

Preserving the Historic Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region

A Practical Guide for Identifying, Documenting,
Researching, Interpreting, and Protecting Historic
Buildings and Landscapes in South Central Pennsylvania

By

Steven Burg, Sierra Harvey, and Dominic Curcio, Shippensburg University

Christine Musser, Independent Scholar and Historic Preservation Consultant

Elizabeth Grant, Cumberland County Planning Department

Frank Grumbine, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Holly Smith, Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability

David Smith, Cumberland County Historical Society

Bryan Van Sweden, retired, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission



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SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP
CONSERVATION NETWORK

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Companion Videos

Below are the links to four historic sessions held as part of the “Empowering Communities to Preserve Historic Resources in the South Mountain Region Workshop Series” (April, June, September and October 2024) and three recorded presentations delivered as part of the “Untold Stories of the South Mountain Region Speaker Series” (Fall 2024):

Links to Historic Preservation Workshop Recordings

Workshop Title	Location	Date/Time	Recording
#1 – The Value of Historic Preservation for the South Mountain Region	Stewart Hall, Shippensburg University	May 7, 2024 5pm-7pm	Link to Recording
#2 – Identifying Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region	Foundation House, New Cumberland Public Library	June 13, 2024 5pm-7pm	Link to Recording
#3 – Researching Historic Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region	Todd Hall, Cumberland County Historical Society	September 17, 2024 5pm-7pm	Link to Recording
#4 – Resources and Funding to Preserve Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region	Cameron-Masland Mansion, Kings Gap State Park	October 29, 2024 5pm-7pm	Link to Recording

Links to Untold Stories Presentations

Workshop Title	Presenter	Date/Time	Recording
African American Sites and Resources	Samantha Dorm	October 9, 2024 7pm-8pm	Link to Recording
Native American Sites and Resources	Joe Baker	October 23, 2024 7pm-8pm	Link to Recording
LGBTQ+ Sites and Resources	Barry Loveland	November 14, 2024 7pm-8pm	Link to Recording

These recordings are available on the Center for Land Use and Sustainability YouTube page [here](#).

Table of Contents

Companion Videos & Presentations	2
Foreword: Empowering Individuals and Communities to Preserve Place that Matter in the South Mountain Region	5
Chapter 1: Why Historic Preservation in the South Mountain Region?	
Section I: Preservation in the South Mountain Region	6
Section II: The Benefits of Historic Preservation	7
Section III: Historic Preservation in Action: Two Case Studies	9
Section IV: Building Your Team	14
Section V: Resources to Help You Get Started	14
Section VI: Additional Readings	16
Section VII: References	16
Chapter 2: What Do We Want to Preserve?	
Section I: We Cannot Save It All: Making Choices About What Places Matter	18
Section II: Existing Databases of Historic Resources	19
Section III: Ask Your Community Members: What Places Matter to Them?	25
Section IV: A Few Words About Places That Matter and the National Register of Historic Places	28
Section V: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter	31
Chapter 3: Telling the Whole Story: Intentional Preservation to Identify and Preserving Places Associated with Untold Stories	
Section I: Being Intentional About Preserving Untold Stories	32
Section II: Tools for Identifying Places and Spaces that Tell Untold Stories	33
Places Connected with Women's History	36
Places Connected with African American History	40
Places Connected with Native American History	43
Places Connected with LGBTQ+ History	48
Other Untold Stories	
Places Connected with disABILITY History	51

	4
Places Connected with Immigration History	52
Sacred Spaces	53
Section III: Additional Resources	54
Section IV: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter	54
Section V: References	56
Chapter 4: Researching the History of the Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region	
Section I: Getting Started: The Power of Stories	59
Section II: Defining Your Goals & Organizing Your Research	59
Section III: The Sources That Can Tell Your Building's Story: Step by Step	61
Section IV: Sharing Your Research	71
Section V: Additional Resources	73
Section VI: Virtual Resources Mentioned in Chapter	73
Section VII: References	75
Chapter 5: Tools, Resources, and funding Sources for Preserving Places that Matter	
Section I: Preservation PA's "How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places that Matter to You"	76
Section II: Generating Public Awareness of Historic Places: Sharing Your Research	76
Section III: Seeking Official Designations for Historic Places that Matter	78
Section IV: County Government Technical and Financial Support for Local Preservation	83
Section V: State Government Technical and Financial Support for Local Preservation	86
Section VI: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter	89
Conclusion: Working Together to Protect the Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region	91

Foreword: Empowering Individuals and Communities to Preserve Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region

In the summer of 2023, local preservation advocate Christine Musser convened a Zoom call with representatives of Shippensburg University History Department, the Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability, the Cumberland County Historical Society, the Cumberland County Planning Department, and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office to discuss ways to increase historic preservation activity in the region.

After much discussion and brainstorming, the group envisioned building a network of municipalities, historical organizations, and grassroots residents across the region who could focus on preserving the places that they cared about in their own communities. The group also decided to link our work with the great work already underway through the South Mountain Partnership that included efforts to identify and preserve cultural resources across four counties. The South Mountain Partnership generously provided a South Mountain Partnership Mini-Grant that supported our public education efforts.

Our project began in the spring of 2024 with a public survey we used to gauge the interests and needs of local preservation advocates. More than 500 people responded to our survey. We then developed a series of workshops that sought to address the issues and concerns that area residents had mentioned in their surveys. In the summer of 2024, we received a second grant that helped us to expand our work to encompass the identification and preservation of historic places that connected to the “untold stories” of the South Mountain Region region.

From the start, we knew we wanted to gather and share information and resources with those who might just be starting out doing preservation work in their own communities. We wanted to provide guidance that would help them get started, and to have easy access to the wealth of information and resources that could help them to advance that work.

We designed this handbook to be a practical resource for our friends and neighbors in the South Mountain Region who care about protecting the historic buildings and landscapes that define the character of our region. We hope that you find it useful as you work to preserve, protect, and share the historic places that matter to you.

Chapter 1: Why Historic Preservation in the South Mountain Region?

Section I: Preservation in the South Mountain Region

Living in the South Mountain region of Central Pennsylvania, we enjoy a landscape with a rich history and great natural beauty. We interact with buildings and landscapes that embody the stories of our communities. Every day our world is made more beautiful and interesting by living, working, and recreating in a region where historic buildings and landscapes are a part of our lives.

Yet, at the same time, the economic vitality, central location, and quality of life of our region makes it a magnet for growth and new construction. The new housing developments, warehouses, and shopping plazas that have sprung up throughout our region often come at a cost; the potential destruction of our historic buildings, farms, farmland, and open spaces is often the result of growth. Growth brings other changes, including more traffic, and greater demand on local institutions and resources. These changes can impact the ways our communities look, feel, and function, and as result, we need to be thoughtful and intentional as we plan for the future.



Farmland Along Trindle Road, Cumberland County, Photograph by Christine Clepper Musser

As individuals and communities, we can play a vital role in shaping the identities and futures of our communities. We should consider how to balance smart growth, the desire for good jobs, and the need for quality, affordable housing with a desire to retain the spaces and places in our region that are important to us. We should decide whether we demolish historic buildings or find ways to adapt and reuse them. Working together with our local governments and community organizations, we have the power to participate in defining the identities of our communities.

Part of the work of good intentional planning is identifying and protecting those buildings, landscapes, and structures that are essential to the identity and character of our communities. When we think of towns like Carlisle, Mechanicsburg, Newville, Shippensburg, Chambersburg, Gettysburg, Camp Hill, Lemoyne, Enola, New Cumberland, Mt. Holly Springs, or Newburg we

might picture the distinctive collection of historic buildings that line their main streets. Our regions' expansive rural areas are another defining example of our community's identity.



Barnitz Mill, Photograph by Christine Clepper Musser

The historical structures and landscapes —that have emerged and survived across the centuries— give each place its own appearance, feel, and legacy. Collectively, they make the South Mountain region a truly distinctive place. Our interaction with those landscapes shapes our lives, thinking, and sense of the world around us.

Generally the National Park Service defines sites that are over fifty years old as **historic** and potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Some historic structures may be significant to our communities because of their associations with people or events from the past or because of their remarkable architecture. Other buildings may not be connected with famous people or important events and may lack distinctive architecture, but may contribute to the overall feel and character of the places where we live. We cannot protect everything, so we need to consider which are the places that matter to us and that best tell our stories.

For those who care deeply about this region, it is vital we play an active role in helping to influence the future of our communities. This includes playing an active role in helping to decide which historic places and spaces are protected. This is the definition of **historic preservation**.

Section II: The Benefits of Historic Preservation

There are many reasons why someone might care about preserving historic places. Sometimes it is just a feeling—a desire to preserve things that are old, special, familiar, or meaningful to us.

Here are some of the other reasons that people devote their time, energy, and money to protecting historic places in our communities:

Structures and places tell a story of who we are and where we came from. When we preserve historic structures and landscapes, we connect these places with people and stories of the past. Their forms, materials, and uses reflect people and times gone by and remind us about meaningful moments in our community's past. Historic artifacts offer a tangible connection to times gone by. Stepping foot into a historic building or strolling the grounds walked by those before us allow us to experience connections to people of the past in a way that other sources cannot. Our historic structures can tell us of the trials and tribulations previous generations faced, as well as their accomplishments. Preserving historic places also allows future generations to experience this sense of connection. These places are unique, and once they are gone the educational experiences and connections they offer can never be replaced.

Historic places give South Mountain communities a “sense of place.” There is something wonderful and distinctive about the towns, villages, farms, and open spaces of the South Mountain area. Our region is much more than clusters of generic strip malls and fast-food restaurants. Instead, as we walk, bike, or drive through different communities, we are struck by the unique way the mixture of old and new buildings, the arrangements of the streets, the carefully crafted open spaces, and the popular landmarks we see signal that we are in a particular community. Driving along a highway, we spot familiar farms and landmarks. These landscapes provide us with associations that ground us. Historic structures are not just “old buildings,” but are visual and emotional cues that anchor our sense of place in the South Mountain region.

Historic structures provide a source of beauty in our communities. Not all historic structures are beautiful. Some are purely functional, and others can be eyesores. However, many historic structures exhibit architectural elements, a variety of local materials, and detailed craftsmanship that is wonderful to behold. For example, we might smile at the quirky colors and gingerbread features of a Victorian residence, or admire the clean lines, symmetry, and carefully dressed limestone of an eighteenth-century stone building. All around us in the South Mountain region, we are surrounded by buildings that are truly works of art. They are examples of folk-art, skilled craftsmanship, and local ingenuity. Historic preservation encourages us to look more carefully at the amazing structures that surround us.

Old buildings can be economic engines for our local communities. The charm and character of our historic structures—particularly when combined with our region's remarkable natural resources—offers a powerful draw for tourists who bring revenue to our community's businesses. Additionally, older buildings can provide an important source of affordable housing in our communities and can be an appealing option to younger families and first-time home buyers. Older store fronts may also offer less expensive rents, and thus provide affordable incubators for startup businesses and small shops that cannot afford new construction. The adaptation and rehabilitation of older buildings provides employment for local contractors and

tradespeople who live and work in our communities. Finally, it is important to note that both the state and federal governments offer tax credits for the restoration of historical buildings that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Section III: Historic Preservation in Action: Two Case Studies

Case Study #1: The Shippensburg Public Library: Adapting a Historic Building at a Community's Center



The Shippensburg Public Library's decision to adapt and continue to use its historic building rather than construct a new building provides a useful case study of the value of historic preservation.

The historic Stewart House mansion on West King Street had been the Shippensburg Public Library's home since 1957. The building stands on land that had been owned by the Rippey family in the eighteenth century, and that had been the site of Samuel Rippey's Black Horse Tavern where George Washington stopped for lunch on his way to quell the Whisky Rebellion of 1794. In 1880, George Stewart Sr. purchased the land to construct a mansion in the Second Empire style. In the 1930s, the house was remodeled with a Colonial Revival appearance inspired by a visit to Colonial Williamsburg. After the Shippensburg Public Library acquired the house from the Stewart family in 1957, there was only one significant alteration: an addition to the building's east side erected in 1968. By 2005, it was determined that the Shippensburg Public Library needed either to significantly remodel the existing building or build a new building at a different location. Library officials began exploring their options.

Some members of the Shippensburg community were troubled by the possibility of the Shippensburg Public Library leaving the Stewart House. The Stewart House is located on King Street, which functions as the main street and hub of community life for the town of Shippensburg. Citizens of the town were worried that if the Shippensburg Public Library moved

to a location off King Street the downtown would suffer. Since 1957, the Shippensburg Public Library has been a place for the residents of Shippensburg to gather and learn. For many residents, the library was the heart of a pedestrian-friendly downtown.



Losing the library would alter the character of downtown Shippensburg and give people one less reason to go downtown. The library board had to carefully weigh issues of cost, access, parking, public sentiments, and the impact of the move on the Shippensburg community.

After a great deal of community discussion on the topic, officials planned for an eight million dollar renovation of the Stewart House. To solve the parking issue, a property across Branch Creek was acquired. However, due to delays and the economic recession of 2008, the Shippensburg Public Library had to shave \$2 million off the budget. In 2009, the extensive restoration and expansion project of the Stewart House began. A 6,000 square foot addition was planned for the back of the Stewart House to create more usable space. In the original structure, new electrical and life safety systems were added. A new heating and cooling system and an elevator were added to make the building more accessible. These much-needed renovations brought the building up to code and opened it up to more users. The Shippensburg Public Library also took the opportunity to bring the digital and telecommunications networks up to date to provide better internet service for patrons.

