



Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

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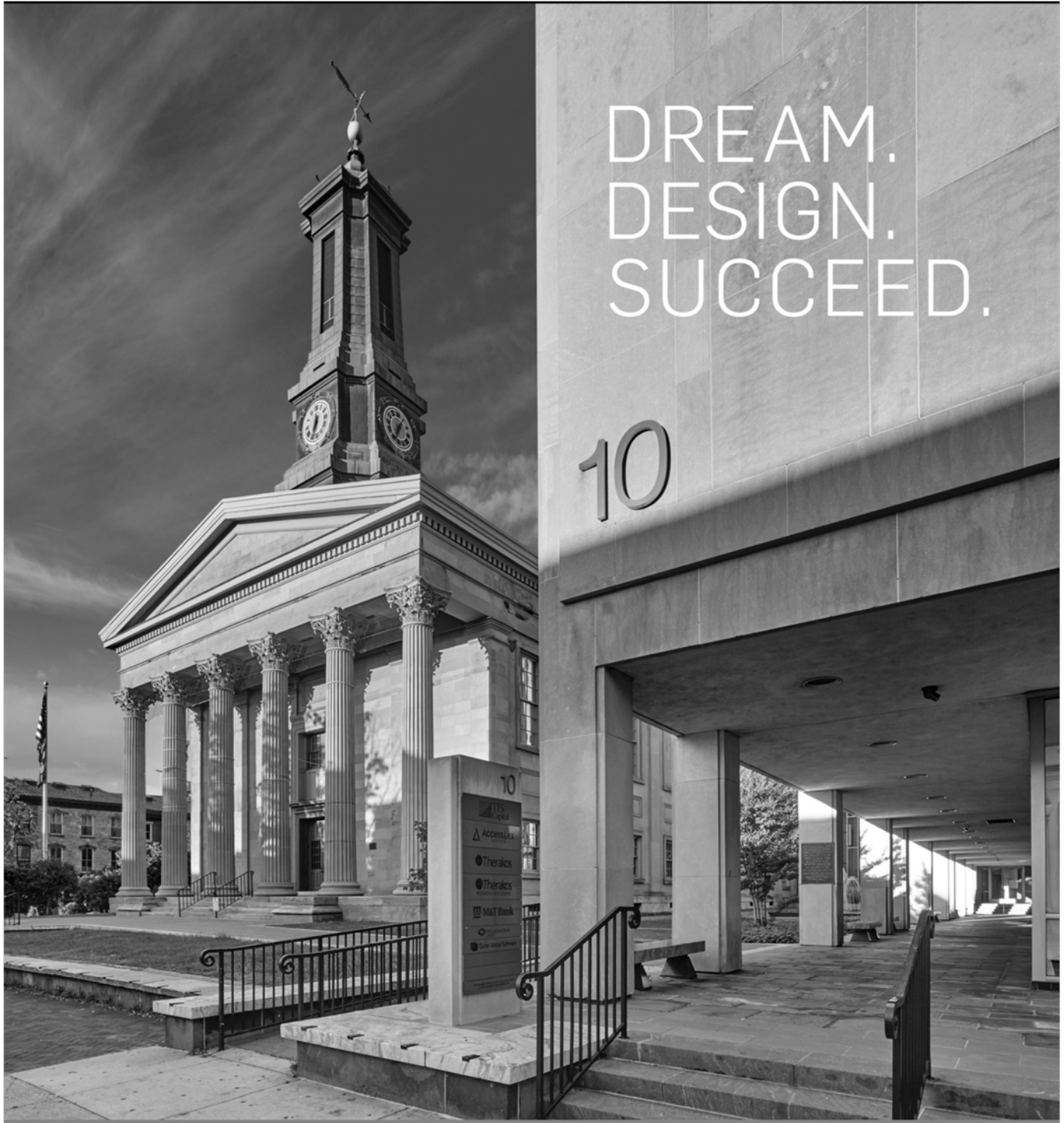
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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER:



James B. Garrison

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THE ADVERTISER

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“This Place Matters,” “This Old Place Matters,” “The National Register of Historic Places.” Many of us have seen these taglines attached to magazine articles, plaques, or on-line posts, but what do they really mean? What is a place? Architects and planners talk about “place-making,” but what about places that already exist? *Landscapes*3, from the Chester County Planning Commission, talks about the special sense of place that is Chester County. Is it one place or many, or maybe a collection of memories and experiences?

Discussions about old or historic places have traditionally revolved around specific artifacts or tangible assets, yet the things that make a place special or memorable are much deeper. Tom Mayes from the National Trust for Historic Preservation has written and spoken on the topic of places and the importance of recognizing the qualities that make them matter. There are a number of qualities related to place, but one is especially important now. Places can foster a sense of community, and old places can make that sense something which can be shared on many levels. The layered quality of these old places promotes a richer dialogue than might occur in a new urbanist mixed-use development or a curated historical setting.

Too often, discussions about historic preservation reference a particular resource and not the sense of place to which the resource contributes. Tom Mayes writes that the “organic interaction between people and places” is one of the main things that fosters a sense of community. Without the physical artifacts as authentic reminders of the past, part of that interaction is lost. The stories attached to the artifacts are what complete the dialogue.

The beauty of the story is that it evolves, and it is a dialogue between the story-teller and the listener. In the case of recent history, it can involve first-hand witnesses. For things more distant, it is about interpretation. The common thread here is conversation between the past, present, and future. Old places bear witness to different periods, and will always have a story to tell, especially to those who are willing to listen.

Our sense of community is being tested by current events, yet our environment suggests a resiliency developed over time and nurtured by our history. The places associated with the events of the past are diverse. From early settlement through the American Revolution there are places that inform those stories. More recent history is also rooted in places where the story is still developing.

Coming back to the word “place”: It is a combination of things. There is something about a place that is memorable - an event, or a natural or man-made feature. Just as important is the evolving narrative that contributes to the experience of place. Communities also have physical and virtual presences. Physical communities can be rural townships, a borough with a vibrant downtown, and even a location largely shaped by development in the recent past. Virtual communities thrive on connections to shared experiences.

Places and communities, linked by stories that enlighten and inspire, are cornerstones of historic preservation.

