) around WCT and a meeting and buffet refreshments (furnished by Kathi Dunlap with Stoney Hollow Deli) at WVFC. It was a huge success, again thanks to the volunteers. Jane was a huge influence for this event.

WCT later purchased the house (Ferguson House) next to the township building, 719 West Kings Highway, Wagontown, PA on May 8, 2000 (\$105,000) for meetings and the storage of historic memorabilia.

The members of the CCHPN changed from time to time, and I cannot remember their names, but they all made an impression on this amateur historian, both individually and collectively. Their advice, knowledge, and workman-like suggestions made me into a much more experienced researcher and historian. I was a Board member for seventeen years, but it only sounds long now. At the time, it was something I enjoyed doing, both for the information exchange and the friendships. It was never a hardship to attend meetings. The annual picnics have been great, but I think the greatest of all was the American Revolutionary reenactment at the home of Anne and Joe Armstrong, Marshalton.

I would encourage anyone that can spell "historic" or "historical" to search out the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, your township or other historical group, and make yourself known. Volunteers are hard to find and they would welcome you. I would suggest you join the Chester County Historical Society, Chester County Historic Preservation Network, Ancestry.com, Brandywine River Museum and Conservancy, Brandywine Valley Association, and Farm Bureau. All these, and others, act to promote the preservation of historic structures and farm land.

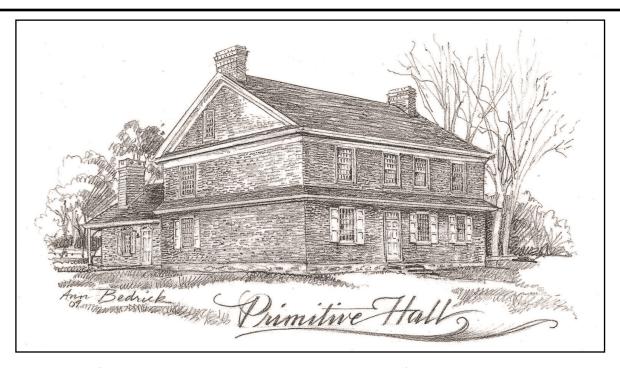


Illustration of Primitive Hall, West Marlborough Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

FOR THE RECORD:

The Early Days of the Network and Historic Preservation in Chester County by Robert Layman, Former Steering Committee and Board Member

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, local commissions are the principal local public sector preservation allies in a network of federal, state, and local entities established to save historic resources. In Pennsylvania, the local historical commission provides a critical voice for historic preservation at the municipal level. While at times it may not seem to be the case, this voice has been critical in preserving the historic resources in Chester County. Without it, elected officials of the municipalities would hear disproportionately about the advantages of development. The advantages of historic preservation would have a hard time being heard by the decision makers.

Chester County is fortunate to have a great number of municipalities with historical commissions. Over the years, these commissions have adeptly worked to preserve many of the historic resources of Chester County. The Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) was originally formed as the brainchild of Jane L. S. Davidson. As she had explained to me, its primary purpose was to provide assistance to the local historical commissions in their efforts to preserve their historic resources. As with any organization, it took time for CCHPN to develop into the capable organization it has become. It started out with only a limited number of steering committee members as its only resource. Those committee members did have an expertise in historic preservation, with the exception of me with my experience being at the governmental level. At the same time, those early committee members also had other obligations that limited the time they could devote to CCHPN. They did, however, put forth a significant effort and need to be credited with providing a critical link to the local historical commissions. Individually, their expertise and willingness to do what they could served the historic community well. In addition, they provided the major source of revenue for CCHPN by "kicking in" from their own funds at regular meetings.

CCHPN early on established a newsletter as a method of communicating with the local historical commissions. Another innovation was the Spring conference which was established to bring in practitioners in the field of historic preservation to pass on information about the various aspects of historic preservation to the local historical commissions. Later, a Fall lecture program was established, including a hands-on program, where interested people could talk to contractors who provided advice on such things as how to replace a window and preserve its integrity.