The project was funded by a combination of \$2 million of Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grants and \$500,000 of Keystone Grant Funding. Also, the Library received donations from the local community to help fund the project. Overall, the Shippensburg Public Library raised a total of \$6 million. The restoration is an example of how historic preservation can preserve a historic structure and give it a new, useful life. Shippensburg residents gained a great new library while maintaining the vitality of the community's historic downtown.

Case Study #2: The Bell Tavern: Losing a Precious Historic Site

The demolition of the Bell Tavern in Silver Spring Township caught the local community by surprise. For 237 years, the beautiful limestone structure stood along Carlisle Pike. It withstood the heavy traffic that increased over the years and the transformation of a muddy road into a major highway spanning, U.S. Route 11, from Harrisburg to the Potomac River. The building was admired locally as an attractive eighteenth century limestone building.

The Bell Tavern was also historically significant as the site of the Stony Ridge Convention of antifederalists in 1788, a meeting that included Benjamin Blythe of Shippensburg and Robert Whitehill of Cumberland County. The Stony Ridge Convention argued that the new Constitution should not be adopted without a bill of rights. At Pennsylvania's ratification convention in November and December 1787, Whitehill led the opposition to the new constitution and proposed fifteen amendments that would begin the movement leading to eventual creation and ratification of the Bill of Rights.

Despite its historical role, the building had never been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it lacked protection from a local historic preservation ordinance. It also had not been included in Silver Spring Township's comprehensive plan's list of historic properties. There was no legal barrier that would stop the building's owner from altering or razing the structure.

In January 2015, Silver Spring Township's zoning officer approved a demolition permit for the building, and in January 2016 the property's owner began tearing down the building to make way for the construction of a warehouse.



A Cumberland County resident who knew of its history contacted a local historian to let them know what was happening to the building. The township was contacted and advised of the

building's history at which time a "stop order" was activated so an investigation could take place and prevent further destruction to the building. By that time, half of it was already demolished.

Grass Roots Organization Forms

Residents came together and formed the Patriots of Captain Bell's Tavern and formed a 501c3 non-profit organization to begin raising funds to preserve and rebuild the building. Members included those who had personal connection with the Tavern and those who felt it was important to preserve a historic site connected with the Early Republic and the fight to win a Bill of Rights as part of the United States Constitution.

The group started a GoFundMe page to raise money for the stabilization and rebuilding of the structure. To spread the word, a website was built, social media accounts were organized, and the group participated in several public events such as Jubilee Day in Mechanicsburg. Press releases with member interviews were distributed to news media outlets.

Members made phone calls and met with representatives from Preservation Pennsylvania, the group working to preserve the Star Barn, the Cumberland County Historical Society, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, and the Center for the Study of the American Constitution at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

During a meeting in June 2016, Bell Tavern members met with the property owner and an agreement was made that the members had one year to raise \$300,000 that would be used to purchase the Tavern and restore the damage done during the initial demolition. The property owner donated \$100,000 to help jumpstart the fundraising drive.

Immediately, the group began working on a formal campaign that involved getting sponsorships, seeking donations, and applying for grants. Achieving the goals would be a challenge, but the group was motivated and positive their goal would be accomplished.

During a Township meeting, the board of supervisors agreed with the plan between the nonprofit and the developer with an understanding that the owner/developer would improve Bernheisel Bridge Road and donate seven acres of open space to the Township. In exchange, the property owner asked the Township to rezone a portion of land on the west side of the Tavern so he could build a 400,000 square foot warehouse. By the end of the meeting, all three parties were satisfied, and it appeared that the Bell Tavern would be saved.

Not all Good Plans come to Fruition

The Bell Tavern Patriots received devastating news during the September 2016 Silver Spring Township meeting when the property owner announced that PP&L Electric had used eminent domain to take the parcel of land that was to be rezoned by the Township. That action nullified the original agreement between the Bell Tavern Patriots, the property owner, and the township.

The owner stated that he would still sell the property to the group—but his asking price rose to \$700,000—an impossible sum for the tiny non-profit organization.

In late March 2017, the Bell Tavern was demolished. A warehouse now stands on the site where James Bell's Tavern stood for over two hundred years, as well as a blue and gold Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Historical Marker commemorating the Stony Ridge Convention:

“Stony Ridge Convention: Located at this site, James Bell's tavern was a meeting place for Anti-Federalists. Members of the Anti-Federalist movement from the Cumberland frontier, led by Robert Whitehill, met in 1788 to oppose the US Constitution, because it lacked guarantees for individual liberties and states' rights. They demanded amendments. This meeting is linked to the adoption of the Bill of Rights and the founding of the Democratic-Republican Party.”

The loss of the Bell Tavern serves as a potent reminder that we need to be working now to identify and protect those sites that matter.



Conclusion

It is up to us as residents of the South Mountain Region to play an active role in determining how we want our communities to look, and what buildings, sites, and resources are important for us to protect and preserve for future generations. If we speak up and work together, we can often find ways to preserve and adapt historic places so that they continue to be useful assets to our community. We cannot preserve everything, but we need to be proactive in identifying those places that matter and helping the community and local officials understand why they are significant. It is important to act now, because once historic buildings, historic farms, or precious landscapes are lost to development or neglect—they are gone forever.

Section IV: Building Your Team

Creating and developing a historic preservation project is best done with the help and support of others. Your team might include community members, local preservationists, historical organizations and societies, friends and family members, public officials, lawyers, teachers, business people, architects, builders, and students—anyone who cares about local history and wants to make a difference.

If possible, it is advisable to bring together people with different backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. The work of doing historic preservation entails a variety of tasks—including photography, historical research, public speaking, in-person and social media communication, public relations, writing, and record keeping. It is also useful to have people who are familiar with how to renovate and maintain historical buildings and features. Attracting a blend of people who have historical knowledge, technical skills, and who feel comfortable writing and talking about why historic places need to be preserved will make the work easier.

If you are just getting started, be sure to reach out to your local or county historical society to identify other people who may already be doing this work.

Section V: Resources to Help You Get Started

Preservation PA

As its website states, “Preservation Pennsylvania is the Commonwealth's only private statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people protect and preserve the historic places that matter to them... We assist individuals, organizations, corporations, and governmental agencies from across the Commonwealth (and sometimes the nation) in their own preservation-related efforts, through a dynamic scope of activities and services. Whether as a leader, partner, or advisor, Preservation Pennsylvania works to secure the future of the past through educational outreach workshops and events, legislative advocacy, advisory and technical assistance in the field, and other special initiatives.”

Preservation Pennsylvania
1230 N. 3rd Street, Suite 1
Harrisburg, PA 17102-2754
Phone: 717-234-2310
Email: info@preservationpa.org
Website: <https://www.preservationpa.org/>

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) -- Community Preservation Coordinators

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) is part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission dedicated to preserving Pennsylvania's historic resources. The PA SHPO's Community Preservation Coordinators are available to help individuals and government bodies with historic preservation. They provide technical assistance and training to the public, local governments, historical societies, and other various groups seeking assistance and clarification on Historic Preservation.

Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor.

400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093.

Website: <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Pages/default.aspx>

Local Historical Societies in the South Mountain Region

Below are the names and contact information for the local historical societies for the South Mountain Region. Besides being a place for the interpretation of regional history, historical societies are often the keepers of valuable records that help to develop the provenance of historic structures. The items in their collections are an asset to our community.

Cumberland County Historical Society

21 North Pitt Street, Carlisle, PA 17013

Email: info@historicalsociety.com

Phone: 717-249-7610

Website: <https://www.historicalociety.com/>

Franklin County Historical Society

175 East King Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Phone: 717-264-1667

Website: <https://www.franklinhistorical.org/>

Adams County Historical Society

625 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Email: info@achs-pa.org

Phone: 717-334-4723

Website: <https://www.achs-pa.org/>

York County History Center

121 N Pershing Ave, York, PA 17401

Phone: (717) 848-1587

Website: <https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org/>

Section VI: Additional Readings

Hammerstedt, Erin. *How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places That Matter to You*. Preservation Pennsylvania, 2020. https://www.preservationpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Preserve-Protect_Community-Guide_Preservation-Pennsylvania.pdf

Kyvig, David M., Myron Marty, and Larry Cebula, *Nearby History: Exploring the Past around You*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2019.

Murtagh, William J. *Keeping Time : The History and Theory of Preservation in America*. Third edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006.

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Chapter 2: What Do We Want to Preserve?

Section I: We Cannot Save It All: Making Choices About What Places Matter

One of the principles of historic preservation is that we cannot preserve every old building. Nor would we want to do that. While we may enjoy visiting a place like Colonial Williamsburg where the entire world is frozen in the eighteenth century, that is not a recipe for a dynamic community. We want to preserve and protect those historic places that embody our local history and define the character of our communities, but we also need to welcome new structures that provide additional housing, employment, and services for area residents. What we need to find is the balance between old and new that sustains places that are vibrant and livable, and that protects the unique character of our region.

We also want to consider how the historic elements fit together and intersect with other kinds of places, whether it be the diverse structures that together comprise a historic neighborhood; a working farmstead with barns, outbuildings, orchards, and fields; or open spaces such as parks or forests that were integral to the settings and views that define historic landscapes. A historic building without its historical setting—whether afloat in a sea of asphalt or surrounded by warehouses--loses a great deal of its character and impact.

As we think about the work of historic preservation, one of the first questions we need to ask is what are the places in our community that matter the most to us? Which are the buildings, landscapes, neighborhoods, or places that help to define the character of our community? What are the places we want to protect in order to tell the full story of our local history? What are the physical landmarks, streetscapes, or structures that both residents and visitors recognize as defining parts of our town's physical identity? Are there sites or buildings that are so important and readily identifiable to local residents that they would feel a sense of loss if they were demolished, paved over, or otherwise destroyed?

Historic preservation professionals have developed criteria that are used to define whether a site or building is historically significant for the National Register of Historic Places. While we can consider those criteria, we should not feel restricted by those guidelines. Instead, a vital step in historic preservation work in the South Mountain region is to define what places, spaces, landscapes, and structures matter most to us. Something that is not eligible for the National Register can still be valuable to our communities.

Not everyone will agree which places are important, so it is important to try to include a variety of voices and perspectives in the process of identifying places to preserve. We want to do our best to preserve a range of places that tell the full story of our communities.

Once we identify places that matter to us, then we then need to do the hard work of explaining why those places matter, researching what stories they may tell, and working to protect them.

This ensures that the South Mountain region is economically vibrant while also safeguarding the historic places that help to define this region as a beautiful and special place.

Below we will examine some of the factors we may want to consider when thinking about which places in our community we feel are most important to preserve.

Section II: Existing Databases of Historic Resources

As you begin thinking about the places that matter in your community, first identify, access, and examine information or documentation that already exists about historic places in your community. These are powerful resources that will advance your work exponentially.

Local and County Comprehensive Plans or Resource Maps

Under Pennsylvania law, local and county governments have the authority to develop comprehensive plans that they then use to guide local government decision making.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) Act 247 of 1968 as amended requires all counties to prepare a comprehensive plan. The MPC requires general consistency between the county comprehensive plan and those adopted by townships and boroughs, although local governments are not required to prepare a comprehensive plan. The county comprehensive plan is a long-range policy document that establishes goals and objectives for the orderly development of the county. Comprehensive plans consider all aspects of the community including land use, housing, economic development, public facilities, transportation and natural resources. Comprehensive plans do not have legal authority but are implemented through other planning tools such as zoning ordinances and official maps which do have legal authority.

Ideally these plans address factors that impact the quality of life within a local jurisdiction. It is very common for both local and county comprehensive plans to address historic preservation and to provide a list of historic resources within the jurisdiction. For example, the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan's Historic Preservation section includes both a list of all Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Historical Markers in the county, and a list of all sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places by municipality.

Below is a selection from the 2017 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan list of historical markers:

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION:
LIST OF HISTORICAL MARKERS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

Camp Hill	
1. Marker Name: Cumberland Riflemen Date Dedicated: May 25, 1948 Location: Market Street between 24 th and 25 th Streets Marker Text: Capt. William Hendricks led from nearby Cumberland County points a company of riflemen to Quebec, Canada. There they fought Dec. 31, 1775, at the side of Gen. Richard Montgomery. Hendricks was killed in action.	
2. Marker Name: Gettysburg Campaign Date Dedicated: June 28, 1963 Location: 3025 Market Street Marker Text: Farthest advance of a body of Confederate troops toward Harrisburg. Southern units under General A.G. Jenkins of Ewell's Corp reached Oyster Point on June 28, 1863. On the next day defending militia faced them here in a skirmish in which both sides suffered casualties.	
3. Marker Name: Robert Whitehill Date Dedicated: Dec. 15, 1991 Location: 1903 Market Street Marker Text: Legislator and official lived here in Lowther Manor on land conveyed by the Penns in 1771. At the state's 1787 convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution, Whitehill led the Antifederalist minority; he presented amendments later embodied in the Bill of Rights. A drafter of the 1776 state constitution, he served terms with both the legislature and executive council; was in congress, 1805-13.	