James B. Garrison, President

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.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR:

As an editor and writer, I have always been concerned with the use of the English language. I have tried to be as precise as I can in what I write in order to convey, as accurately as possible, my meaning. As a result of this concern, I have also always been concerned that we preservationists are not more precise in our use of the terminology pertinent to preservation. The problem may stem from the fact that we do not have our own vocabulary specific to the field of preservation. We have to use everyday English words to try to convey preservation concepts which makes it confusing to the lay person who assumes we are using these words generally rather than specifically. In addition, we, ourselves, seem to use some words in more than one way. This practice is so confusing that preservationists themselves don't always understand how the word is being used. A case in point is the use of the term "historic." Many people, including preservationists, do not realize that the National Park Service has an official definition of "historic." According to them, "historic" denotes age: If a resource is over fifty years old, the Park Service considers it to be historic. That's all it means. However, they then proceed to muddy the waters by calling the national inventory of places considered to be significant on a local, state, or national level as the National Register of Historic Places, when in fact, it is a registry of SIGNIFICANT places. This title has led the public, and many preservationists, to believe the word "historic" denotes that a resource has been listed in some way; in other words, that "historic" is interchangeable with "significant."

My concern with the lack of precision in the use of preservation terminology has grown recently with the increased use of the term "old" by preservationists. This use seems to me to add another layer of confusion to the mix. "Old" is a relative term; it is not specifically descriptive as the term "historic" is. To a five-year old child, her father is old, although he may be only twenty-five. In other words, the use of the term "old" is dependent on the viewpoint of the user, whereas "historic" has very specific definitions (several) relating to history.

There are those who argue that in the public's eye, the term "historic" means listed or significant in some way so that we have to use a term that includes all resources, whether they are listed or not. I think this attitude begs the real question here. And that is, why aren't we as preservationists doing a better job of educating both the public and ourselves as to the specific preservation definitions of such words as "historic"? I realize that this is a herculean task, but I think it is a far better use of our time and effort than the time and effort it will take for those of us in the field to explain exactly what we mean when we tell a home owner that his house is being included in a historic resource inventory because it is fifty years or older. The ultimate goal of preservationists should be to learn to be consistent in our use of preservation terminology so the public will not be confused about our meaning.

Jane E. Dorchester, Editor

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**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.

About This Issue's Theme:

The theme of this issue is "diversity." We are using the term to mean not only a diversity of races and genders, but also a diversity of ideas, opinions, and information. So, not only do we include three articles about various aspects of African-American history in Chester County and the ongoing efforts to preserve the physical evidence of that history, we also include one article about the gleaning of information about late-18th Century farmsteads from the county tax assessment records and one article detailing how preservation and conservation work together in Kennett Township. For more information about our cover illustration, please see page 17.

**LOOK FOR THE NEXT
CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER!**

The next *Ledger* will be published in September 2021!

FROM THE BOARD:

Recently, a man enthusiastically told the County's Heritage Preservation Coordinator that Chester County provides the best place to live in the region. When relocating to Southeastern Pennsylvania, his family selected this area, hands down, compared to other areas. Why? The County's support of the preservation of historic resources and open spaces provides the setting that makes us unique. Beyond the aesthetic value that our historic resources provide to our community, they provide a physical connection to the roots of who we are. They are the physical artifacts that remind us of, or create the curiosity to understand, what was.

In the end, history is interpretive. The artifacts that are our historic resources are the immutable physical evidence of what was and are the bedrock of our interpretation and, perhaps, reinterpretation of the history associated with them. And once a resource is gone, it can't be recovered, and our connection and understanding of the history linked to them fades.

One of CCHPN's core mandates is to provide support for the preservation of these artifacts, "these artifacts" being the historic resources of Chester County. Another mandate is to provide and support educational programs that inform our community of our history and its value. These two mandates go hand-in-hand, as historical education programs create curiosity about our resources and experiencing our historic resources creates the desire to learn about our history.

Towards satisfaction of these mandates, the *Chester County Ledger* provides articles of interest about our history; the application of municipal, State, and Federal laws, and guidance for historic preservation; and technical articles about architecture and how to rehabilitate historic structures. This month's *Ledger* focuses on African-American history in our area, providing articles on, among other things, the Underground Railroad, the preservation of the Amos House at Lincoln University, and the preservation of the Passtown School in Valley Township. This focus aligns nicely with this year's Town Tours and Village Walks Summer Program (presented by a partnership between the Chester County Planning Commission and CCHPN), which has "Juneteenth" as its core theme. Juneteenth recognizes June 19, 1865 as the date that Texas officially accepted the Emancipation Proclamation that freed the slaves, making it the last state in the Union to do so. June 19th was recognized as a holiday in Texas in 1980, and since then has garnered more and more attention as a key date in our country's history.

I hope you will be able to attend the Juneteenth celebrations throughout the County and the similarly themed Town Tours and Village Walks this summer. For more information about the Juneteenth celebrations and the Town Tours, please visit the Chester County Planning Commission's website at: <https://chescoplanning.org/HisResources/TownTour.cfm>.

James Buczala, Vice-President, CCHPN Board

HOT OFF THE PRESS:

Saving Passtown Elementary School

by Gerald Davis, President, Hayti Historical Society

“Good evening, the Hayti Historical Society, Inc., on behalf of the residents of Valley Township, respectfully requests that the township reconsider and discontinue its efforts to demolish the former Passtown Elementary School, currently the Valley Township Municipal Building.”

That was the opening statement of the May 2019 plea to save the iconic building which was built in 1923 and which has served the Valley Township community for almost one hundred years. The Passtown Elementary School Building was deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office in 2017.

The Passtown Elementary School Building is the last school building remaining from the era of segregation in the Coatesville, Pennsylvania area and perhaps beyond. All the other schools from that era have been demolished (except for the one-room Rainbow school which is currently a Domino's Pizza outlet). During its magnificent lifetime, the Passtown School building has housed a segregated elementary school, an integrated elementary school, a Head Start location, a polling location, a civic meeting place, a community center, and, for decades, the Valley Township Municipal offices.

During the late 1800s, after the Civil War and the emancipation of slaves, African-American settlements in the United States were often called Hayti or Little Haiti after the Island of Haiti. There are African-American communities throughout the United States with the name of “Hayti.” In the 1800s, a small community called Hayti also existed in Valley Township, in the Coatesville, Pennsylvania postal code.

The early 1900s was a time of African-American migration from the southern states to Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and other points north. Most of these immigrants came for employment opportunities. The major employer at the time was the Lukens Steel Company. In 1914, the Valley Township School District built a new one-room Passtown schoolhouse for the colored students. Also, in 1914 the Valley Township School District built a new one-room Rainbow schoolhouse for the white students.

By 1922, the population in Valley Township was growing in both the black and the white communities. Valley Township School District built a new two-room Passtown School Building in 1923.