A summer picnic was soon thereafter established. While originally conceived to express an informal appreciation for the efforts of the various historical commissions, the picnic evolved into a rather elaborate

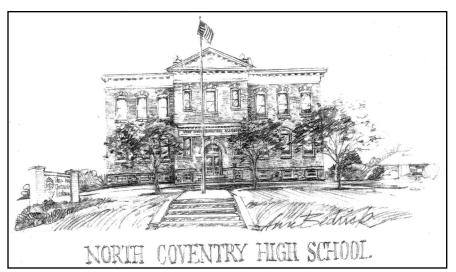


Illustration of the North Coventry High School, North Coventry Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

event where the efforts of the different historical commissions could be recognized and celebrated. This had the extra benefit of being a forum for networking among the members of the various historical commissions allowing them to meet and discuss their experiences with each other. Finally, it served as a morale builder for those historical commissions that had problems with their elected bodies. The Grace Under Fire Award assured these commissions that they were not alone and that they could triumph in the end.

Along the way, CCHPN established a website as an additional method of communicating with local historical commissions. Originally, this website was maintained by the members of

FOR THE RECORD: Early Days of the Network and Preservation, Continued

the Network Board and given that not one of them was in that business, the professionalism of the product was limited. With the addition of financial resources, largely through the growing membership of duespaying municipalities and individuals, the Board was able to hire an outside firm to maintain the website, and it became a more useful resource.

Organizationally, the Network has become more efficient over time. The number of steering committee members, now board members, has expanded over the years, providing more hands to "make the soup". Additionally, dues were initiated which provided the Network with the financial resources to expand its effort to help the local commissions.

During this time, CCHPN refined its organization, establishing committees. This was an especially important development, as it allowed CCHPN to provide a focus, which could not otherwise be provided, on different aspects of historic preservation. Different subjects could be explored and solutions developed, without involving the whole Board. Also established were the Municipal Service Areas (MuSAs) that provide a point of contact between the CCHPN Board and local historical commissions. If any commission had a concern that could be addressed by CCHPN, it was brought forward. At the same time, the Board became aware of the problems and progress of the commissions, discussing them at Board meetings.

As I left the CCHPN Board, it became clear that throughout my tenure on the Board it was populated by people who were well-versed in historic preservation and were always willing to give of their time and experience. In this regard, I felt inadequate. Without exception, I would say that I have been blessed to know such people.

The local historical commissions have done a wondrous job in promoting historic preservation in their various municipalities. For those who doubt this, drive through Chester County, noting the many older structures that still exist today. In many cases, without the efforts of the local historical commissions, many of these would be gone. To some, a shopping center would make more economic sense, and there are plenty of developers around to make that point.

The local historical commissions should be applauded for their efforts. The countless hours spent by their members in preserving Chester County's historic landscape is significant and should be appreciated. In some of this endeavor, CCHPN does get assistance, either directly by being involved in those efforts or indirectly by providing the commissions with helpful knowledge, and deserves credit for that. As I see it, CCHPN has fulfilled its preliminary purpose and continues to do so. Jane Davidson would be very proud. I suspect that she knows that "Jane's Army" is still marching forward.

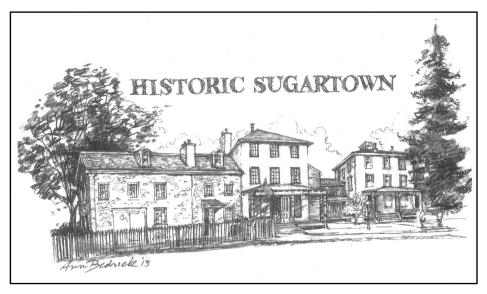


Illustration of Historic Sugartown, Willistown Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

THEN AND NOW:

A Photographic View of the Changing Historic Landscape of Chester County

As part of our celebration of the Network's 30th Anniversary, we will be featuring two Photo Essays, one in this issue and one in the September issue. Because the overarching theme for this issue was historic preservation in Chester County, past and present, the theme for this Photo Essay was "Then and Now." The purpose of this Essay was to show how Chester County's historic landscape has changed in ways that we do not like to see. We asked members of the Board of Directors to submit photographs illustrating this theme and we received so many examples that we have not been able to use them all! I would like to thank Jim Garrison, Sue Marshall, Sara Shick, Jim Buczala, Chris Robinson, Karen Oncay, and Chris Lang for stepping forward with a diverse collection of interesting examples. I would especially like to thank the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area and the New Garden Township Historical Commission for allowing us to use images from their respective archives.