Below is a selection from the 2017 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan list of county sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

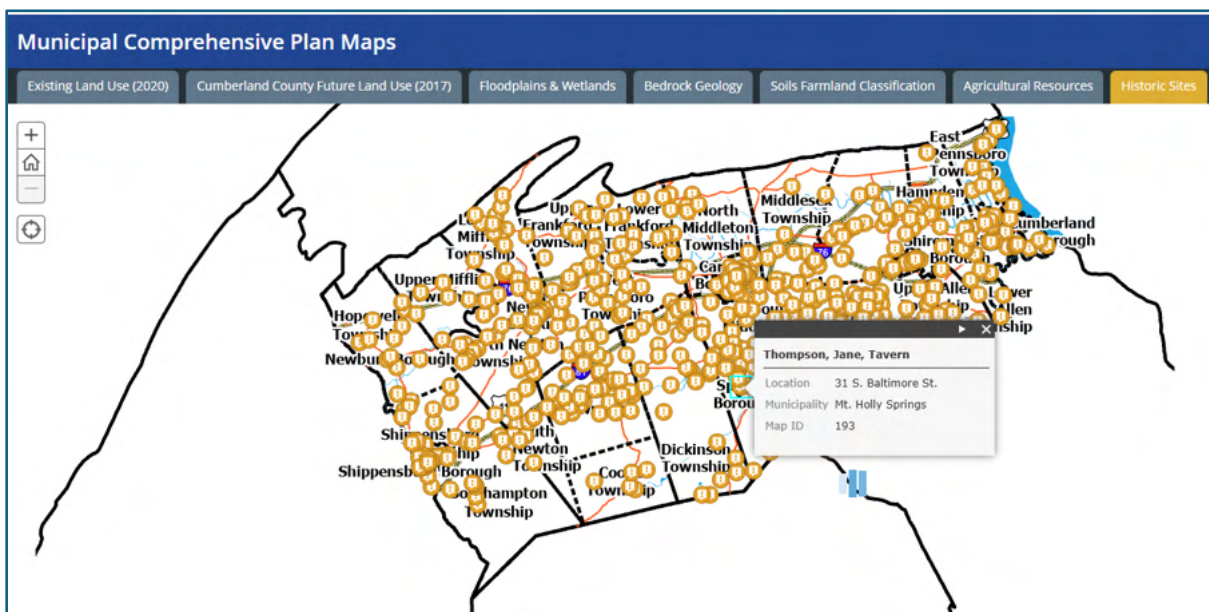
**NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED PROPERTIES IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

Municipality	Historic Name	Address	Year
Carlisle Borough	Carlisle Historic District	Bnd by Penn. East, Walnut & College Sts.	06/15/1979
Carlisle Borough	Hessian Powder Magazine	Corner of Guard House Ln. & Garrison Ln., Carlisle	05/17/1974
Carlisle Borough	Old West, Dickinson College	Dickinson College	10/15/1966
Cooke/Dickinson Township	Pine Grove Furnace	Pine Grove Furnace State Park, R.D. 2	04/13/1977
Hampden Township	Eberly, Johannes, House	Carlisle Pk. U.S. Rte 11	04/02/1973
Hampden Township	Peace Church	St. Johns Rd.	03/24/1972
Hopewell Township	Ramp Covered Bridge	T-374	08/25/1980
Lower Allen Township	Etters Bridge	Green Lane Dr. T-648	02/27/1986
Mechanicsburg Borough	Cumberland Valley Railroad Station & Masters House	2-4 W Strawberry Alley	11/17/1978
Mechanicsburg Borough	Irving Female College	Filbert, Main & Simpson Sts.	05/06/1983
Mechanicsburg Borough	Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District	Main St. From Arch St. to High St.	04/21/1983
Mechanicsburg Borough	Orris, Adam, House	318 W Main St	12/30/1987
Mechanicsburg Borough	Simpson Street School	Simpson St. & High St.	02/24/1983
Monroe Township	Williams, John, House	L.R. 21027, ½ Mile South of Williams Grove	07/28/1977
Mount Holly Springs Borough	Givin, Amelia S. Free Library	114 n Baltimore Ave.	08/11/2004

The 2017 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan also created an interactive Municipal Comprehensive Plan Map series that includes a map of Historic Sites. The interactive map

allows you to search the county, and zoom in and click on sites to learn their name and location.

Below is a map showing all of Cumberland County. Each of the circles reflects a historic site, and when a user clicks on a circle it reveals the property's name, address and municipality:



The sites on the map are those that residents of the county have determined to be historically significant to them. They are not necessarily sites that have been evaluated for their historical significance by the State Historic Preservation Office or the county government.

Check to see if local municipalities have produced comprehensive plans. Municipalities are not required to create comprehensive plans, so none may exist, or an existing plan may be years or decades old.

Resources

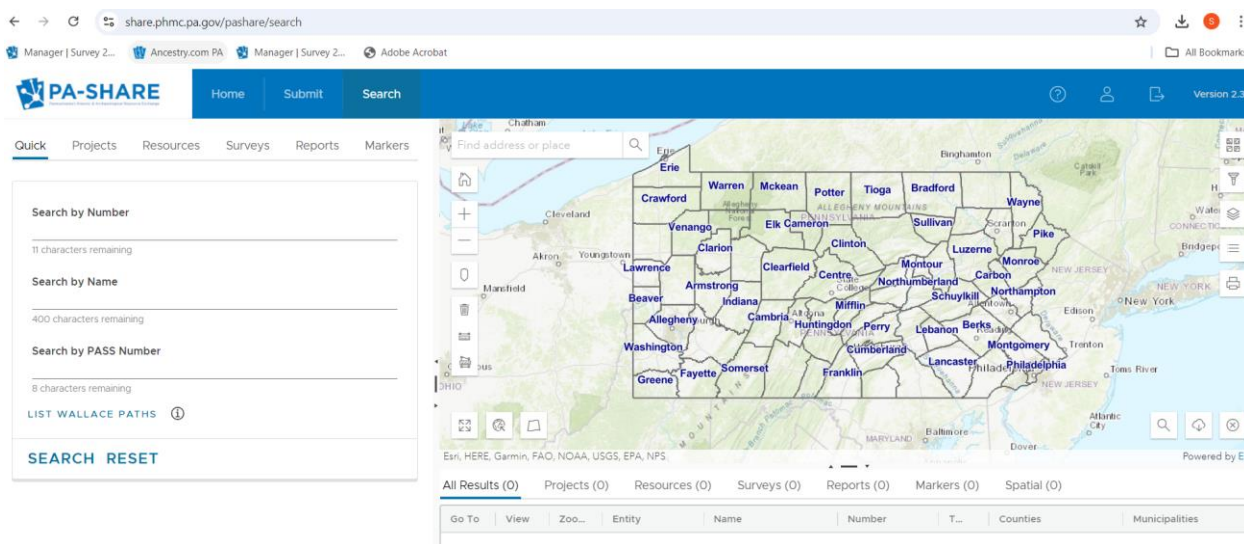
- [Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan](#) (contains PDFs of the 2017 report and supporting documents)
- [Cumberland County Municipal Comprehensive Plan Maps](#) (interactive)

PA-SHARE (Pennsylvania's Historical and Archaeological Resource Exchange)

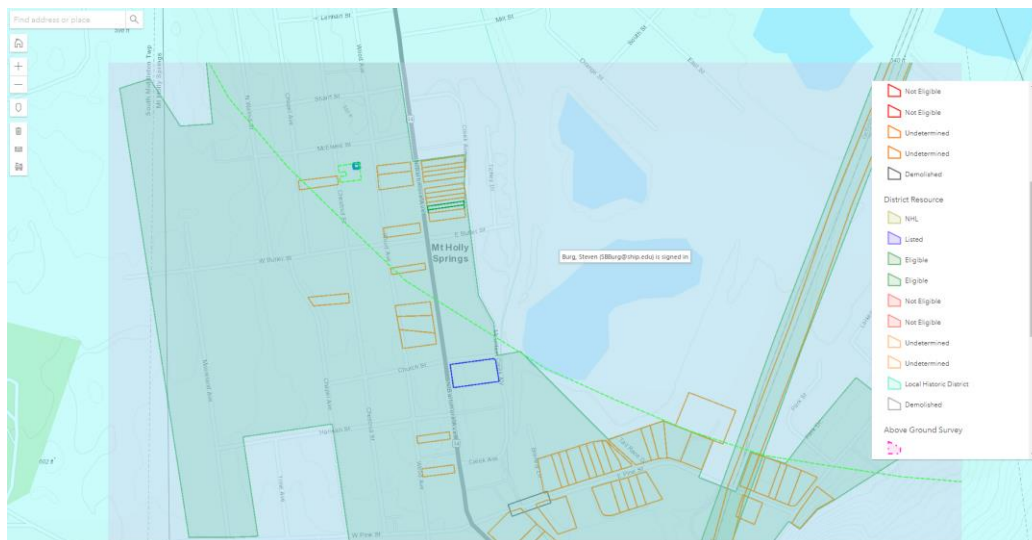
PA-SHARE is a database maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office that documents the above-ground historical resources and archaeological sites across the state. As of September 2024, the site contains information about 190,848 historic resources and 27,977 archaeological sites across the state. It can be accessed at: <https://share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/landing>.

At the website, access PA-SHARE as a guest by using the username GuestPASHARE and the password GuestPASHARE1. You can gain greater functionality by purchasing a subscription to the site.

Clicking on the blue tab marked “search” at the top of the site, will allow you to search for a specific historic site by name using the search options on the left side, or search using the map on the right side of the screen.

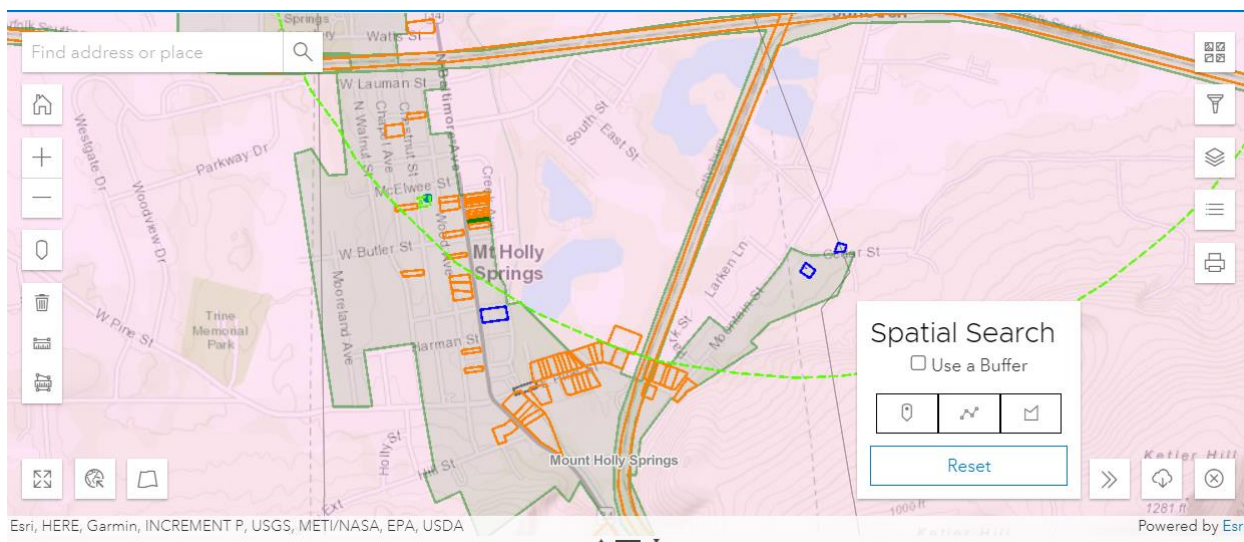


As you Zoom into an area, the map will populate with colored lines and polygons that provide information about the resources in an area. For example, below is a map of Mt. Holly Springs in Cumberland County:



The green shaded area in the left-center of the map is downtown Mt. Holly Springs. The shading indicates that it is a district that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The blue box is the location of the Amelia S. Givin Free Library, and the blue line means that it has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The properties that are outlined in orange have been recorded in PA-SHARE, but the State Historic Preservation Office has never evaluated them to determine whether they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

If you are interested in identifying all the places listed in PA-SHARE in a particular geographic area, click on the magnifying glass at the bottom right corner of the map and use the “polygon” option that appears on the “Spatial Search” bar. It is the third option in the middle of the box:



Then draw a box or circle around a particular area, and a table listing all the resources in that area will appear at the bottom of the page. In the example below, there are 29 resources within the box:

Go To	View	Zoo...	Entity	Name	Number	T...	Counties	Municipalities
			Resource	Givin, Amelia S., Free ...	1983RE01125	Abo...	Cumberland	Mount Holly Springs B...
			Resource	Sheaffer, Samuel Hou...	1987RE00048	Abo...	Cumberland	Mount Holly Springs B...
			Resource	Cobean, William, House	1987RE00049	Abo...	Cumberland	Mount Holly Springs B...
			Resource	Alexander, William, H...	1987RE00158	Abo...	Cumberland	Mount Holly Springs B...