As was stated in the *Daily Local News* of September 10, 1923: “PASS SCHOOL OPENS MONDAY - The new building to be devoted to the colored scholars of Valley Township will be opened on Monday next, it was learned today. H. W. Thomas, one of the School Directors of Valley Township, says that all will

be in readiness by the time mentioned. The building will greatly relieve the congestion in the schools of the township. The building is of stone and most imposing. It is located on Lincoln Highway, just west of the old school building in Passtown.”

During segregation, Passtown Elementary School, like many other black schools, was a school by day and a community center by night. Because African-Americans were not permitted to participate in, to use, or to attend white activities or venues, the black school and the black church were the centers of the community, and all activities centered around those two insti-



Members of the First Baptist Church of Passtown marching from Passtown Elementary School to their new Church. Photograph courtesy of Martha Ann Mackey.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: Saving Passtown Elementary, Continued

tutions. Passtown School was the heart and center of the Hayti community. “Pass School”, as everyone called it, was where the high-school teen-agers had dances. It was the center of the school and community’s May Day Festival and crowning of the May Queen. Pass School was the temporary location for church services of the First Baptist Church of Passtown in 1954 and 1955, after the church was destroyed by fire. The playground at Pass School was simply known as “the school field”. During the era of segregation, Passtown Elementary School was the singular place for African-American educational, social, athletic, religious, and civic activities.

In the 1954 Supreme Court Decision, *Brown vs The Board of Education*, all schools were ordered to desegregate. In 1957, the Valley Township School Board was ordered by the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Instruction to integrate its schools. After a series of meetings attended by school officials and parents, Valley Township School District integrated Passtown School.

As was stated in the *Coatesville Record* of October 4, 1957: “Integration – an explosive subject in Little Rock, Ark. – was the problem confronting about 150 Negro and white parents who attended a meeting last night at the Rainbow school in Valley twp.

School officials and parents were present. About 25 of the latter stood up and voiced their opinion. Valley twp. police dropped into the meeting but soon realized they weren’t needed.



Passtown Elementary School May Day Festival, wrapping the Maypole. Photograph courtesy of Martha Ann Mackey.



Miss Spann’s 1st and 2nd Grade Class at the Passtown Elementary School, 1952-1953. Photograph courtesy of Toni Barber.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: Saving Passtown Elementary, Continued

The meeting had started at 8 p.m. Two and a half hours later it was over. It was an orderly meeting and when it finished, a plan to end the segregation had been reached.

Unlike in Little Rock, the dispute was not whites versus Negroes on the rights of Negroes to attend the same school as whites. It was fairly well accepted by both groups that integration must be accomplished – the problem was the plan under which it would be brought about.

Several plans had been suggested. Following discussions on them, the School Board announced that a plan, using geographic designations and which had been adopted at a Sept. 24 meeting of the School Board at Westwood School, would go into effect beginning Monday.

In effect, this means that 37 white students will be transferred from the Rainbow School to the Pass School. It also means 52 negro children will be transferred from the Pass School to the Rainbow School.”

Although the State ordered the Valley Township School District to integrate, the residents and parents peacefully negotiated integration in 1957, which is a testament to the goodwill of the people who lived and who still live in Valley Township. There are a lot of things to be proud of in Valley Township, and Passtown School is one of them.

Please support the Hayti Historical Society’s effort to save the building from demolition and to re-purpose it for use as a community center and museum. See www.Haytihistoricalsociety.org. Hayti Historical Society, Inc., 112 Airport Rd #380, Coatesville, PA 19320, 610-384-6131.

Continuing the Lincoln University Legacy through Preservation and Rehabilitation

by Sophia Sotilleo, Assistant Professor and interim Library Director
of the Langston Hughes Memorial Library

The Lincoln University story is one that brings joy and honor to families, Chester County residents, and the faculty, staff, and students connected to its history. Whether we are recalling the Hinsonville community that was once located just a few feet from the 422-acre campus, or walking through the Amos House, named in memory of Sarah Hunter Amos, widow of Thomas Henry Amos who was a graduate of the first class of Ashmun Institute (later renamed Lincoln University in 1866) and an ordained Presbyterian minister, or visiting the historic Hosanna African Union Methodist Protestant Church where numerous meetings took place that helped to shape the work and families connected to the campus, we are sharing these different aspects of the Lincoln story which gives us the opportunity to teach and empower current Lincoln University students.

We are grateful for all the ways we get to share the story, whether through weaving Lincoln’s history into curricular lessons and co-curricular initiatives, or through the wonderful opportunities to preserve and renovate important campus spaces. Several recent grants have allowed us to preserve and to renovate various buildings on campus so that we can continue to tell and highlight the story of Lincoln University.

Black Family Histories Preservation

A \$12,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to Lincoln University provided an incredible opportunity to preserve and provide access to the family histories of those who not only lived in this historic Black community, but who were instrumental in the founding and sustaining of the nation’s first degree-granting Black college and university. The University used the funds from this grant to assist with preserving some of the family histories of the descendants of the residents of Hinsonville, also known as Lincoln University Village. This community was part of an early African-American settlement of free landowners and farmers. The University campus has since surrounded the site of Hinsonville and its surrounding area.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: Lincoln University Legacy, Continued



The Amos House, Lincoln University campus. Photograph courtesy of the Lincoln University website at: <https://www.lincoln.edu/about/maps/campus-buildings>.

The Amos House Rehabilitation

Lincoln University then received a \$500,000 grant from the National Park Service through the African-American Civil Rights Grant Program to renovate the Amos House. The grant will provide a complete renovation and structural rehabilitation of the House, which will be used to serve the community as a Heritage Center that contains historic memorabilia related to the founding of the institution. The historic edifice began in 1870 as a private residence of the Amos family and is located within the proposed Lincoln University Historic District. The house serves as an important historical marker of the aspirations for freedom and equality shared by African-Americans locally and nationwide. The Amos family and other locals helped to build Lincoln University, which has become known for the contributions made by many prominent alumni to the Civil Rights Movement in America. Most importantly, the Amos House was the residence of Charles V. Hamilton in the 1960s. It was in this residence that Charles V. Hamilton and Stokely Carmichael, also known as Kwame Ture, wrote the text "Black Power: The Politics of Liberation."

As we continue to tell the Lincoln Story as part of our strategic plans for the University, we will continue to take part in various opportunities and projects that will help us to preserve the history of the campus and the Lincoln University community. History reminds us that if we don't tell the story, who will? We want to preserve our history so that our stories will continue to live forever not only in our hearts, but on the historic grounds of Lincoln University and in the Chester County community.