The theme of the Photo Essay for the September issue will be "Before and After" illustrating how Chester County's historic landscape has changed in ways we would like to see become the norm in the future.



THEN: Historic view of S. Ashton Hand, Machinist Mechanical Engineer, New Garden. Photograph courtesy of the New Garden Township Historical Commission Archives.



NOW: 2015 view of the former site of S. Ashton Hand Machinist Mechanical Engineer building, New Garden Township. Photograph courtesy of Chris Robinson.

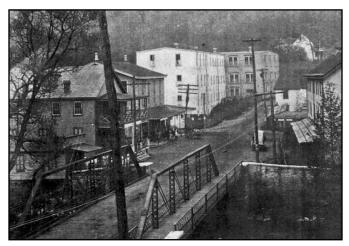


THEN: 2006 view of Moore Farmhouse, East Brandywine. Photograph courtesy of James Buczala.



NOW: 2019 view of Moore Farmhouse, East Brandywine Township. Photograph courtesy of James Buczala.

THEN AND NOW: A Photographic View, Continued



THEN: Historic view of Landenberg, New Garden Township. Photograph courtesy of the New Garden Township Historical Commission Archives.



THEN: Historic view of 257 Church Street, former Yellow School, Phoenixville. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, Phoenixville, Pa.



THEN: 2011 view of Burner Farm , West Vincent Township. Photograph courtesy of Karen Oncay.



NOW: 2015 view of Landenberg, New Garden Township. Photograph courtesy of Chris Robinson.



NOW: 2012 view of 257 Church Street, former Yellow School, Phoenixville. Photograph courtesy of Susan Marshall.



NOW: Contemporary view Burner Farm, West Vincent Township. Photograph courtesy of Sara Shick.

15

THEN AND NOW: A Photographic View, Continued



THEN: Historic view of the New Garden Post Office, New Garden. Photograph courtesy of the New Garden Township Historical Commission Archives



NOW: 2015 view of the New Garden Post Office. Photograph courtesy of Chris Robinson.



THEN: 1974 view of Grey Craig, Easttown Township. Photograph courtesy of James Garrison.



NOW: 2018 view of Grey Craig, Easttown Township. Photograph courtesy of James Garrison.



THEN: 2007 view of Rokeby House, Thornbury Township. Photograph courtesy of J. Christopher Lang.



NOW: 2018 view of former site of Rokeby House, Thornbury Township. Photograph courtesy of J. Christopher Lang.

FOR THE RECORD:

From Steering Committee to Board of Directors – the "Transition" Years By Robert J. Wise, Former Steering Committee Member and Board Member Emeritus

In 1993, fresh out of the University of Pennsylvania with an M.S. in Historic Preservation, I began working for the Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Management Center (EMC) as its Historic Preservation Planner. Historic Preservation planning in Southeastern Pennsylvania goes much farther than anything taught in graduate school (or, to be fair, anything that I learned). Among the projects in which I was immediately thrust, such as the Brandywine Battlefield Conservation Easement Initiative, rewriting Section 7 – Historic Preservation – of the EMC's *Environmental Protection Handbook*, and drafting the Worth/Jefferis National Register Rural Historic District, I was encouraged to take an active role in working with various entities involved in preservation. Of course, one of my earliest contacts in Chester County was Jane Davidson (whom I had previously contacted for my original thesis – and she was very helpful). Jane told me about a historic preservation "steering committee" that had formed to bring together the county's fledging historical commissions, HARBS, historical societies, and local governments to promote preservation at the local level and throughout the County. This was pre-internet, of course, when information was often hard to come by. I was invited to the next meeting, held at John Milner Associates' (JMA, and now Commonwealth