When you find a resource you are interested in, click on the tiny blue box in the “Go To” column to the left of its name and a page will pop up with additional information about that resource. Example: when selecting the box beside the Amelia S. Givin Free Library, the site provides a picture, and states that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

PA-SHARE Home Submit Search

RESOURCE Givin, Amelia S., Free Library 1983RE01125: Listed Above Ground - Building

Summary Details Evaluation Associations

Resource Overview

Resource Information [EXPORT](#)

Further down the screen, there is an area entitled “Attachments” where you can click and access a copy of the National Register nomination for the site:

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. Aug. 2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018
(Expires Jan. 2005)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Givin, Amelia S. Free Library
other names Mount Holly Springs Public Library

2. Location
street & number 114 North Baltimore Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Mt. Holly Springs N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Cumberland code 041 zip code 17065

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Andrew McDonald July 1, 2004
Signature of certifying official Date
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Givin, Amelia S. Free Library
Cumberland County, PA

Statement of significance

The Amelia S. Givin Free Library is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. The library was constructed during the public library movement of the late nineteenth century, which was fueled by various additional philanthropic efforts of organizations such as the Carnegie Foundation, begun in 1881. The Givin Library was the first public library in Cumberland County and has been in continuous operation serving Mt. Holly Springs and the surrounding community for over 113 years. The building is an example of the popular late nineteenth century Romanesque Revival style. The period of significance begins with the construction of the library in 1889 and ends in 1954, following the NR 50-year guideline.

In January of 1889 Mt. Holly Springs Central Hotel burned to the ground. Shortly thereafter Amelia Givin purchased the lot, and in May 1889, she announced her intentions to provide a free library for the working people of the two large paper mills built by her father. Shortly thereafter, ground was broken for the new library. The original library has had one addition constructed in 1985-1987. The addition was added to the east facade of the library, and necessitated the closure of four original windows, although they remain in situ, and are visible from the interior of the historic library.

Mt. Holly Springs was already a well-established center of commerce when incorporated as a borough in 1873. Known variously as Paperstown or Kiddeminster this village was rich in natural resources. In the early 19th century, several paper companies maintained successful mills, supported by an abundant supply of water. In addition, high quality iron ore was in abundance and several furnaces and forges had set up shop. By the turn of the century, Mt. Holly Springs' population had grown to approximately 1,200 persons, largely due to the workforce necessary for the established industries. In addition, the Mount Holly Springs Park was a popular resort destination bringing people from Baltimore, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia.

In 1827 the Givin family built a factory in Mt. Holly Springs to make rugs and blankets. Along with these rug-making factories, the Givins owned Mt. Holly Springs Paper Company was extremely profitable, establishing the family's wealth. With her inheritance, Amelia S. Givin not only built and furnished the library but generously endowed it as well. Records do not show the same level of civic philanthropy from other members of the Givin family. Amelia Givin's uncle, her father's brother Samuel Givin, did serve on Mt. Holly Springs' first Borough Council, but the family's chief civic contribution, other than Amelia's library, appears to be the supply of major community employment at its various factories.

The Givin Library was in operation a full decade before the next library in Cumberland County would open. The Bosler Library in Carlisle opened in 1900 as a subscription library, costing one dollar per year for its use. The Colonial Revival style Bosler library with its Ionic front porch columns is a stately presence in Carlisle, the seat of Cumberland County and home of Dickinson College. The Bosler and Givin libraries were the only public libraries in Cumberland County until the late 1950s. In 1960, the Cumberland County Library System was formed. It is now a federation of eight independent libraries throughout the county. Until the Cleve J. Fredrickson Library was constructed in 2001 in Camp Hill, the Bosler and Givin libraries were the only county libraries whose original intent was that of a public library.

The appearance of Mount Holly Springs has changed considerably in the past one hundred years. Although paper is still the dominant industry in town, little else has remained the same. The resort atmosphere dried up along with the Holly Lake when the dam fell into disrepair. The few Victorian Era homes that remain are now mostly remodeled or in need of repair. The First National Bank, located at the corner of Baltimore and Pine streets, is the only other building in Mt. Holly Springs that is discernable as stylistically similar to the library. The bank has, however, been significantly altered, leaving only remnants of its original appearance and character. The library has been one of the very few unchanging community bulwarks, still fulfilling its mission to

For sites not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, there will be much less information. However, for sites that are listed, you can see the full National Register application that will provide both photographs of the site and a wealth of information about its history.

Section III: Ask Your Community Members: What Places Matter to Them?

Existing databases may not include many places and sites that folks in our region consider historically significant. Our challenge is to create ways to identify those places in a way that is as comprehensive and inclusive as possible. Here are a few approaches to consider:

National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" Campaign

As a way to encourage people to speak up about the value of historic places in their local area, the National Trust for Historic Preservation launched the "This Place Matters" campaign in 2008. The idea is very simple—ask people to publicly share the buildings and places that matter to them. The only requirement is that someone feels strongly enough about a place to declare that it matters.

The "This Place Matters" campaign is designed to draw public attention to places worthy of preservation or facing potential threats. It is meant to be a tool to engage media, elected

officials, and local citizens to the importance of preserving specific places within a community that residents care about.

The concept can be used more broadly as well by asking your community members to share the places they care about, and do so in public ways—including through social media—to let others know that people care about the sites and buildings in our community.

For more information about the “This Place Matters” Campaign, see the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s website: <https://savingplaces.org/this-place-matters>.

Engage Your Community: The “Heart and Soul” Approach

One model of how to learn what is important to communities is a four-step process developed by the non-profit organization, Community Heart and Soul. The principle behind their work is that “Every town has a heart and soul that reflects what residents love about their community and why they choose to live there.” Gathering residents together and having them share about aspects of their community that represent its “heart and soul” can dovetail with historic preservation and efforts to identify the physical places and spaces that define communities.

The four steps of the Heart and Soul as defined on the organization’s website are:

Phase 1: Imagine

“Heart & Soul teams are formed to build awareness, interest, and commitment in all segments of the community.”

Phase 2: Connect

“Stories are gathered from residents, leading to the development of Heart & Soul Statements that identify what matters most and reflect what they love about their towns.”

Phase 3: Plan

“Residents develop action plans to guide future town planning based on their Heart & Soul Statements.”

Phase 4: Act

“Heart & Soul Statements are officially adopted by town and city councils, incorporated into comprehensive and other plans, and are used to guide future policies and decisions.”

It was through the Heart and Soul process that the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, identified the badly deteriorated Mt. Tabor Church and Cemetery in Mt. Holly Springs as a site that community members valued and wished to see restored. The church was a historic log structure that had been the center of Mt. Holly’s African American community.

The Heart and Soul process not only identified the church as a site needing assistance, but helped to clarify for the community why its preservation matters. Furthermore, the process helped to generate public and private support that would ultimately see the site stabilized and restored.

For more about the Community Heart and Soul approach (including information about Community Heart and Soul grants) see: <https://www.communityheartandsoul.org/>

For more information about The Mt. Tabor Preservation Project, see: <https://www.mttaborpreservation.com/>

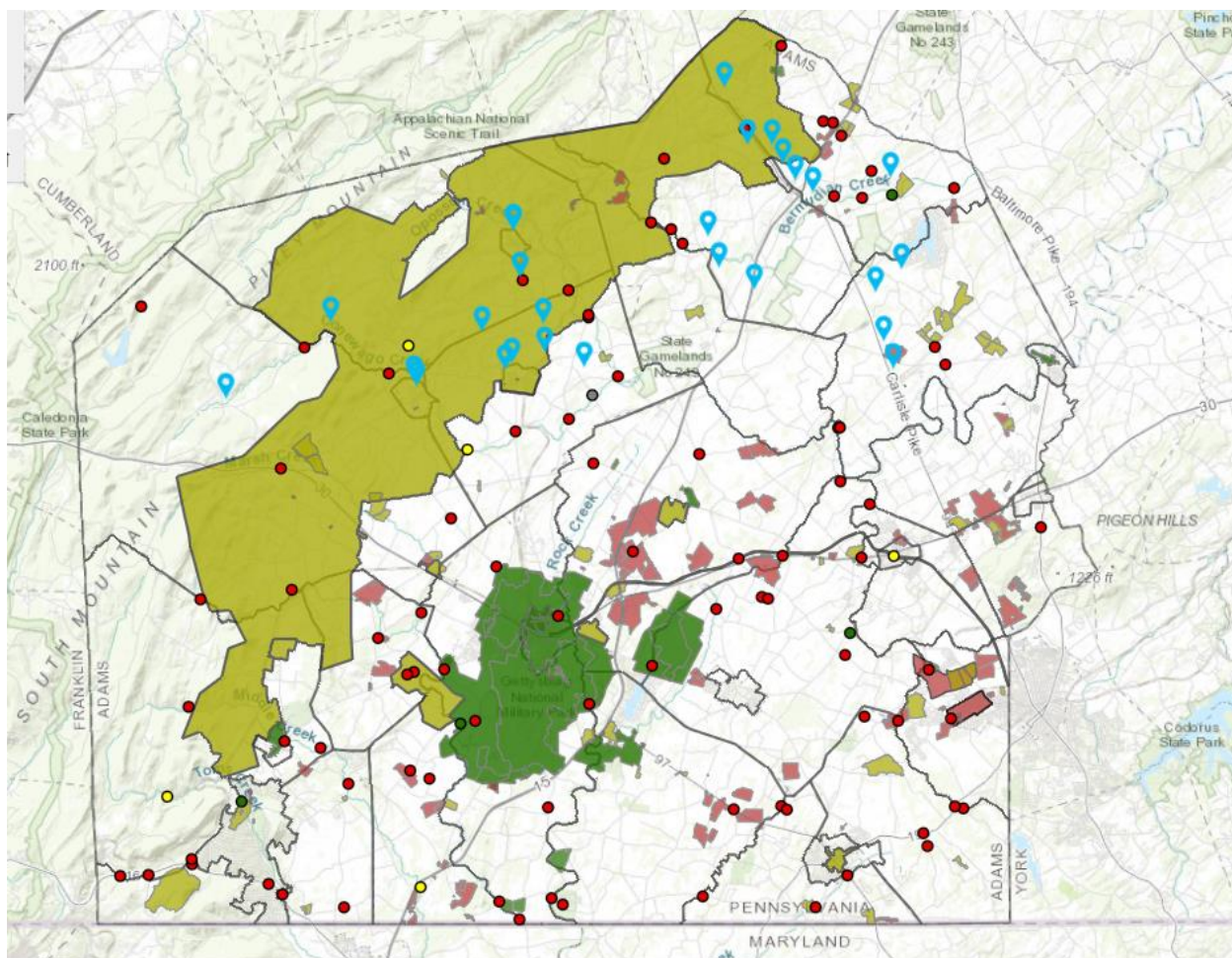
Survey Your Community

If you want to understand what places matter to your community, there is nothing more important than asking the people who live there. This can be done several ways, including using paper or electronic survey forms. A survey can be created using [Google Forms](#) that can then be distributed via email or social media. Be sure to get input from people who may not consider themselves to be historic preservationists. For example, reach out to sports teams, young people, religious organizations, senior centers, civic clubs, schools, and diverse groups within your community. It is exciting to get feedback from the widest variety of people possible, and you may be surprised to learn some of the places that hold meaning for people in your area.

In 2023, the Adams County Office of Planning and Development made a deliberate effort to solicit engagement from community members about the sites and places that mattered most to them through a public survey. With the support of a variety of municipal offices, community organizations, and the *Gettysburg Times*, the word was spread about the survey that could be completed either online or by using a paper form.

Additionally, a website was launched where residents could access the survey, and they could indicate on a digital map any places in the county they felt deserved to be preserved. The website noted: “The intention of having individuals pinpoint these resources was to tell staff what types of resources the county should place the most emphasis on protecting, preserving, and promoting. Additionally, this will tell us about specific and general categories of historic resources that we collectively have an opportunity to learn more about.”

Below is the crowdsourced map showing the historic resources that people in Adams County felt were important to them:



People said these Historic Resources are Locally Significant

To learn more about the efforts undertaken by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development as part of the creation of their Heritage Plan, visit the website: <https://adams-county-heritage-plan-adamsgis.hub.arcgis.com>.

Section IV: A Few Words About Places That Matter and the National Register of Historic Places

For many people, historical significance is associated only with places that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is important to note that while the National Register of Historic Places does provide some useful criteria for thinking about what buildings, sites, and structures are significant, many sites may not be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Yet, they may still be places that matter a great deal to you or the people in our communities. Do not let the National Register criteria deter you from taking steps to identify, document, and preserve local historic sites that matter to you and your community.

The National Register Criteria

The following criteria are used to guide the evaluation of resources considered for the National Register of Historic Places:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The criteria focus on both the **integrity** of the resource (the extent to which it maintains its original historical materials and features) and its **significance** (how the resources connect to and illustrate important people, ideas, and events from the past). Sites that can be listed on the National Register can have national, state, or local significance.

As these criteria illustrate, historic places can be significant for a variety of reasons. Some may be striking pieces of design or architecture, others may be connected to an important person in the community, while others may be useful as places where we can see and feel the connection to broader patterns or themes of history that shaped the nation and the world.

The National Register criteria also includes a number of “criteria considerations” or specific reasons why a resource might not be eligible for the National Register. These include resources that are less than fifty years old, as well as types of resources such as cemeteries, properties owned by religious institutions, and resources that have been moved from their original locations. Here is the full list of the Criteria Considerations:

Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such

properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- D. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

The National Register criteria are a useful starting point when thinking about the significance of historic places, but they should not deter you from documenting, researching, and working to protect sites that matter to you and the people around you but that may not be eligible for listing.