FOR THE RECORD:

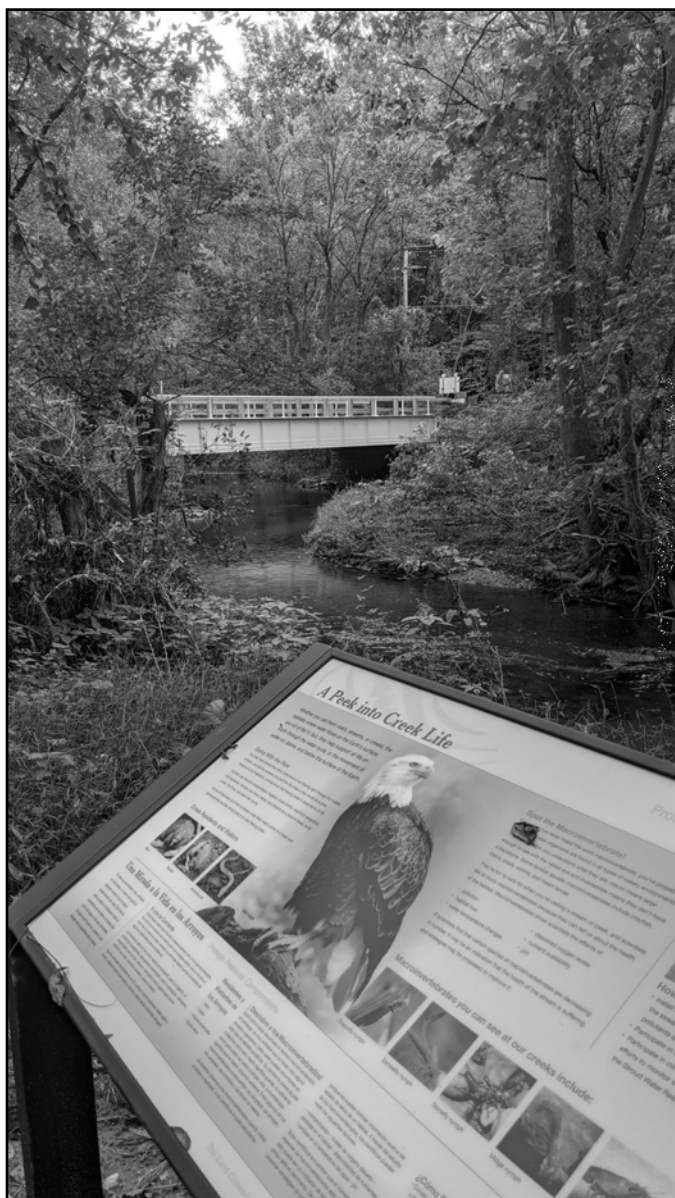
Growth of Large-Scale Protection of Historic Landscapes

by Abbie Kessler, Executive Director, The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County

For many Americans, battlefields are set places marked on a map, but historians have always known that battles don't happen in a vacuum. The Brandywine Battlefield study undertaken by the County is an excellent example of recognizing the movements of troops and locations of small skirmishes in the greater vicinity of the main battle. Now, thanks to the ongoing County work, land trusts can use the research to further support land conservation that permanently protects historic landscapes.

As an area land trust, The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) has always included historic preservation as part of our mission, which is to ensure the perpetual preservation and stewardship of

FOR THE RECORD: Protection of Historic Landscapes, Continued



View of the Chandler Mill Bridge and interpretive sign at the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve. Photograph by Abbie Kessler.

open spaces, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands throughout Southern Chester County. Our first conservation easement in 1999 protected the scenic viewshed of a classic Chester County farmhouse and today, almost a third of our easements protect historic properties with several having direct ties to the Revolutionary War and the Battle of the Brandywine. The past year has seen some great work done by Natural Lands and Brandywine Conservancy, as well, to secure and permanently protect historic landscapes pertaining to the Battle, such as part of Birmingham Hill, and we love celebrating each preservation success story.

As development pressure in Chester County continues to increase, the need for conservation easements on the remaining historic open spaces becomes more critical. Tourism blurbs and descriptions of visits to Chester County always mention the bucolic countryside and rolling hills. This prime farmland that defines the region is also prime for development and protecting this historic farming and industrial landscape defining Chester County remains a critical need. In many areas of Chester County, land preservation efforts can work to protect the larger landscape despite the breaking up of historic farmsteads by conserving smaller lots (ten to twenty acres) in corridors. These conservation corridors can successfully create large blocks of protected land with minimal development and provide the scenic viewshed and natural resource benefits of protecting one large property. TLC has established conservation corridors that have expanded over the years to be over 300 acres each, despite being made up of a mix of five to fifteen different conservation easements and fee lands.

Also of importance is the unwritten history of populations often left out of the history books. In 2016, TLC received a generous donation of property that established our Chandler Mill Nature Preserve located at our offices. Our neighbor had created his own private preserve by slowly acquiring land and creating a 300+ acre property managed for the natural resources and protec-

tion of the water quality of the Bucktoe and West Branch of the Red Clay Creeks in Kennett and New Garden Townships. The forty-two acres donated to TLC contain several historic sites including three archaeological sites of African-American homes. Research by Jane E. Dorchester, Architectural Historian, for the now designated Lower Red Clay Creek Local Historic District, documented these properties and the evolution of the parcels and ownership through the years. These three homes were built by free African-Americans prior to the Civil War, and their integrity, maintained via the protection of the land, provides a future opportunity to explore the lifestyle of African-American landowners in Chester County.

The Chandler Mill Nature Preserve provides protection not only for Chester County's farming landscape, but also for the complementary industrial landscape with the eponymous Chandler's Mill. The mill site has an approximate location and archaeological exploration has begun to verify the historical record. What is

FOR THE RECORD: Protection of Historic Landscapes, Continued

still visible on the landscape and is part of the Local Historic District are the mill race, mill pond, and dam. The mill pond dam on the West Branch of the Red Clay Creek is still visible, and trees on the banks have grown over and are holding in place some of the large rocks that were part of the structure.

At the base of the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve is the 110-year-old Chandler Mill Bridge, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and was recently rehabilitated by Kennett Township. Visitors to the preserve, located at 541 Chandler Mill Rd, Avondale, PA, can park and enjoy a walk on one of two public trails that allow for enjoyment of the historic landscape. A small meadow loop runs partially along the former mill race and then loops along the Red Clay Creek whose waters would have powered Chandler's Mill.