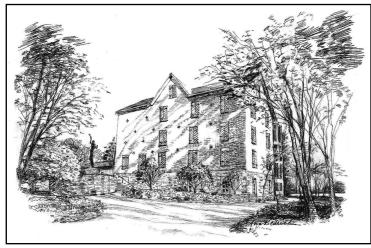


Illustration of the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

Heritage) former office in West Chester. In a cramped conference room I heard this "grand vision" to unite preservationists and provide them with information on an ongoing basis to help them preserve their local resources. It would be "a place" to learn and share information, and of course, preservation "war" stories. Our steering committee, into which I was quickly absorbed, had a great vision, guidance from the County, wonderful people, and absolutely no money. In that meeting we literally passed the hat — I threw in \$10. But it added up. And from that we could begin the process of communication, and in short order, with the help of Jane Dorchester, we started our newsletter, and have continued it ever since.

By this time the steering committee's aforementioned grand vision was also hitting its stride. Since its formation a few years before, Jane had assembled a mailing list of hundreds of people she

had worked with over the years, and it had been hosting small workshops and gatherings. In the Spring of 1994 (perhaps 1995), we held our first Annual Spring Workshop at the Brandywine Conservancy. It is something we have been doing ever since, and the Conservancy has been gracious in hosting the event from that time onward (with a few venue changes here and there). We had wonderful speakers, great subjects, and, for the most part, good attendance. Over the years, we tried to take a thematic approach each year, and mixed up the format accordingly. Chester County, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, among many other entities and individuals, have contributed countless hours for the purpose of offering timely and relevant historic preservation information. Things continued to improve: The Conservancy even renovated the space – I like to think for us! Perhaps more importantly, faces have changed, telling me different and younger people are concerned enough to devote their free time to this effort.

And the steering committee? We also changed. We realized soon after those first meetings that we needed to become something more than a "committee." With the help of steering committee member Mary Sue Boyle, we developed the incorporation papers and by-laws to become a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization, called the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. I think Jane Davidson would say the most

FOR THE RECORD: the "Transition Years," Continued

important word is "Network." Her vision, if I understand it correctly, was to network all of those entities, individuals, developers, and agencies, to foster historic preservation beginning at the local level, then throughout the county and beyond, if possible. One "perk" was that our Board meetings, which were and are held monthly, shifted to the lovely conference room at JMA's beautifully restored Hartshorne Mansion (also known as the Barclay) on High Street in West Chester, with free coffee as well.

Jane became the first President of the Network's Board of Directors (which superseded the steering committee); this made perfect sense. She guided the initial growth and success of the organization. And yes, at times, early on, we still passed the hat, usually to pay for stamps for the newsletter. But now we could officially raise money, and we initiated a membership drive for local governments, historical societies, and individuals. But the newsletter and everything we did was a key part of Jane's networking plan. Because we were pulled in many directions, we did the following. First, we established a programming subcommittee (I think Kathryn Yahraes of East Goshen headed it up or was very involved, as well as others) which met monthly to ensure the various initiatives were followed through, including our public outreach programs (Workshops and Network Dinners). Second, we began a yearly retreat to develop a precise list of goals that the Network Board was then assigned to accomplish (for the most part) over the course of that year. This was an effective way of dealing with priority "big issue" items. Also the Network Recognition Dinners continued to be a very important means of recognizing people in their communities, while our workshops were the primary means of educating our members.

Eventually, Jane's term was up, and though she remained on the Board, and of course very active, many others in the years since followed in her footsteps, doing their best to not only lead the Network, but keep "Jane's Army" well-trained and supplied to fight those inevitable historic preservation battles.