To learn more about the National Register criteria and the way the National Park Service thinks about issues of significance and integrity, extensive resources, and publications, visit the National Park Service website:

Publications of the National Register of Historic Places:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/publications.htm>

Section V: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter

- Adam County Heritage Plan: <https://adams-county-heritage-plan-adamsgis.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Community Heart & Soul: <https://www.communityheartandsoul.org/>
- Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/4888/Comprehensive-Plan>
- Cumberland County Municipal Comprehensive Plan Maps: <https://gis.ccpa.net/comp-plan-maps/>
- Mt. Tabor Preservation Project: <https://www.mttaborpreservation.com/>
- National Register of Historic Places- Publications of the National Register of Historic Place: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/publications.htm>
- National Trust for Historic Preservation-This Place Matters: <https://savingplaces.org/this-place-matters>
- PA-Share: <https://share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/landing>

Chapter 3: Telling the Whole Story: Intentional Preservation to Identify and Preserve Places Associated with Untold Stories

Section I: Being Intentional About Preserving Untold Stories

As we seek to preserve historic places and spaces that matter in the South Mountain region, it is vital that we are deliberate about preserving historic resources that tell the full story of our region. Early historic preservation efforts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries often focused on preserving buildings or erecting monuments to remember pioneers, founding fathers, political leaders, soldiers and veterans, and successful business leaders. There was considerable effort to commemorate the lives of those who participated in the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. While these are important pieces of our local history, they are just part of our region's amazing story.

If we want to tell the whole story of our community, it requires us to look beyond the individuals and places that typically are featured in our local history books. Our communities have been built and sustained by a diverse array of everyday people, and it makes sense that the historic places that we preserve reflect their stories. We also want to acknowledge the important history that has happened in the more recent past, too.

We can also recognize that historic buildings have more than one story to tell. Consider for example: What if your home could talk? What would it say? How many lives and stories have occurred within its walls? A building that is fifty, one hundred, or two hundred years old has transcended multiple historical eras. When we preserve historic places, we want to consider the full range of stories, people, and experiences associated with the space across time.

Intentional preservation seeks to represent the whole story. By encompassing the full range of the people who lived in our communities, we discover a more complex and interesting sense of the past. We also tell stories that are meaningful to more people because they can see themselves more fully reflected in the sites and landscapes that we strive to preserve.

Intentional preservation of diverse spaces requires a few key steps:

- Be intentional about looking for untold stories. Think about ways that you can tell the stories of working people, women, African Americans, Native Americans, immigrants, or other people whose stories may not always be told in existing local history books. Strive to preserve a wide range of histories that tells the full story of your community's residents.
- Don't assume that sources don't exist, or that it is impossible to tell new stories because of a lack of historical records. It can be exciting to see what you may discover once you start looking, especially if you look beyond what is found in historical books written in

the past that focused on the lives of “important” people. There are a lot of powerful stories hidden in local newspapers, public records, and the memories of community members waiting to be discovered.

- Remember that buildings can have multiple histories and stories, and that sites we associate with famous or important people may also contain a variety of other stories about people who worked or lived in there before, during, or after the period when the person or family most commonly associated with the site was there.
- Seek out diverse community members and local organizations representing a wide array of community groups to provide insight and knowledge about the untold histories and stories that they may know and may be willing to share.
- Since many stories may not have been written down or reported in local newspapers, it can be helpful to learn the proper methods for doing oral history. Oral history interviews can capture and preserve previously untold stories for future generations. The Smithsonian Institution Archive has produced a useful guide, “[How to Do Oral History](#)” on its website.

As we seek to preserve and protect the places that matter in our community, it is important that we seek to tell the whole story and ensure the places that we preserve reflect an inclusive and complete view of the past. The strategies and inquiries outlined below can be used for researching any type of previously untold stories.

Doing this work you will encounter many different histories. It is important to reach out and connect in an authentic and respectful way with the people whose stories you are telling, and build relationships with community members who may be willing to share family lore, community history, correspondences, photographs, or other resources with you. To the greatest possible extent, be willing to involve them in all aspects of the process and share decision making and authority with them. Recognize that it may take time to build rapport with people and communities you do not know, and if they choose not to share information or to be involved with your project, respect their privacy and their right not to publicly share their stories.

Section II: Tools for Identifying Places and Spaces That Tell Untold Stories

Every house has a story from the first brick to its last owner. Historic preservation seeks not only to preserve a specific era, but to also tell the story of a building from its beginning to modern day. Preserving diverse spaces requires intentionality and dedication to the story. Understanding and identifying diverse spaces requires research and support from the community. As you learn about the diverse history of your property you will find that many stories can be found within.

Intentional preservation also requires us to sometimes “think outside the box.” There are some places that everyone considers historic and that are high on a community’s list of important

places. But it is worth considering if there are other places that tell an important part of our community's history that we may be overlooking. For example,

- Did our community see influx of immigrants over time, and if so, did they live in particular sections or neighborhoods of our community?
- Where did the men and women who worked for local industries live?
- Where are there sites associated with particular religious, ethnic, or cultural traditions?
- Did the community experience racial segregation or separation? If so, where are the dividing lines, and were there particular types of housing, schools, communal organizations, burial grounds, or places of worship associated with those communities?

Because of historical housing patterns, we should look outside historic districts or what we define as traditional historic neighborhoods for some untold stories. If working families or ethnic groups settled in neighbors that provided affordable housing, or if they were prevented from living in certain areas due to discrimination, then we need to look for their histories in those sections of our communities where they lived. However, keep in mind that large single-family homes or mansions may also have been chopped up into apartments or flats over time. It is valuable for us to think about how places may have been used differently, and occupied by different groups over time, and what happened inside of buildings as well as how they look from the outside.

For example, at the front of the Finkenbinder Baseball Field in Mechanicsburg Borough is a small blue building that has been used for decades by the Mechanicsburg Little League and the Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association. The back of the building serves as a concession stand. That building originated in 1881 as the home for the Mechanicsburg AME Zion Church. An African American congregation worshiped in that space until 1946. It continued being used as a church for ten years by the Pentecostal Assembly of God until they sold it to the Northside Playground Association in 1956.¹ Today, many people who see that structure as a sports utility building or concession stand do not realize that it had a long history as an African American spiritual center.

¹ Phyllis Zimmerman, "Mechanicsburg Church to Turn Donated Building into a Community Center," *Carlisle Sentinel*, May 9, 2021, [cumberlink.com](https://www.cumberlink.com).



Former AME. Zion Church Building, 211 North Arch Street, Mechanicsburg

Another example is the simple Colonial Revival brick duplex located at 22-24 North Washington Street in Shippensburg Borough that was built in 1900. In the recent past the building was rented to students attending Shippensburg University. Looking back to the beginning of the twentieth century, we can discover that the building tells the story of working people in Shippensburg. It was constructed by the Thrush and Stough Carriage Company to provide housing for the skilled craftsmen employed at the business's Washington Street carriage works right down the street.²



² Shippensburg Borough Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 19, page 2.

<https://borough.shippensburg.pa.us/Portals/0/Documents/Codes-Zoning/ComprehensivePlan/Chapter19-HistoricResources-final.pdf?ver=2019-08-12-161034-787>

As we learn about the history of our older buildings, it is useful for us to also consider the recent and current people occupying those spaces. For example, El Gallo Garcia is a Mexican restaurant and market at 145 South Main Street in Chambersburg that occupies the first floor of a three-story, nineteenth-century Italianate commercial building that has been part of Chambersburg's commercial district for well over a century. The story of the family that owns and operates El Gallo Garcia is now intertwined with the long history of that building as a commercial space in downtown Chambersburg. Telling their story as part of the chain of history enriches the story of our communities and also provides opportunities to foster new connections between recent immigrant communities and our region's historic resources.

Most older properties are saved after much research about past owners without acknowledging the recent past. It is important to remember the importance of recent history and the ways historic buildings continue to serve communities in the modern day as affordable housing, cost-effective storefronts for small businesses, and community spaces.

When looking for building that tell untold stories, you might pose the following questions:

- Where were the institutions, businesses, districts/areas, and neighborhoods that served the community's working people, immigrants, or people of color (these might include areas where they were forced to live due to their economic situation or discrimination)?
- How are the cultural heritages of new communities being preserved and recorded?
- How have new and past immigrant or migrant communities built businesses, cultural institutions, religious organizations, or other institutions that served the local community?

The following sections identify specific stories that often go untold. The list is not exhaustive but provides a beginning framework to consider a more inclusive history. Each section provides guidance on what to look for, suggestions on ways to approach telling these histories, and offers resources to assist your research.

Places Connected with Women's History

As we think about preserving the places that matter in our community we may consider identifying sites that reflect the history of women in our region. Women represent at least half the population, but too often the sites that we preserve overlook women's contributions and the ways buildings and sites can tell their stories. If we ask the right questions and look for the right clues, we will discover that women's history is all around us in the South Mountain region.

Looking for Places Created or Used as Women's Spaces

In Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and York counties, some sites were created or operated specifically for and by women, including colleges and schools, clubs, community organizations, sororities, women's health clinics, Masonic organizations, and buildings that housed women's auxiliaries. Women's organizations have played a vital role in many aspects of our community's history. It is important not to focus exclusively on elite women, but to look for the women's spaces and institutions that may have served middle- and working-class families.

For the communities of the South Mountain region, it is useful to start by asking several questions:

- Were there women's organizations in our local community, such as women's clubs, temperance organizations, reform movements, religious groups, the Red Cross, sororities, women's centers, or women's auxiliaries associated with other civic organizations? If so, when did they exist, and where did they meet? Were there specific women's buildings or spaces, or did they operate within other spaces? (Be sure to consider that there may have been multiple organizations associated with different ethnic, religious, or cultural groups within the community.)
- Were there particular places in our community where women received education or religious instruction separate from men?
- Were there businesses that primarily employed women, or were owned or operated by women?
- Are there businesses in the communities that employed women as part of the war effort during World War One or World War Two?
- Who were the women leaders of our community in areas such as business, politics, education, law, medicine, or religion? Where did they live or work?
- Are there sites associated with women's activities in the past, such as the movement for women's suffrage, the women's rights movement, or women's healthcare?

In our region, there are numerous sites that are directly associated with women's history. For example, the women's organization known as the Shippensburg's Civic Club bought and restored the Widow Piper's Tavern as its headquarters. For much of its history, Wilson College in Chambersburg was dedicated to educating women. The former Irving College in Mechanicsburg was an institution for women, and the second building on the campus of the Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg University) was the women's dormitory now called Horton Hall. As communities explore the history of women in their areas, they will likely find new sites associated with women's activities and organizations.

Finding Women's History in Existing Historic Sites

Many historic places and sites have been preserved in our region, but often those sites were preserved in association with the lives or accomplishments of prominent men. This common practice overlooks the lives of the women who often occupied those spaces alongside their husbands, fathers, or employers.

When thinking about a historic building or landscape, take the time to ask questions that may help you to consider the role of women at the site. For example:

- Were there women at this place? Who were they? How many women were there? What were their ages, and what roles did they fill?
- Where did women work and live? How did women use the space? Were there particular jobs, places, or spaces set aside or primarily used by women?
- What social class of women used this space?
- What objects or areas within the building would have been important to them?
- How do the ways that spaces were used tell us about the different roles of men and women in the family, business, or institution?
- What does it suggest about gender ideas through time when we examine spaces where women were excluded? How did those spaces change when barriers to women were removed?
- How would the women of this space describe their own lives, or tell their stories?

In many of our communities, we often associate and refer to prominent historical buildings using the names of the men who owned them during their period of significance. For example, the Shippensburg History Center at 52 West King Street in downtown Shippensburg is located in a building described on the organization's website as the historic "Dr. Alexander Stewart House."³ Although Dr. Stewart owned the house and operated his medical practice from it for decades in the mid-twentieth century, according to the 1950 census he lived in the house with his wife, Dorothea B. Stewart and his adult daughter Jane R. Stewart who was a registered nurse. So, in fact, a majority of the house's occupants in 1950 were women. Integrating those women's stories into the history of the house would help us not only to better understand how the household functioned but would also bring greater visibility to the presence of women in our community's history.⁴

³ Shippensburg History Center Website, <https://www.shippensburghhistoricalsociety.org/>.

⁴ Alexander Stewart, "Cumberland, Pennsylvania, United States records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-SQHW-X9GW-Y?view=index> : Nov 23, 2024), image 18 of 49; National Archives and Records Administration. United States Census for 1950.

We can start by including the name of women in the shorthand we use to describe historic places, or we can refer to them as the “___ family home” rather than associating them only with a single male owner.

When we bring to light the lives and stories of the women who occupied the places we already have designated as historic, we create a richer and more accurate historical narrative for those places and affirm the presence and importance of women of the past.

Women’s History All Around Us

While women were often excluded from many roles, jobs, and institutions in the past, the truth is most of the older buildings in our region have intersected with the lives of women. Whether it is a business, private residence, farm, or organization, the chances are pretty good that if we take the time to look, we will find the lives and experiences of women intertwined with our community’s historic places.

Few spaces in history were restricted to just men or women. Even if a place was an exclusive male space, there will still be connection to women’s history. Consider how women might have taken an interest in and contributed to their husband, brother, son, or father’s lives, work, social activities, and other pursuits. For example, chances are that women washed and sewed the uniforms for members of all-male fraternal lodges, and probably prepared food for banquets and social events.