Visitors can then walk across the Chandler Mill Bridge, stop to look for tracks on the bank and fish in the water, and then take the Cemetery Trail along the Bucktoe Creek. This trail provides views of the former farmland of the African-American landowners, which is now managed as a natural meadow for wildlife as part of the larger Audubon Important Bird Area of which the land is part. The trail then ends at the historic Bucktoe Cemetery, home to approximately 120 residents including eight to ten veterans of the Civil War Colored Troops. Bucktoe Cemetery is owned by the New Garden Memorial UAME Church, now located in Kennett Square. Both Chandler Mill Nature Preserve and Bucktoe Cemetery are open to visitors daily from dawn to dusk. Please respect the land and remain on the designated trails while on the Preserve and within the Cemetery fence. There are over ten original headstones including two be-

longing to USCT veterans. To learn more about the Preserve or Bucktoe Cemetery, please visit tlcforscc.org.

The landscape of the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve may not have the national significance of the Brandywine Battlefield, but its local history is a vital element of Chester County's identity and is intricately tied to the land. Continuing to connect land preservation efforts not just to the natural resource and wildlife benefits, but to the historic landscape only strengthens the region's highly successful open space efforts. Hopefully, the area land trusts, municipalities, and residents will continue to work together and expand the protection of historic landscapes, whether it involves working with one property or many, to ensure Chester County retains the character for which it is known.



Headstone of Corporal William Jackson at the Bucktoe Cemetery. Photograph by Abbie Kessler.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Defining the 1790s Agricultural Landscape through the Tax Assessment Records by Seth Hinshaw

Introduction

When researching an older property in Chester County, I have found that the township tax records from 1796 to 1838 often provide specific information about buildings which is useful for estimating the date of the farmhouse or its additions and understanding what the property looked like at that time. Of all these years, the tax schedules that usually provide the most information are 1796 and 1799. For this article, I went through the 1796 tax returns for all townships in Chester County and collected the statistics on all non-domestic buildings.

The information collected by the townships varies in its level of detail. For instance, ten townships reported the value of all improvements on a property collectively as “buildings,” without breaking them out. Even when townships provided extra information on buildings, its quality varied. Some townships’ statistics focused only on the house and barn. Thornbury, for example, reported only houses and barns, while Sadsbury reported seventy-one barns and thirteen other nonresidential buildings, in addition to houses. Altogether, the



A “Connecticut” corncrib. Photograph by Seth Hinshaw.

twenty-eight townships that broke out buildings in the 1796 tax records reported 3,338 buildings. Of these, barns represented 54% of the reported buildings (1,807), followed by spring-houses (298 or 9%), stables (282 or 8%), and mills (220 or 7%). The remaining buildings fall into the general categories of agricultural out-buildings, industrial resources, and resources related to trades. Because the domestic and industrial resources vary widely, I am not writing about them in this article but may write about them in a future article. A total of seventy-seven building types were mentioned in 1796, a remarkable array that gives a sense of the overall complexity of the county’s appearance at that time. An examination of the results of this snapshot in time provides information to help us understand how Chester County’s agricultural landscape changed over the years.

Barns

Barns, of course, were the most prevalent agricultural building in Chester County history. We often hear that people would build their barn before building their house, which may be a good general rule but can give a distorted understanding of when a particular barn was built because the earlier barns tended to be replaced. In 1796, many townships identified barns “cellared under,” which may refer to a bank barn as opposed to the “ground barn,” a common colonial barn type that rarely survives in Chester County. London Grove Township reported one house and barn “under one roof,” the only such combination mentioned in 1796.

Several years ago, Margaret Schiffer collected information from the 1798 Federal Direct (Glass) Tax to show that two-thirds of the barns then standing in Chester County were log, meaning that most extant barns here date to the Nineteenth Century. The statistics from 1796 confirm this analysis. The following paragraphs

FROM THE ARCHIVES: 1790s Agricultural Landscape, Continued



Stone springhouse. Photograph by Seth Hinshaw.

discuss barns built of log, frame, and stone. In 130 cases, townships did not identify the building material of specific barns, a number that is artificially high due to the fact that West Fallowfield did not identify the building material of any of its seventy barns. Also seven brick barns were scattered throughout the county in 1796.

Townships reported 1,108 log barns, or 61% of all barns in 1796 in the twenty-eight townships analyzed here (remember that ten townships did not separate out barns). Although log barns were prevalent throughout Chester County, they were less common in

some townships. This was particularly true in East Caln, London Grove, East Marlborough, Thornbury, Willistown, Westtown, and East Whiteland. Log barns dominated other townships such as New London (96% of all barns), Londonderry (94%), East Nottingham (88%), Oxford (87%), and Brandywine and East Fallowfield (84% in each).

The second most prevalent building material for barns in 1796 was stone, with 328 reported examples (18% of all barns in the county). Stone barns were particularly common in East Whiteland (52% of all barns) and East Caln (46%), with smaller but substantial concentrations in Charlestown, East Nantmeal, Willistown, and East Whiteland.

Chester County reported 234 frame barns (13% of all barns). These heavy timber-framed barns are fairly common today, but again the majority of them had not been built in 1796. Frame barns were prevalent in a band of townships in southern Chester County: Kennett (69% of the township's barns), East Marlborough (63%), Thornbury (50%), Willistown (46%), West Marlborough (44%), and East Bradford (32%). This geographical concentration suggests that a barn builder in the area specialized in frame barns in the late Eighteenth Century.

Agricultural outbuildings

Barns could be considered a building combining a stable, hay house, granary, and corncrib. Agricultural outbuildings were addendum to barns and were intended for the housing of livestock or food for livestock. These buildings are the types of buildings typically found in a farmstead.

The most common type of agricultural outbuilding was the stable. Townships reported 282 stables. These buildings had the appearance of small barns, providing only stalls for the livestock but no hay or grain storage. A large number of stables stood on properties without a barn, which suggests that they were built while the farmer saved money to build the barn. Townships reported 218 log stables (77% of all stables). The townships reporting the most log stables were East Nantmeal (45), Uwchlan (40), East Whiteland (19), and Charlestown (17). Nine townships reported no stables, but they were also the same townships that reported the fewest buildings other than barns. Stone stables (39) were reported in twelve townships, with nearly half in Uwchlan (11) and East Whiteland (6). Unlike log stables, stone stables were more commonly located on

FROM THE ARCHIVES: 1790s Agricultural Landscape, Continued

properties that had a barn. Townships also reported two frame stables and twenty-three stables of unspecified building materials.

The hay house was an occasional building reported in 1796, with twenty-four examples from nine townships. The leading townships were East Caln (7), West Marlborough (5), and Uwchlan (4). Only the Whitelands reported on granaries (5) and corncribs (10).

The other type of agricultural outbuilding comprised structures for various types of animals. The historic function of these structures is generally difficult to ascertain today. Townships reported 20 hog houses (16 in the Whitelands), 5 sheep houses, 4 bee houses, 6 bovine buildings (3 cow sheds, 1 calf house, and 1 cow house), 3 hen houses, 1 stone dog house, and 1 horse shed.