Recollections of the Early Days of the Board of Directors by Ann Bedrick, Current Board Member

My recollections about being on the Board of Directors of CCHPN start with being drafted by Jane Davidson in 2006; I joined the Board in 2007. This was a Board with very important and professional people committed to saving and protecting buildings, sites, and landscapes in our county. *Ay yi yi!* What could I offer? Because of my art background, I became the resident artist for all but the *Ledger*. This involved designing the CCHPN logo and designing the awards with their art and "decorating". I've also been a member of the Education and Programs Committee whose chairs have included Dr. Elaine Husted, Kathryn Yahraes,

Warwick Furnace Farms

Depiction of Furnace Africal Largobe 1803

Depiction of Warwick Furnace Farms after Benjamin Latrobe, 1803, Warwick Township, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

With the County and their GIS guy, Mark Mattie, our Network acknowledged the municipalities who worked on their Historic Resource Atlases. 2007, there were fifteen municipalities that received recognition. In 2011, there were twelve recipients of Certificates of Achievement, all with illustrations, some having two! Since 2007, we have presented Certificates of Merit, Certificates of Municipal Accomplishment, Individual and Awards of Honor, Special Recognition Awards, and Lifetime Membership, Emeritus, and Grace Under Fire Awards. After Jane died, we memorialized the Individual Awards of Honor in her name and the first "Jane L. S. Davidson Award" was granted in 2013 at the Volunteer Recognition Cele-

Sue Marshall, and Alicia Marziani.

FOR THE RECORD: Recollections of the Early Days, Continued

bration in historic Sugartown. I created all the artwork on the awards with notable exceptions by Suzy Rey from West Nantmeal, Ann Keen from East Coventry, Doris Whitehead Polk of East Fallowfield, and an artist who did the Kennett Meetinghouse art for Kennett Township.

I would carpool to Board meetings with Jane Davidson and we would take any roads but Rt. 30 to get there on time for Tuesday morning Board meetings in West Chester. We had access to a meeting room at the Barclay (Hartshorne Mansion) thanks to Peter Benton of John Milner and Associates in West Chester. It was such a pleasure going there for our Board meetings - and we also evidently "borrowed" some of their employees as Board members (ha!). We added Board members (moving from a little room to the big fireplace room downstairs), which allowed us to create MuSAs (Municipal Support Areas) that helped us "bridge" our communities to preservation in their "neighborhoods". Jane was giddy that we were getting the preservation word around on an intimate level with "feet on the ground" (your talkin! "Jane's Army"!).

Bob Wise was President when I joined: What a great sense of humor! Then came Bruce Knapp (Jane and he created a traveling Sears Kit House lecture that I got to help with!) and Steve Brown, who drafted a sub-division with "Elvish Leprechaun" issues at the workshop at Longwood Gardens on Saint Patrick's Day. Then came Sali Cosford-Parker and John Miller, who was, among other things, a Wallace Township Supervisor who knew how to "keep us moving". Then came our current President, Jim Garrison. I am extremely honored to have served with every member of our Board. Most of them have organizations, titles, and initials after their names and know their "stuff." I am truly "outclassed"!

We have close ties to the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) and the County Government, especially through Board Member Karen Marshall, Heritage Planning Coordinator from the County Planning Commission. We now also are affiliated with Historic Yellow Springs's location and events. Cory Kegerise from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has proven invaluable as a resource. We also work with the "Town Tours and Village Walks" Program to emphasize to our citizens why we cannot let our "historicity" disappear. We help them any way we can, even directing parking or with registration (I've given tours as have others on the Board, and I sometimes do maps or pamphlets for the events). Almost as long as I've been a member of the Board, we've had many of our workshops at the Brandywine River Museum and along with the valuable information provided by the workshops were given breakfast and sometimes lunch nosh with access in the afternoon to Museum exhibits which I TOTALLY appreciate.

During my time on the Network Board, we witnessed all kinds of important events like the 50th Anni-

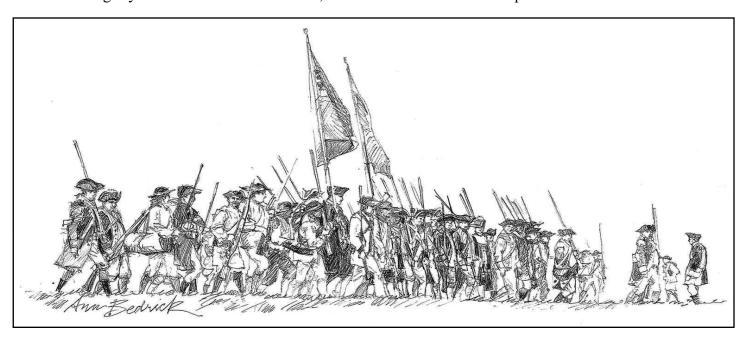


Illustration of the Battle of the Brandywine Re-enactment, courtesy of Ann Bedrick.