Women also contributed to the region’s workforce. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, enslaved women may have been working involuntarily at area homes and businesses. Across the centuries, women relatives, spouses, and daughters worked alongside the men who owned and operated shops and businesses, or contributed to the success of family farms. Some occupations tended to be predominantly filled by women, such as teaching and nursing. Certain businesses, such as the region’s expansive textile industry depended on the labor of women workers. Women also temporarily entered the workforce during World War One and War World War Two to meet the wartime need for labor when men left for military service. Women might also step into nontraditional roles following the death of a spouse or wartime, such as managing a family’s farm or business.

The unpaid or low-paid domestic labor of women caring for children, cleaning houses, doing laundry, and preparing meals was essential to household economies and made it possible for many men to work outside the home. Women were often employed in businesses like laundries, food processing, restaurants, bakeries, and stores.

When available, historical photographs can provide important windows into the lives and roles of women. When examining a photograph that includes women, consider what roles they were

playing, and how they may have fit into the larger picture of the family, business, or organization.

And as gender barriers changed over time, it is worthwhile for us to consider and mark the space where women became the first to step into important roles. We should think about who were the first women principals, judges, ministers, firefighters, police officers, mayors, borough council members, doctors, lawyers, and elected officials in our communities. Who was the first woman to serve as a leader of community organizations or educational institutions? What were the important women-owned businesses? Who entered Dickinson College when it first admitted women in 1884?

Women's history is fascinating and all around us, so be sure to take the time to explore it, document it, and make sure it is reflected in the places and spaces your community preserves.

Resources

- [National Collaborative for Women's History Sites – Let's Put Women's History Sites on the Map!](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation Where Women Made History Initiative](#)
- [PHMC: Women's History Resource Guide](#)
- [Pennsylvania Historic Preservation: Resource Round-Up](#)

Places Connected with African American History

Our region has a rich African American history that spans back to the earliest decades of European settlement in the area. It is not a separate history, but an integral part of the region's story that needs to be told to fully understand how our communities developed. That story includes the inhumane enslavement of fellow human beings, but also the rise of dynamic free Black communities, businesses, and institutions in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. With close proximity to the Mason-Dixon Line, our region became a refuge for both freedom seekers and individuals emancipated from enslavement. Through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, African Americans arrived in the South Mountain region seeking to breathe the air of freedom, to find work, and to start families and contribute to their communities. Migration accelerated in the years immediately before and after the Civil War, and continued into the early twentieth century as part of the Great Migration.

In the South Mountain region, we find African American churches that can trace their histories back to the first years of the nineteenth century—making them some of the earliest independent Black congregations in the nation. Our region saw the rise of African American craftspeople, businessmen, professionals, and entrepreneurs, as well as civic leaders who gained national prominence and influence. Significant numbers of African Americans from this area have served

the nation's armed forces, even when those services treated them as second-class citizens and required them to serve in segregated units. We can continue to honor their service by caring for their final resting places in the cemeteries found across our region, and ensuring they are included on our public monuments and recognized during public events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances.

The promise of freedom and equality often met the reality of discrimination and segregation for African Americans living in South Central Pennsylvania. In some cases, African Americans chose voluntary separation in order to create institutions and spaces that they controlled. However, the reality was official segregation and *de facto* segregation that denied African Americans access to many homes, schools, churches, burial grounds, businesses, jobs, and public accommodations. For example, local movie theaters often excluded Black patrons from sitting on the ground floor and instead limited them to sitting in the theaters' balconies. Restaurants, like the Penn-Wilson Restaurant in Chambersburg displayed no public signage but simply refused to serve African American patrons or even mixed-race groups.⁵

Many landlords would not rent or sell properties to African Americans, thus limiting African Americans to neighborhoods where they would be allowed to live. The practice of "redlining" and restrictive covenants placed in deeds made it difficult for African Americans to move into desirable neighborhoods or to get financing to purchase homes. Messiah College student David Michael uncovered over 100 deeds in the borough of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania that prevented home owners from selling their properties to "any other race or nationality other than the Caucasian."⁶

Telling the full story of our communities means telling the stories of African Americans and their remarkable achievements and contributions to our region, but also documenting the many ways that our communities did not live up to our ideals and allowed intolerance and discrimination to hinder the lives and opportunities of so many people of color.

Documenting Properties Connected with African American History

Historical laws segregating business and housing associated with the African American community have caused displacement and racial enclaves. Due to changing segregation laws and gentrification, places important to the African American community have changed over time.

Preserving spaces associated with the African American community will require research and reaching out to connect with community members who may remember places associated with

⁵ Amy Ensley, "Hidden History: Civil Rights at Wilson College," <https://www.wilson.edu/hidden-history-civil-rights-wilson>.

⁶ David Michael, "The Lines that Divide Up," Humanities in Place, <https://humanitiesinplace.wordpress.com/2019/06/12/the-lines-that-divide-us/>.

African American history in the past. These stories can be sensitive and painful, and it should not be surprising that people may be hesitant to tell these stories. Thus, building relationships and ensuring that African Americans community members lead and actively participate in collecting these history projects is an important part of the process. Seeking information from informants who are not African American can yield useful information, but they may have less insights into informal racial barriers, places that forbid African American entry, or areas that were important to the community such as African American businesses or institutions.

In addition to oral histories, you can use census records, maps, and books like *Black History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* and the *Green Book* in your search.

Some sites are clearly associated with the African American community. Sacred and community spaces such as AME, AME Zion, and Baptist churches, barber shops, and schools have clear connections to the African American community. In Cumberland County, many societies existed due to segregation from white assemblies like the Jessie G. Thompson G.A.R Post No. 44 and the Grand Union Order of Odd Fellows in Carlisle. Black owned businesses are obvious connections to the African American community. Some industries, such as the region's numerous iron furnaces, commonly employed significant numbers of African American workers. Research should be conducted into the workers of these sites to include a representative history. Places of employment and business can provide good context and starting points when learning about a community in the past and present.

The color line in Central Pennsylvania was fluid and often a matter of local custom rather than law making it difficult to always pinpoint where African Americans could and could not go. Additionally, it is often the case that areas where African Americans lived were not exclusively limited to people of color. Similarly, African Americans may be found living in areas that one might assume were exclusively white neighborhoods or areas. It is best to avoid generalizations and to instead base conclusions on careful research and the evidence that you uncover. Be aware that conditions would change over time or that rules might be enforced inconsistently depending on local attitudes and personal relationships.

Finding African American History at Existing Properties

Historic places that are generally associated with white owners or residents may also have associations with African American history. For example, the homes of prominent families that owned slaves may have spaces where the enslaved individuals lived and worked. Those basements, cellars, and servant's quarters are often left out of house histories, but they tell important stories worth preserving. As you conduct research on a historical site, you might find workers of a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds who lived or worked at the property. Some properties may not have had domestic servants or slaves as well as construction workers,

craftsmen, or farm laborers. African Americans could have worked as farm hands or helped construct the structure you are researching.

African Americans often worked in construction or in skilled trades such as masons and stone cutters, and so you might try to pinpoint buildings that were constructed by African American craftsmen. Area schools, colleges, and universities can tell the stories of African American teachers, students, and staff. Remember the African American women who also worked in manufacturing, domestic service, offices, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and operated Black-owned businesses. African Americans also served with local civic and fraternal organizations, including local volunteer fire companies and as elected officials. By highlighting the impressive contributions and accomplishments of our region's African American residents.

Resources

- [African American Heritage Preservation Foundation](#)
- [African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund](#)
- [NPS African American Civil Rights](#)
- [PHMC Guide to African American Resources](#)
- [Witnessing York: York Black History](#)
- [Main Street America: Preserving African American Historic Places](#)
- [PHMC Slavery and Underground Railroad Resources](#)
- [Hathi Trust: Pennsylvania Negro Business Directory, 1910](#)
- [New York Public Library Digital Collections: The Green Book](#)

Places Connected with Native American History

Native Americans were the original inhabitants of the South Mountain region, and so Native American history and culture can be found intertwined with every community's history. Before European contact, Native Americans peoples who lived in the South Mountain region had established dynamic societies and rich cultures, and they participated in complex trade and communication networks that extended far beyond the local area. Everything that European settlers and subsequent residents of the region built was established on land that had been the homes of Native Americans for generations.

The original Native American societies influenced the subsequent society of the South Mountain region in many ways. European settlers considered the location of Native American villages when choosing where to situate their own settlements. Colonial roads often followed the routes of indigenous walking paths. And we still use Native American words to describe prominent landscape features in the region, such as the Unami-Lenapi (Delaware) words “conodoguinet” (a long way with many bends), “conococheague” (many turns river), and “kittatinny”(endless mountains).

As we seek to tell the stories of our communities and preserve historic places, it makes sense to consider the traces left behind by the region's original inhabitants. We will also want to think about how Native peoples used and related to the land before European settlers imprinted their own cultures, traditions, and ways of life onto the landscape.

Many communities have documented particular places or features in their areas associated with Native peoples from the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. It is important for communities to ensure that those areas are reflected in planning documents such as local and county comprehensive plans and maps. That can help to ensure that future generations treat those places with sensitivity when planning new developments or public projects.

One unique aspect of the local Native American history are the rhyolite quarries of South Mountain that provided a shared, regional resource for stone that could be flaked into tools and projectile points. It appears that rhyolite flakes harvested in quarries on South Mountain became a natural resource for Native Americans throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.⁷

It is possible that future archaeological investigations could reveal artifacts and features that convey important new information about the Indigenous people who lived in the South Mountain region. For example, when the Norfolk Southern Railroad sought to extend a connector rail line through Lemoyne in the 2000s, they undertook an archeological investigation in areas that were suspected to contain Native American settlements from the period of European contact.

A subsequent archaeological investigation discovered the remains of a sizable Susquehannock village dating to the early 1600. In addition to evidence of a palisade wall and dwellings, researchers discovered over 100,000 artifacts including trade items that demonstrated connections with both Dutch traders and the early English settlement at Jamestown. The investigation revealed important new information about the Susquehannock, and also served as a reminder that evidence of Native American heritage could be anywhere within our communities.

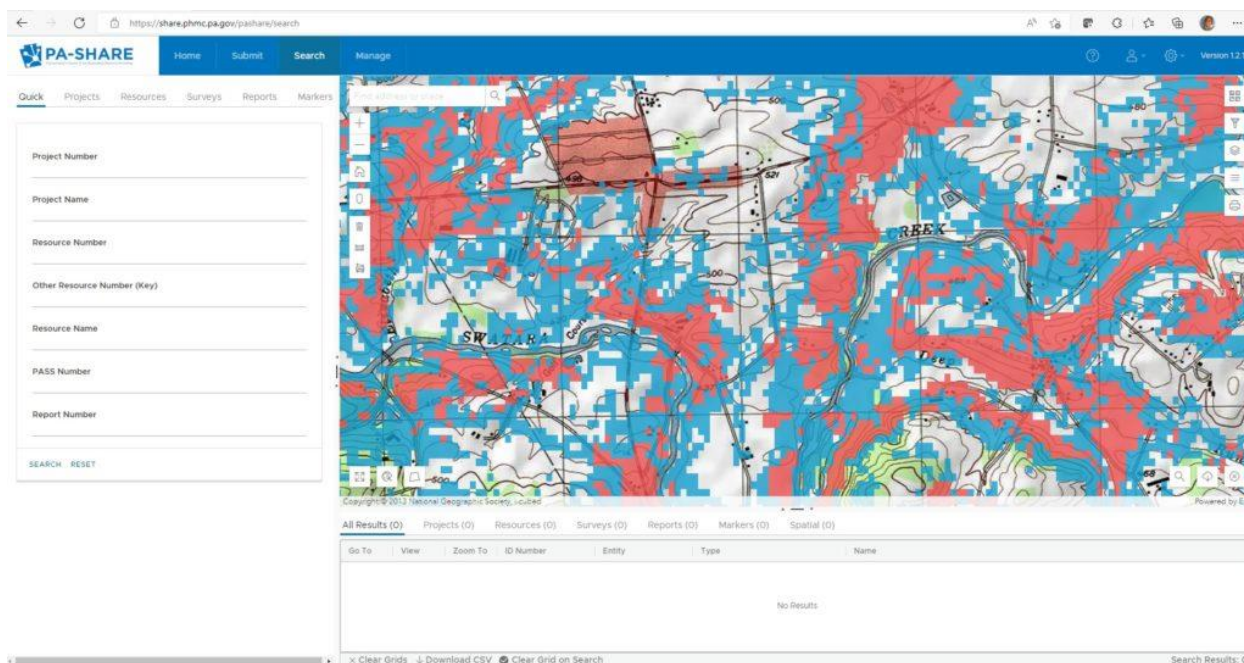
There are several sources that can assist communities as they seek to protect the Native American resources in their areas. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office's PA-SHARE database currently contains information on over 28,000 identified archaeological sites across the state, many of which relate to Native American history.

Additionally, in 2016 the Federal Highway Commission, PennDot, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission partnered to create a map of likely prehistoric archaeological sites that can be used for planning purposes to predict where pre-contact Native American settlements may have existed.⁸ Because of the sensitive nature of these sites and fear of potential looting, access to information about both this map and previously identified

⁷ Noel Strattan, The 2020 Pass Report, Pennsylvania Historic Preservation, March 10, 2021, <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/the-2020-pass-report/#more-5305>.

⁸ Noel Strattan, "Mapping the Probability of Pre-Historic Archaeological Sites," Pennsylvania Historic Preservation, June 1, 2016.

archaeological sites is restricted. To find out more about the information in PA-SHARE in your community, you may want to contact the PA-SHPO to discuss ways to preserve these resources.