Another type of outbuilding was used for the storage of different types of riding implements (total of 83). In 1796, townships only reported 48 wagon houses and 6 wagon sheds, with 34 of them coming from Uwchlan and the Whitelands. Similar buildings included 20 cart houses (East Caln and West Whiteland); 6 chair houses; 2 coach houses; and 1 carriage house. A century later, the wagon shed was one of the most common resource types in farmsteads; they were built with two stone walls connected with a frame roof. This information suggests that the wagon sheds we see today are primarily Nineteenth Century resources.

Conclusion

This article reviews the array of agricultural buildings mentioned in the 1796 township assessment records in Chester County. This information gives you a sense of what would have been found on Eighteenth Century farmsteads; although obviously not all of these resources were found on every farm. It also gives you some parameters for estimating the construction dates of some of the agricultural resources, which is always a challenge to do.

Hinsonville and the Underground Railroad in Chester County by Nafeesa Muhammad, Professor of History, Lincoln University

The rise of the Underground Railroad (UGRR) in American memory coincides with the abolition of the slavery movement in the Mid-Atlantic states. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was one of the first to pass the Gradual Abolition Act in 1780, amid the American Revolution, whose main purpose was to prevent the importation of slaves into the state, and mandated that all children born to African-American parents were free. Still, the practice of slavery remained embedded in Pennsylvania. But the Act also allowed for a growing free Black community that was essential to the sustenance of the UGRR, which established and figuratively paved the road to freedom for some Blacks escaping the drudgeries of slavery.

An example of how Blacks aided the UGRR's mission can be found in the narrative of Hinsonville. This town, located just minutes from the Borough of Oxford, is primarily in what is now the grounds of Lincoln University, which was founded in 1854, a the first degree-granting historically Black college/university (HBCU) in the country. A self-sustaining Black community arose in this area when Edward Walls, who was born free in Maryland in 1793, purchased several acres of land in 1829 and encouraged his family members and other free Blacks to develop the lands. Among the first inhabitants were Emory Hinson (for whom Hinsonville was named) and Tillman Valentine, Sr. (whose son eventually served in the Third U.S. Colored Troop regiment for the Union Army during the Civil War). By the mid-Nineteenth Century, Hinsonville's free Black population was relatively small with less than one hundred African-American families. Yet, some of these residents made it a priority to assist in the UGRR's efforts and collaborated with abolitionists including Quakers such as the Hambleton and Kent families.

During the antebellum period, which spanned the first half of the Nineteenth Century, abolitionists accelerated their mission to help fugitive slaves escape north, even to places outside America such as Canada, Nova Scotia, and Liberia. Finding refuge beyond the United States was especially important since many

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Underground Railroad in Chester County, Continued



The Hosanna African Union Methodist Protestant Church in Lincoln University. Photograph by Shelley Mix.

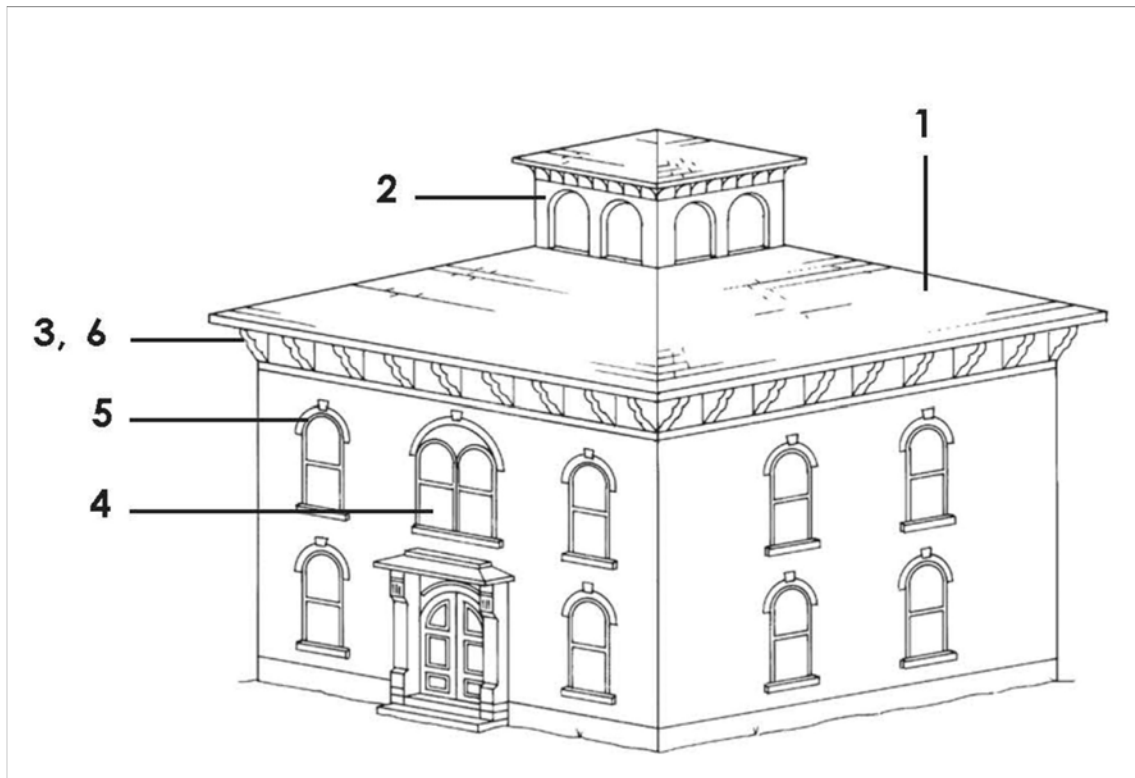
escaped slaves were often captured in the free states in which they sought refuge. Many were sent back to enslavement with the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. This act specifically mandated that whites aid in the capture of fugitive slaves, whether they supported slavery or not. Failure to comply led to harsh penalties such as imprisonment. Free Blacks had to be careful because they also risked being seized as slaves. The tragic truth was that no black person, enslaved or free, could disregard slavery. Even the Hinson family ultimately migrated to Canada. The vulnerability of free Blacks was not only due to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, however, but had roots

in the late Eighteenth Century when cotton gradually became a “king” crop in the South; that led to the insatiable desire for new slaves. Free Blacks who resided in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey were often victims in what is known as the domestic or interstate slave trade.