FOR THE RECORD: Recollections of the Early Days, Continued

versary of our County Parks. The Network planned a picnic at Nottingham County Park to help commemorate it, but the threat of a hurricane pushed us to its gracious neighbor, Herr's, in their Chipmunk Cafe! Eventually, we got to go to Nottingham last year with our BBQ. In 2016, the Volunteer Recognition Celebration Dinner at Downingtown Country Club (the only one I missed) recognized the top 100 hits of 1966 as background music to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. The importance of the battle-fields in our county was acknowledged by the American Battlefields Protection Program which has lent financial support to the Paoli Battlefield and the Brandywine Battlefield (with Atlases now) and to the ongoing documentation of the Battle of the Clouds. How exciting for our Northern MuSAs to find how integral we were to the Revolution in 1777! And OH Boy - what a great event September 16 and 17, 2017 in Birmingham Township was when the Battle of the Brandywine was recreated. WOW!

At our workshops at Longwood, CCHS, and the Brandywine River Museum we learned about Section 106, PennDOT's Project PATH, grants, funding, public relations, publicity, historic resources, "green" preservation, legal issues, subdivisions, resource documentation, historic resource buffers, architectural styles, how to deal appropriately with our municipal officers, Roberts Rules of Order, working with planning commissions, how to nominate a resource to the National Register of Historic Places, (take a breath!), archeology, replacing old windows, cutting red tape, CAMP (state sponsored), photographer's rights, and demolition ordinances! What an adventure!

Of course, my most precious recollections are encompassed by my dear friend Jane L. S. Davidson, and if I could, I would thank her for knowing HER, her family and friends, for sharing the stuff in her head, and for getting me "drafted into the ranks of her Army".

And . . . thank you, ALL, for thirty years of YOU who think Chester County Historic Preservation is worth it!

PRESERVATION TOOLS - THEN AND NOW by Robert J. Wise

In the 1980s and 1990s, the use of conservation easements, the creation of historic preservation ordinances, and the conducting of historic resource surveys that led to ordinances were just coming into their own. Chester County was, and still is, on the state level, at the forefront of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations and using them as preservation tools. The growing concern for preserving the County's historic fabric was in direct response to the very real and growing development pressures occurring throughout the County. However, early on, persuading municipalities and property owners that preservation was good for both the community and property owners was a hard sell.

At the municipal level, between 1993 and 2010, more and more municipalities created HARBs and Historical Commissions (HC), and passed ordinances designed to protect their resources. This made it necessary for HARB and HC members to get more involved and better informed in order to make sound recommendations and decisions. Among other things, the basis of these recommendations and decisions was (and remains) up-to-date historic resource inventories and surveys, ongoing preservation training, and a general knowledge of history and architecture.

Another aspect of preservation that changed between 1993 and 2010, was the growing use of the internet to obtain information. The use of databases or simple spreadsheets made it easier to store and retrieve information (for such things as historic resource surveys), and GIS made it easier to produce accurate and easy to understand maps and property information. Digital cameras made it much easier to take photographs. Thus technology was changing to make it much easier for all individuals to get more involved in documenting their own communities, but technology – and its complications and expectations - also sometimes made it necessary to hire professionals.

FOR THE RECORD: Preservation Tools, Continued

Today, many municipalities – and developers - seem more inclined to view demolition as the last resort, not the first option, although it still happens. Overall, as the County rapidly grew, people began to understand that historic preservation planning and regulation are not something to intrude upon property rights so much as an effective means of protecting the environment (in this case the cultural environment) that when applied with other planning tools, helped and continues to help protect Chester County. But we still have a long way to go – and it is important to understand just how lucky we all are to have the Brandywine Conservancy and its municipal assistance program, as well as other first rate conservation organizations in our backyards. Together, we protect our cultural resources and open spaces. So, there have been many victories, but the battle (an unfortunate term) certainly continues. For example, municipalities should consider adopting ordinance provisions that ensure vacated historic resources that are to be rehabilitated as part of a development project are properly secured and rehabbed as part of a planned development process; such resources should never be left open to the elements and left to the end of the development process – often resulting in "unplanned" demolition. Our historic resources should never be marginalized!