The Pre-Contact Probability Model in PA-SHARE. Blue areas have a moderate likelihood of having pre-contact Native American archaeological sites, and red areas have a high probability. The map is from the PA SHPO's blog, Pennsylvania Historic Preservation, June 1, 2016.

A Native American presence in the South Mountain region continued after European contact and persists to the present day. Although warfare, disease, and violence reduced the number of Indigenous people in the state, and despite the fact that the federal government does not recognize any Indian tribes in the state, Native American individuals and families with Native American heritage continued to live across Pennsylvania.

It is difficult to know how many people of Native American heritage continued to live in the South Mountain region, especially because the United States did not count them until the 1860 census, and the counting that took place after 1860 did a poor job capturing the number of Indigenous people in the state. The census recorded three Indians in the entire state in 1860, thirty-four in 1870, and 184 in 1880. The 1870 census recorded three Indians in the four-county South Mountain region (Cumberland, Adams, York, and Franklin counties) in 1870, but none in 1880.⁹ It is hard to know whether that data reflects the absence of Indians, a preference for individuals not to share their Indian heritage, or a failure of census takers to recognize people of Native Americans heritage in the state.

⁹ United States Census 1860, Population of the United States: Pennsylvania, 410.
<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1860/population/1860a-30.pdf>.

In 1879, the United States government established the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Cumberland County as the nation's first off reservation boarding school established at a former military base. The school brought approximately 1,000 Native American children per year, a total of approximately 7,800 over thirty years from 140 tribes. The school's aim was to educate the children, Americanize them, and strip them of their Indigenous heritage and culture. The school's mission was to "kill the Indian" and "save the man."¹⁰

Many of the school's original buildings continue to exist on the campus of the United States Army War College in Carlisle, as well as a cemetery that holds the bodies of children who died while attending the school. The large number of young Native American men and women who attended the school interacted with residents across the region in a variety of ways, including through athletic competitions with the school's teams.

Another way that Carlisle Indian School students interacted with the larger community was through the "Outing system." After two years of on-campus study, the school would place young people with white families and farms across the region, the state, and even out of state in order to gain work experience and immersion into white society. Boys typically were required to do farm work and women often did domestic service. In 1926, the Meriam Report commissioned by the Institute for Government Research concluded that the program provided students with little real training, and instead employed them as unskilled laborers and servants with minimal oversight and unfair compensation.¹¹ Many farms and households across the South Mountain region hosted Outing students from the Carlisle Indian School between 1879 and 1918.¹²

The 2020 United States census recorded over 3,400 Native Americans living in Cumberland, Franklin, Adams, and York counties. Moreover, there are 14 federally-recognized Native American tribes that continue to have territories of historic interest in Pennsylvania, and 9 of those tribes have a historic interest in the four-county area of the South Mountain region. While their tribal lands may now be located in other states, they continue to be connected to the South Mountain region as their ancestral homeland.¹³

As residents, municipalities, and historical organizations seek to explore and tell the stories of the region's Native Americans, it would be valuable to make contact with the tribes that have

¹⁰ The Carlisle Indian School was established as a National Monument in 2024. See National Park Service, "Carlisle Federal Indian Boarding School," <https://www.nps.gov/cibs/index.htm>, The National Park Service also has a Teaching with Historic Places lesson called, "The Carlisle Indian Industrial School: Assimilation with Education After the Indian Wars." https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/lesson-plan-163_carlisle-school.htm.

¹¹ Trennert, Robert A. "From Carlisle to Phoenix: The Rise and Fall of the Indian Outing System, 1878-1930" *Pacific Historical Review*. 52 (3)..

¹² For information about the Outing program and other records on the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, see The Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center, <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>.

¹³ A PennDot report from 2006 indicates the 14 federally recognized Indian tribes with historic interest in Pennsylvania, and maps showing those with historical connections to the South Mountain region, see Pennsylvania Tribal Consultation Handbook, 2006, <https://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/PubsForms/Publications/PUB%20592.pdf>.

historical connection to their region. You might contact their Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO), or tribal historians to get their views and insights on the most appropriate ways to tell the area's Native American history and honor the sites connected with Native Americans.

Resources

- Kurt W. Carr and Roger W. Moeller, *First Pennsylvanians: The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania*, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2015.
- Kurt W. Carr et al., *The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020.
- Daniel K. Richter, *Native Americans' Pennsylvania*, Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2005.
- Paul A.W. Wallace, *Indians in Pennsylvania*, Second Edition, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2015.
- [NPS: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preserving Native American Places](#)
- [Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation: Asian American & Pacific Islander History](#)
- [Penn State Indigenous Peoples in Pennsylvania History](#)
- [Dickinson College Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center](#)
- [Dickinson College Center for the Future of Native Peoples](#)
- [Native American & Indigenous Studies at Penn](#)
- [Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Historic Preservation Office- Delaware Nation](#)
- [Museum of Indian Culture](#)
- [Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center](#)
- [Native American House Alliance](#)
- [Historical PA Native Americans](#)
- [Franklin and Marshall College- Native & Indigenous Resources](#)
- [PMHC-Tribal Consultation](#)
- [PennDOT/FHWA-Pennsylvania Tribal Consultation Handbook](#)
- [PennDOT/FHWA–Pennsylvania Tribal Consultation Handbook: Appendix with Tribal Contacts and Maps of Historical Interest](#)
- [PMHC Historical Markers](#)

Places Connected with LGBTQ+ History

Across the South Mountain region are building and historic sites that tell the story of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and those with other sexual orientation and gender identities (LGBTQ+). Sites may include the residences of individuals who identified as LGBTQ+, sites associated with LGBTQ+ groups or organizations, or businesses that explicitly served the queer community.

Exploring LGBTQ+ history in the past can be challenging as language and norms of same-sex interactions change over time. For example, it was common for women in the nineteenth and early twentieth century to have intense, same-sex friendships and to correspond using intense, emotional language. Likewise, it was common practice in the past for same-sex individuals to sleep in the same bed for warmth or economy. Individuals posing together in a photograph may also strike poses that suggest a possible intimate relationship.

While some might speculate about what may have occurred in such situations, the truth is that we usually do not and cannot know. In such cases, allowing sources to speak for themselves rather than applying a modern label or forcing a particular interpretation is the best approach.

In the era before the Gay Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, social stigma, embarrassment, the fear of violence and abuse, and the potential for negative repercussions for individuals and their families—including the possible loss of employment or being shunned by one's family and friends—led many individuals to hide their sexual preferences and gender identities. Organizations and businesses that served LGBTQ+ patrons generally sought to avoid public attention and often only connected with patrons by word of mouth.

In 1975, Governor Milton Shapp issued an executive order banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment controlled by the state government, but it remains legal for private employers to discriminate or terminate a person's employment based on sexual orientation.

Gay men also risked legal consequences for engaging in same-sex relationships until 1980 when the state's sodomy law was declared unconstitutional. The Pennsylvania General Assembly repealed the state's sodomy laws in 1995. It was 2015 when the United States Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage.

The secrecy and privacy associated with LGBTQ+ history before the successes of the gay rights movement can make it challenging to find sources and documents about LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations before the end of the twentieth century.

However, sometimes sources such as letters, diaries, police reports, newspaper stories, and trial records can provide clear evidence about intimate relationships. Even in such cases, discretion may be appropriate. People in the past may not have wanted details about their personal or

intimate life to be public, and so careful judgment may be required not to “out” individuals who preferred their privacy.

The rise of the movement for gay rights, including workplace protections against discrimination for sexual orientation or gender identity, led some members of the LGBTQ+ community to be more public about their sexuality and identity. Moreover, the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s led many gay men and their supporters to speak out more publicly for gay rights, access to healthcare, and public funding for research to find a cure for the disease that was devastating the gay community.

Whereas queer individuals may have chosen to hide their stories in the past, in recent decades there has been an outpouring of activity to document and preserve records of the region’s LGBTQ+ history and to tell those previously untold stories.

The Central Pennsylvania LGBT History Project

Since 2012, the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania has been undertaking a History Project focused on collecting archive materials, artifacts, and oral histories associated with LGBT people and organizations in Central Pennsylvania. Dickinson College’s Archives and Special Collections serves as the repository for materials collected by the project, and some of the materials have been digitized and made available online.

Fortuitously, the region covered by the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania’s History Project overlaps with the counties of the South Mountain region. Therefore, the materials in the collection provide important evidence for discovering traces of LGBTQ+ history in the communities of our region.

In addition to collecting historical materials, the LGBT Center of Pennsylvania has also taken steps to share that history with the public through exhibits and walking tours. In terms of historic preservation, they have created an interactive map showing sites associated with LGBTQ+ history in Central Pennsylvania:

- [American Alliance of Museums Welcoming Guidelines](#)
- [Mapping the Gay Guides](#)

Other Untold Stories Worth Exploring

Places Connected with disABILITY History

It is a constant through history that individuals and families have experienced physical and mental disabilities. Individuals could be born with disabilities, they may have suffered due to an injury, a workplace accident, or while in military service, or they might simply have lost mental or physical abilities with the onset of age. Unfortunately, there was often significant social stigma around physical and mental disabilities that viewed them shameful and embarrassing, and families would often confine “invalids” to institutions or otherwise hide them from public view.

Intentional history means demystifying and removing the stigma from the history of individuals with disabilities. Finding and telling their stories allows them to once again be part of our larger narrative, and to recognize that disability is part of the human experience.

It is hard to identify places not affected by disability history. Buildings associated with disability history can be halfway houses, alms houses, county homes and asylums, old age homes, infirmaries, care homes, sanitariums, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. Consider how families may have cared for their own members who had physical or mental disabilities.

Other places to consider would be summer camps offering services for mental handicap and schools/programs developed for the blind and deaf. Places associated with veterans like Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion buildings, and the Red Cross would have been spaces where disability issues were addressed and discussed.

Once we start looking for the story of how people with disabilities lived within our communities, we will be surprised to discover how prevalent and important these histories are for telling the whole story of our communities.

Resources

- [Disability Justice, Heritage Conservation, and Placemaking](#)
- [The Disability History Association: Public Disability History](#)
- [10 Principles of Disability Justice](#)
- [Museum of disABILITY History](#)
- [Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance: Disability History Links](#)
- [Disability Justice in Preservation](#)

Places Connected with Immigration History

For over three hundred years the South Mountain region has been shaped by wave after wave of immigrants who arrived in the region and chose to make it their home. From the earliest arrival of Swedes, Finns, Dutch, English, Scottish, German, Swiss, French, and Irish settlers, to the nineteenth and early-twentieth century arrival of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, to more recent arrivals from Asian, Latin America, and Africa, Central Pennsylvania has a long history of being a destination for people seeking work, opportunity, and the chance to build new lives for themselves and their families. In each case, these new arrivals brought their culture and traditions, and left their marks on the built environment.

While this chapter cannot address all of the ways that immigrant communities—both old and new—have shaped the buildings and landscapes of the South Mountain region, as we seek to do intentional history, we will want to look for the traces of past immigrant groups, and also to consider the ways that new immigrant groups are leaving their own marks on our communities.

As we seek to preserve places that matter in our communities, we want to recognize the diverse array of cultures and traditions that have shaped the region. Sometimes the new arrivals have brought with them specific approaches to construction or design that they then introduce into the landscape. For example, the region’s German residents brought strong ideas about the proper design of farm houses that were quite different from the log cabins built by the Swedish and Dutch settlers, or the cottages of their English and Irish neighbors.¹⁴ And while some immigrant groups leave a strong impression on the buildings in our communities, such as the striking onion domes on the roof of St. Mary’s Orthodox Church in Chambersburg, others move into spaces built by earlier waves of immigrants and adapt those spaces to their own culture and needs.

Over time immigrant groups that decide to remain in the South Mountain region often create institutions and businesses that make an even more pronounced mark on communities, such as churches, businesses, restaurants, and social and service clubs. Capturing the records and memories of a community’s newest immigrants and their cultural traditions can provide the foundation for ensuring that future generations can accurately tell their stories.

Resources

- [Our Historia, Our future: The Latinx Preservation Toolkit](#)
- [Witnessing York: Latino Resources](#)
- [Dickinson Mexican Mosaic Project](#)
- [Mexican Migration and Apple Mosaic](#)

¹⁴ Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, “Traditional/Vernacular Mode 1638 - 1950”

“<https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/traditional.html>”

- [Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation: Asian American & Pacific Islander History](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation: Preserving Chinatowns in the United States](#)
- [1882 Foundation](#)
- [Caribbean Preservation Alliance](#)
- [PHMC Indentured Servants](#)
- [PHMC Naturalization and Immigration Records](#)
- [Historic Preservation German PA Flounder House](#)
- [The Pennsylvania German Society](#)
- [PHMC-Architectural Styles](#)

Places Connected with Sacred Spaces

The legacy of William Penn’s commitment to religious toleration can be seen today in the South Mountain region’s extraordinary diversity of faith communities and religious denominations.

Religious buildings are often constructed at significant moments in the history of a faith community. Sometimes they reflect moments of great growth and success, while other times they are acts of necessity when a fire or other tragedy destroys an earlier structure. Usually a religious building reflects the values of the faith community and embodies specific symbolic elements consistent with their religious vision. Some denominations have specific guidelines instructing congregations on the proper way to design and consecrate a place of worship. However, other times a faith community operates in the best space they can find, or they worship in a structure originally designed for a different faith tradition. Some small congregations worship in the homes of their members.