As such, not only did Black residents in Hinsonville have to worry about the fate of escaped slaves travelling the UGRR, but they had to take precautions to ensure that they did not get snared into slavery. Dr. Edwin Fussell, who was a resident of Chester County and participated in the UGRR at its apex, spoke to the discrete nature of how “trains” operated, perhaps to protect both runaways and the free Blacks who were aiding them. “I do not think there were signs, grips, signals, or passes by which fugitives were known. . . . The movements were almost always made in the night, and the fugitives were taken from one station to another by wagon and sometimes by foot. They consisted of old men and young women, children, and nursing babes.” The fact that the UGRR operated best at night may have even decreased chances of sabotage, capture, and even death for all involved, regardless of race. Dr. Fussell further explained that “danger beset us at every step in the dark.”

Undoubtedly, some of these escaped persons came through Hinsonville’s historic Hosanna African Union Methodist Protestant Church (or Hosanna A.U.M.P. Church) which was a station of the UGRR. The church is still standing but has few members. To prevent getting caught, fugitive slaves often hid in a tunnel located under the pulpit. Established in 1843, Hosanna joined the ranks of the independent African-American Protestant Churches that arose after the Revolutionary War, and it became the religious epicenter of Hinsonville’s free Black community. It also served as a meetinghouse for the Clarkson Society, which was Chester County’s first anti-slavery organization. In addition, notable African-Americans such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth visited or passed through Hosanna. While much of the Hinsonville community has been absorbed into the campus of Lincoln University, Hosanna remains a historic edifice representing a once self-sustaining Black community that stood at the intersection of slavery and freedom.

ITEMS OF INTEREST: Architectural Style Guide: Italianate



Italianate: c. 1840–1885

1. Low pitched, hipped, or flat roof with overhanging eaves
2. Square cupola or belvedere
3. Decorated cornice under overhanging eaves
4. Tall, narrow windows (may be paired) with flat, segmental, or full arches
5. Decorative window hoods
6. Scrolled brackets at cornice

Other Features:

- Two or more stories
- Porches
- Commercial buildings with cast iron facades

(Excerpted from the Chester County Planning Commission's 1998 Preserving Our Places: *Historic Preservation Planning Manual for Chester County Communities* - <http://pa-chestercounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/3756>.)

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!!!SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

2021 Chester County Historic Preservation Network Virtual Heritage Series

Our CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series will highlight the rich culture and heritage of Chester County monthly throughout 2021!

Webinars will take place “**Live at Five**” on the **Third Thursday** of each month.

Scheduled Programs for 2021 include:

March 18 ~ Duffy’s Cut of Malvern

April 15 ~ Preservation 101: Historic But Not Significant

May 20 ~ The Gardner-Beale House of Caln Township

*For more information on registration for the 2021 programs,
please go to the CCHPN website: CCHPN.org.*

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

2021 CCHPN EVENTS

**Sat., April 10th Virtual Leadership Luncheon
(8:30 am-12:30 pm)**

**Wed., June 23rd Annual Preservation Awards
(Details TBD)**

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About Our Cover Illustration: Sunnyside and the Fussell-Lewis Family

We chose Sunnyside in West Vincent Township as the cover illustration because it is the homestead of the Fussell-Lewis family that embodied this issue’s theme of “diversity.” The Fussell-Lewis Family was a prominent Quaker family that embraced Abolitionism early in its career and that was a long-time active participant in the Underground Railroad. In addition, it produced the first female naturalist of any note in Chester County.

John Lewis married Esther Fussell in 1818 and they had five children, one of whom died young. John Lewis died in 1824, leaving Esther with four children under the age of five. Instead of remarrying as soon as possible to gain the protection and support of a man, she single-handedly raised her four daughters and operated her farm so successfully that she was able to build houses for three of them. All the while, she remained an avid supporter of Abolitionism and an active member of the Underground Railroad.

When Esther died in 1848, her daughter Graceanna inherited Sunnyside. Not only did Graceanna continue her family’s activities in the Abolition Movement and the Underground Railroad, she was also active in the Temperance and Women’s Rights Movements. In addition, after the Civil War, she became a noted naturalist. She accomplished this achievement at a time when all intellectual pursuits were dominated by men. It was not just a glass ceiling that she had to contend with, it was a granite one! In spite of the lack of a formal education, she was able to break through that ceiling with determination, talent, and grace, becoming in her own lifetime, a well-respected botanist and ornithologist not only on the county-level, but on the state-level, too.

If you would like to learn more about Sunnyside, Graceanna, and the Fussell-Lewis Family, the West Vincent Historical Commission and Historic Committee are sponsoring one of the Town Tours this summer which will focus on the family. For more information, please see pages 18-19. The illustration is by artist Ann Bedrick, a member of the CCHPN Board of Directors.

BULLETIN BOARD:

CELEBRATE "JUNETEENTH" 2021!!

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network, Voices Underground, the Chester County History Center, and the County of Chester are working together to create a county-wide event to recognize and celebrate our rich heritage of embracing social justice and equality. The theme of the celebration is ***Journeying Toward Freedom: Remembering the Past, Embracing the Present, Creating the Future***. It will be celebrated in a multi-day, county-wide festival highlighting the history of the Abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad in the 19th Century. The story does not stop there, however, and sites across the county are invited to present programs that focus on ongoing efforts to continue the journey toward equality for all.

Program Dates:

June 17. **Kick Off:** The celebration will begin on June 17 when the first of the summer-long Town Tours and Village Walks sets off from the History Center in West Chester.

June 18 – 20. **Headline Events:** The headline events for the Juneteenth weekend will include national speakers and performers, as well as smaller events in the Kennett Area.

June 20 – July 4. **County-wide Celebrations:** The Juneteenth Celebration will provide a showcase for the stories of the Underground Railroad, the anti-slavery movement, and ongoing actions toward achieving racial justice that are embedded in the county's heritage.

Historic sites and commissions, museums, and related institutions are invited to participate in this celebration with the stories *you* wish to tell. The Juneteenth Team will feature your celebration(s) on a Master Calendar.

For more information, please email:
Beverly Sheppard at beverly@bksheppard.com.

Town Tours and Village Walks 2021 Journeying Toward Freedom 27 Years of Celebrating Chester County's History June 17 – August 12, 2021

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through the Chester County Planning Commission, the Chester County History Center, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 27th summer of sharing Chester County's heritage during the annual TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS.

Join us this summer to explore Chester County's heritage on Thursday evenings, June 17 – August 12, during the annual Town Tours and Village Walks program. Chester County's founding on the Quaker principles of tolerance and necessary civil disobedience, coupled with the boundary dispute with Maryland and the drawing of the fateful Mason and Dixon Line, established our community as a leader in this country's struggle to end the blight of slavery and truly recognize that all people are created equal. This summer, you are invited to visit the historic sites in our county where this national struggle has a local voice. We will be offering a combination of virtual programs and limited walking tours. Virtual programs will begin "Live at 5," and in-person walking tours will run from 5:30 – 8:00 PM Thursday evenings during the summer.