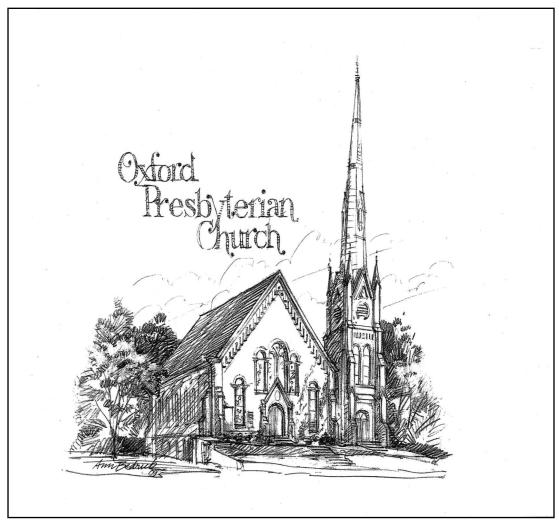
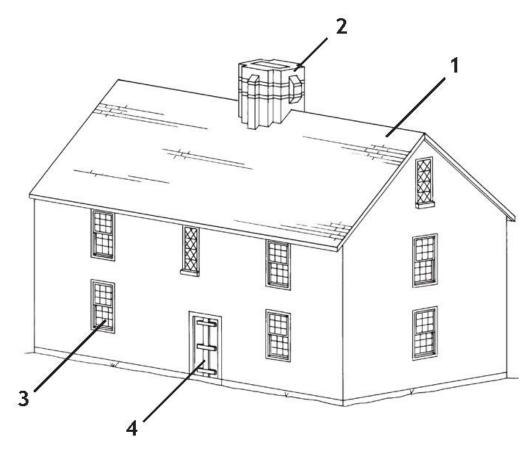


Illustration of Oxford Presbyterian Church, Oxford Borough, courtesy of Ann Bedrick

CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER PAGE 21 MARCH 2019

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Architectural Style Guide: Early Colonial: c. 1620 — c. 1740



Early Colonial: c. 1620—c. 1740

- 1. Steeply pitched side-gable roof with little or no overhang
- 2. Central (northern Chester County) chimney or gable-end (southern Chester County) chimneys of brick or stone
- 3. Windows with small panes and minimal window frames
- 4. Central batten or vertical board door

Other Features:

- Linear plan (1-room deep)
- 2 to 2 1/2 stories in height
- Sometimes with 1 or 2-story rear addition

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Municipal Historic Preservation Leadership Luncheon

Photographs courtesy of Jeannine Speirs, Senior Community Planner, Chester County Planning Commission

The Second Annual Preservation Leadership Luncheon was held on January 19, 2019 at the West Whiteland Municipal Building from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. A joint planning effort by the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) and the Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN), the chairs of the County's historical commissions, committees, and HARBs were invited to learn from each other and the preservation professionals who were present to guide the conversation. Of the 73 municipalities in Chester County, there are currently 52 active municipal historical planning entities and 41 were represented at the luncheon. The 64 participants were seated regionally based upon the Municipal Service Areas (MuSAs) that the CCHPN Board is organized under.

Case studies for discussion were presented by Jeff Dore, Chair, East Whiteland Historical Commission; Gail Brown, Chair, East Coventry Historical Commission; and Michele Thackrah, Thornbury Historical Commission. Cory Kegerise, Eastern Region Community Preservation Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC); Jeannine Speirs, Senior Community Planner, CCPC; and Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, CCPC, provided technical guidance for each presentation. Brian O'Leary, Executive Director, CCPC, and Jim Garrison, President, CCHPN, welcomed the participants. CCHPN Board members monitored each MuSA table. Karen Marshall unveiled the new interactive National Register resource map being developed by CCPC for Landscapes3 and Peter Adams representing the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution and it's Color Guard was present to make a special donation announcement of \$45,000 to support the Brandywine Battle Field Task Force's Historical Marker Program.

A program following lunch was held by Cory Kegerise for all Chester County Certified Local Government representatives. Fellowship, leadership training, and sharing ideas are the objectives of the annual event. A very special thank you to the participants and CCPC staff Nancy Shields, Patti Strauber, Gene Huller, and Colin Murtoff.



Attendees at the Second Annual Historic Preservation Leadership Luncheon held at the West Whiteland Township Municipal Building.



Jeff Dore, West Whiteland Historical Commission Chair, presented a case study about ADA accessibility in historic buildings.

BULLETIN BOARD

SUMMER 2019 TOWN TOURS AND VILLAGE WALKS EXPLORES OUR VILLAGES "THEN AND NOW"

The Chester County Board of Commissioners, with the Chester County Planning Commission, the Chester County Historical Society, Westtown Township, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, announces the 25TH summer of sharing Chester County's heritage during the annual "TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS" summer program.

Town Tours & Village Walks is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, and sites. This summer, you can explore Chester County's heritage on Thursday evenings, June 13 – August 29th. Tours generally last 50 minutes and begin at 5:30 P.M. with the last tour leaving at 7:00 P.M. unless daylight allows for additional tours. Each tour is designed to inform, entertain, and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour. Please note: The June 13th Kick-Off Program begins at 5:30 P.M. at the historic Holy Trinity Church in West Chester.

For more information, refer to www.chesco.org/planning/towntours or contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, at 610-344-6923 or kmarshall@chesco.org for a brochure.



Save the Date

1:30 PM Sunday, May 5, 2019

WYETH

Q&A with film makers will follow

The Colonial Theatre 227 Bridge Street, Phoenixville PA

Sponsored by the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

ATTENTION!!!

If you would like to continue to receive the CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER after you have moved, then please send your CHANGE OF ADDRESS to the Editor!!

Simply send your old (so we can identify you) AND new addresses to:

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West Chester, Pa. 19381 /ATTN: Editor Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!

CCHPN 2019 Volunteer Recognition Dinner & Awards Celebration

June 19th, 2019

5 PM: Optional Special Program

6-8:30 PM: Dinner and Award Presentations

Chester County Historical Society

225 N. High St.

West Chester, Pa.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

2019 CCHPN Spring Workshop

Saturday March 23, 2019

8 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.

Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art

1 Hoffman's Mill Road

Chadds Ford, Pa.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER!

The next *Ledger* will be published in September 2019!

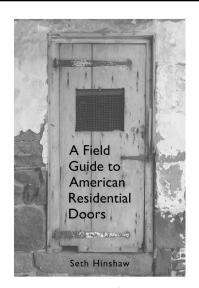
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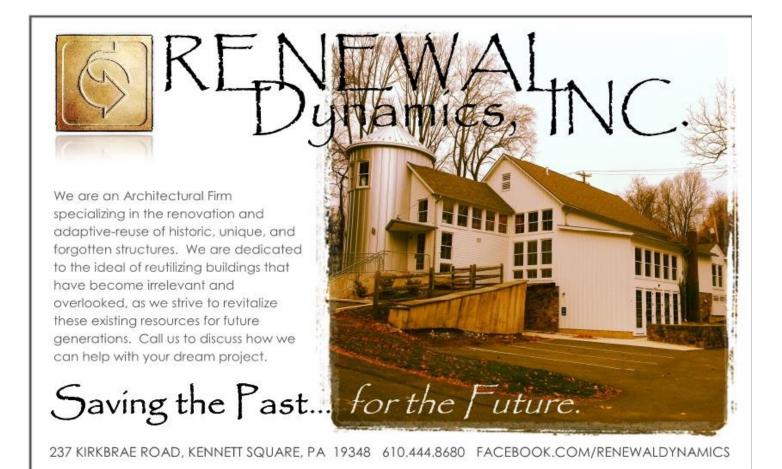
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