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free." With the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, all formerly enslaved people in the United States were free. However, with the southern states in rebellion, the abolition of slavery was not accepted by all parts of the Confederacy until after the War ended. The last place to hear the news officially was Texas, where Union General George Gordon announced the news at Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. Thereafter, "Juneteenth" was celebrated regionally every year, but is now celebrated throughout the U. S.

Town Tours and Village Walks is being presented as part of the Juneteenth Festival in Chester County as we remember our struggle for Civil Rights and recommit ourselves to continuing the journey towards freedom in our own time.

BULLETIN BOARD:

Schedule of Town Tours and Village Walks 2021 Journeying Toward Freedom 27 Years of Celebrating Chester County's History June 17 – August 12, 2021

Starting in April, for updated information and a complete calendar of events, please refer to the Town Tours and Village Walks Webpage at: <https://chescoplanning.org/HisResources/TownTour.cfm>

June 17

Town Tours and Village Walks and Juneteenth Commemoration Kick-Off

Virtual Program and Walking Tour: Virtual program will feature William Kashatus, author of *William Still: The Underground Railroad and the Angel at Philadelphia*. Walking tours will focus on the history of civil rights in West Chester.

Sponsored by Chester County Planning Commission, Chester County History Center, and West Chester Historical Commission

June 24

Virtual Program: Walking in Harriet Tubman's Footsteps with Ken Johnston

Sponsored by Kennett Heritage Center

July 1

Walking Tour: Abolitionists and the Eusebius Barnard House

Sponsored by Pocopson Historical Committee and Friends of Barnard Station

July 8

Virtual Program: The Parker Sisters Kidnapping and Rescue with Roberta McManus

Sponsored by East Nottingham Historical Commission

July 15

Walking Tour: In the Aftermath of the Civil War

Sponsored by Historic Yellow Springs

July 22

Walking Tour: The Lewis-Fussell Family Story

Sponsored by West Vincent Historical Commission and West Vincent Historic Committee

July 29

Virtual Program: Traveling the Proposed People of Conscience, People of Faith Trail with Karen Marshall and Robert Seely

Sponsored by Chester County Planning Commission

August 5

Walking Tour: The History of the Welsh Baptist Historic District and the Mason-Dixon Line

Sponsored by London Britain Historical Commission and Friends of White Clay Creek

August 12

Virtual Program: Exploring Our Civil Rights from Past to Present: The Underground Railroad to Unionville High School

Sponsored by Kennett Heritage Center and Friends of Barnard Station

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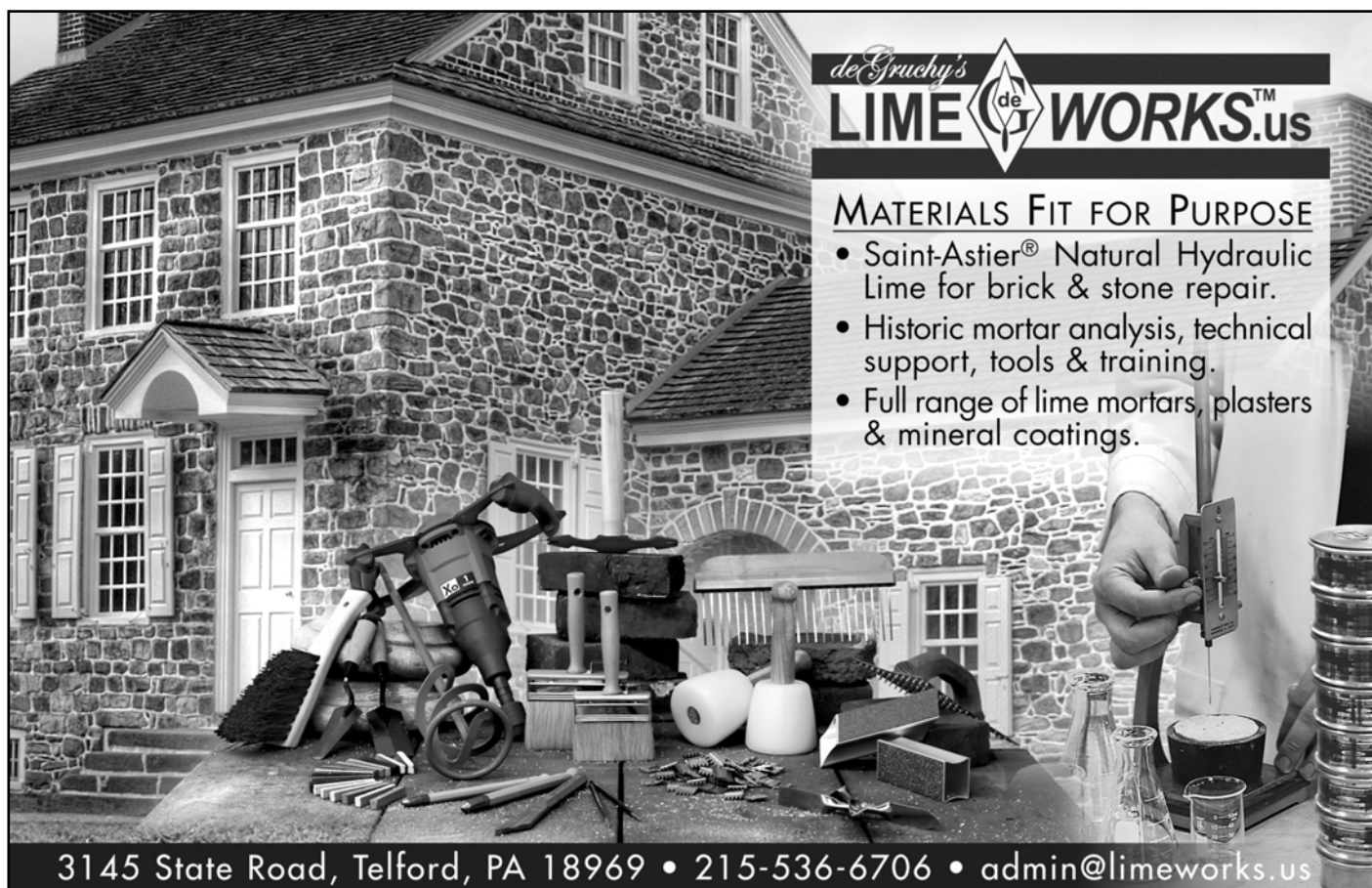
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