Religious buildings are sites of important architecture and memory for a community. They serve not only as places of worship but as gathering spaces for the faith community, and often for other community groups and organizations. They are often safe places for neighborhoods and often support local communities with food pantries or other types of services. Some buildings host multiple services in a variety of different languages. These structures are important parts of people’s lives and the fabric of local communities, and their stories are worth preserving.

Resources

- [National Trust for Historic Preservation: Why do old places matter?](#)
- [Partners for Sacred Places](#)
- [National Fund for Sacred Places](#)
- [Preservation Alliance: A Guide to Identifying and Evaluating Opportunities for Shared Use of Religious Properties](#)

Section III: Additional Resources

- Theimer, Kate. *A Very Correct Idea of Our School: A Photographic History of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School*. North Charleston, SC: CreateSpace, 2018.
- Green, Victor H, and Nat Gertler, eds. *The Negro Motorist Green Book Compendium 1938, 1947, 1954, 1963*. Camarillo, Ca: About Comics, 2019.
- *Pennsylvania Negro Business Directory, 1910: Industrial and Material Growth of the Negroes of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, Pa: Jas. H. W. Howard & Son.
- [Main Street America](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation- 10 tips to Preserve Places from the Recent Past](#)
- [University of Texas- Placemaking: The Role of Historic Preservation and Building Documentation in Creating Inspiring Public Spaces](#)
- [Place Matters Census - City Lore](#)
- [Preservation PA- Heritage Conference](#)

Section IV: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter

- 1882 Foundation: <https://1882foundation.org/>
- American Alliance of Museums LGBTQ Welcoming Guidelines for Museums: <https://www.aam-us.org/2023/06/19/welcoming-guidelines/>
- Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation: <https://apiahip.org/>
- Caribbean Preservation Alliance: <https://caribbeanpreservationalliance.org/>
- City Lore- Celebrating Community Anchors Map: <https://citylore.org/census/>
- Council of Three Rivers: <https://www.cotraic.org/>
- Delaware Nation Historic Preservation Office: <https://www.delawarenation-nsn.gov/historic-preservation-office/>
- Dickinson College
 - Dickinson College Mexican Mosaic: <https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20381/mosaics/125/mexico>
 - LGBT Center of Central Pa: <https://archives.dickinson.edu/lgbt>
 - Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center: <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>
 - Center for the Futures of Native Peoples: <https://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/1688/resources>
- Franklin & Marshall College Library- Native & Indigenous Resource: <https://library.fandm.edu/c.php?g=1169716&p=8591321>
- Latinx Preservation Toolkit: <https://savingplaces.org/stories/our-historia-our-futuro-the-latinx-preservation-toolkit>
- Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania: <https://www.lenape-nation.org/>
- LGBT Center Central Pa History Project: <https://centralpalgbthistory.org/>
- Main Street America: <https://mainstreet.org/>

- Mapping the Gay Guides: <https://mappingthegayguides.org/>
- Mexican Migration and Apple Mosaic: <https://blogs.dickinson.edu/latinomosaic/about-the-mosaic/resources-2/>
- Millersville University- Native Americans in Pennsylvania: <https://mapmaker.millersville.edu/pamaps/NativeAmericans/>
- Museum of disABILITY History: <https://www.museumofdisability.org/>
- Museum of Indian Culture: <https://www.museumofindianculture.org/>
- Native American House Alliance: <https://nativeamericanhousealliance.org/>
- National Collaborative for Women's History Sites: <https://ncwhs.org/>
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - 10 Tips to Preserve Places from the Recent Past: <https://savingplaces.org/stories/ten-tips-to-preserve-places-from-the-recent-past>
 - Asian American & Pacific Islander History: <https://savingplaces.org/asian-pacific-islander-american-history>
 - Preserving Chinatowns in the United States: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3fa093b1c6194409ac979b03a4e77ed6>
 - Preserving Native American Places: <https://cdn.savingplaces.org/2023/07/20/16/37/28/605/Preserving-Native-American-Places-FINAL.pdf>
 - The Latinx Preservation Toolkit: <https://savingplaces.org/stories/our-historia-our-futuro-the-latinx-preservation-toolkit>
 - Where Women Made History: <https://savingplaces.org/womens-history>
- National Park Service
 - LGBT Heritage Theme Study: <https://npshistory.com/publications/nhl/theme-studies/lgbtq-america.pdf>
 - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/index.htm>
- New York Public Library Digital Collections: The Green Book: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/the-green-book#/?tab=navigation>
- "How to Do Oral History": <https://siarchives.si.edu/history/how-do-oral-history>
- PennDOT/FHWA- Pennsylvania Tribal Consultation Handbook: <https://www.paep.org/wp-content/uploads/Pub-591-tribal-consultation-handbook.pdf>
- Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance-Disability History Links: <http://www.preservepennhurst.org/default.aspx?pg=288>
- Pennsylvania German Society: <https://pgs.org/>
- Penn State- Indigenous Peoples in Pennsylvania History: <https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/c.php?g=1145236&p=8358593>
- Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office/PHMC
 - Architectural Styles: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/education-outreach/pennsylvania-agricultural-history-project/field-guide-agricultural-resources/house-types.html>
 - German Flounder House: <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/the-flounder-house-intriguing-vernacular-house-form/>

- Resource Round-Up- Resources for Studying Women’s history in Pennsylvania: <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/resource-round-resources-for-studying-womens-history-pennsylvania/>
- Tribal Consultation: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/environmental-review/consultation.html>
- Historical Marker Search: <https://share.phmc.pa.gov/markers/>
- Pennsylvania State Archives: Women’s History Resource Guide: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives/research-online/research-guides/womens-history.htm>
- Preservation League of New York State- Disability Justice in Preservation: <https://www.preservenys.org/blog/disability-justice-in-preservation>
- Preservation Pennsylvania- 2020 Statewide Conference on Heritage: <https://www.preservationpa.org/participate/conference/schedule-speakers/>
- Sins Invalid- 10 Principles of Disability Justice: <https://sinsinvalid.org/10-principles-of-disability-justice/>
- The Disability History Association- Public Disability History: https://dishist.org/?page_id=1104
- University of Minnesota-Disability Justice, Heritage Conservation, and Placemaking: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7207b97143564215a0040692d4d45967>
- University of Penn- Native American & Indigenous Studies: <https://nais.sas.upenn.edu/>
- University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture-Placemaking: <https://soa.utexas.edu/news/placemaking-historic-preservation>
- Witnessing York Latino Resources: <https://www.witnessingyork.com/york-county-pa-latino-history/>

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Chapter 4: Researching the History of the Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region

Section I: Getting Started: The Power of Stories

As you begin to identify historic places that matter to you in your community, the next step is to learn the history of the buildings and landscapes and the stories associated with them. This is not merely a process of research and documentation. Instead, being able to tell a building's history and convey to others why it is significant is fundamental to the work of historic preservation.

There are a few buildings that are just so beautiful or so well known that it requires little work to convince others that they are worth saving. However, for most historic places that are less stunning or familiar, especially those that contain untold stories or that have not been well researched in the past, we need to uncover their stories.

Stories have power, for it is stories that will transform a conglomeration of bricks, boards, and shingles into a place that has significance and meaning. The stories of people and lives will foster an emotional and human connection in others. The explanation of why a builder opted to craft a particular building with certain features and materials, in a certain style, will help others to see meaning rather than just a structure. Names, details, and photographs woven into a compelling story make the ordinary extraordinary and can help more people understand why a community might take steps to ensure a building's preservation.

This chapter will help you build a narrative around a historical building of interest. Any good story starts with the basic facts. You will want to know when it was constructed, the materials used to build it, and if and how it has changed over time. You will want to know who lived or worked there over time. Through patient research, examination of a wide array of sources, and a good bit of detective work, you can start to learn about the people associated with the building and their connection to the community. It will take time, and you might run into a few barriers along the way.

Tracing the history of a historic property is like researching family genealogy. It requires diligence and patience, but it is well worth it. In the end, you will uncover a story that will help you and others understand how the building fits into the story of your community. Sharing that story will then advance the work of encouraging others to value it and preserve it for the future.

Section II: Defining Your Goals & Organizing Your Research

To begin, why are you researching the place? Is it your goal to preserve the property, learn about its history, or restore it? Is the research just for you, or will you share it with others? Do you want to list it on the National Register of Historic Places? As you set your objectives, consider the goals of the property owner, neighbors, community members, and stakeholders. Whatever the reason(s) for researching the property, setting goals will help set the tone and trajectory of your research.

Once you have defined the project, you must begin researching. Before starting the research, consider how you plan to organize it. Researching a historic building takes multiple steps. You need to access and review a variety of documents several times. All notes, pictures, and

documents should be filed in a notebook and folder as a hard copy or scanned, labeled, and saved in clearly marked folders. As you gain information you will often go back and check it against earlier research. You will compare what you know with other documents; and it is likely that you might find errors, conflicting information, or questions you simply cannot answer. Keeping your research notes and materials well organized will make your life much easier as you delve deeper into your research.

Other people may use your research to learn about the building's history. Create a system you and others interested in the property can access. This means you need to keep track of the sources you use. Always note the source and where the source was located. Be specific so others can know precisely where you found the information – including the repository, website, date, file, book, and page number.

You also need to note the accuracy of the facts you find. If you are still determining if the facts are correct, you need to take note of that knowledge. Write down questions that you have, and when you have doubts about the accuracy of the information you are finding. Sometimes sources are wrong, and other times they may be revealing new truths that you or earlier researchers may have overlooked.

Your information must be as accurate as possible. Lastly, as you find information, always verify the facts you find. You can double-check facts using multiple primary sources to see if they have the same information. Secondary sources can also be helpful, but primary sources are the most important.

Some other suggestions for keeping your information organized:

- 1) Write full dates i.e., 1994 versus writing 94 or general time-period.
- 2) Create spreadsheets using Excel or Google Sheets with the information to make it easily accessible.
- 3) Keep a list of surname variations.
- 4) Develop a physical and virtual binder or folder with copies of primary and secondary sources.
- 5) Back-up information in print and online to ensure it is not accidentally lost if your computer or storage material fails. Cloud storage such as OneDrive or GoogleDrive can provide a good way to keep a secure backup of information you are finding.
- 6) Take detailed notes, citing sources, and the program/place you found the information. Record enough information so you can find the source again, if necessary.
- 7) Keep a list on your phone or small notebook to write down "Aha moments."

Example Record Organization Sheet

Record	Location	Title	Date	Other/Notes
Deed	Cumberland County Courthouse Recorder of Deeds Papers 1. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS 1766-1985	Id#: 1805.01	Mar.4, 1805	Name on Deed: Norris, William
Map	Library of Congress Website: Link	Map of Adams Co., PA	1858	Contains Littlestown Business Directory
Newspaper	Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive Website: Link	Gettysburg compiler. (Gettysburg, Pa.) Image 1	June 18, 1866	Info abt. Railroad House

Section III: The Sources That Can Tell Your Building's Story: Step by Step

Before visiting your local historical society or archive, you should begin your research using the power of observation. You want to gain a clear picture of the property, its location, and historic details of the building. This step can be overlooked, but it is necessary for you to identify the building in various stages of its life. Before looking at maps, deeds and other documents, having a clear picture of the property's appearance in person will be essential to verify the information. As you embark on this project, you will come across conflicting information. It is your job to dig deeper, sifting through it to find the facts about the property you love.

If possible, take a "discovery walk" around the property. As you walk, take photographs of the building and surrounding area. You will want to take many detailed photos to use for future reference. It could also be helpful to sketch a map of the area including nearby buildings, roads, fences, old trees, bodies of water (i.e., rivers, lakes, ponds), and other important points of interest. If possible, measure the distance between the building and nearby landmarks. You can measure distance using Google Maps and Google Earth satellite views. You can use the dimensions to locate the historic building on other maps.

When looking at a building's exterior, look for alterations: variations of wood, color, texture, areas of remodels, rust, and stains. You might also notice the differences between old and new windows and doors.

Questions to consider about the building's exterior:

- What is the address of the building?
- What kind of architectural details are on the building?
- Does it appear old or built in a different era?
- What type(s) of material are used in the construction?
- Where are the windows located? How many? How large or small are they?
- Does the building have additions or alterations?
- Are there any structures nearby?
- Are there various construction styles on the property?
- Is the building situated near any natural or local place of interest?
- What kind of roofline does the building have?
- Does it have a porch? Where is it located?
- What kind of ornamentation does the house have around the windows, doors, or roofline?
- Does the building have a garage? Where is it in-location to the main property?

The interior can also provide clues for understanding the story of a historic place. Objects of interest would be paint colors, age of appliances, size and shape of a room, exposed beams, ceiling height, doorways, fireplaces, materials used for the flooring, mantels, moldings, paneling, plaster and other decorative features. Once inside the place of interest, you may also notice areas of remodeling based on floor changes, holes, cracks, and other scars found near windows, wall transitions, and on the floors. Similarly, you might notice sun-bleached or weathered areas while other parts appear darker. The discoloration could help determine furniture placement or alterations to the room. One area in a house containing a wealth of information is closets. People rarely repaint and fix up closets. Check around the edges of doors and floorboards in the closet for old paint colors or wallpaper. The closet may also contain original wood floors, paneling, or molding. Other areas to assess age would be attics, doorknobs, floorboard nails, manufacture numbers on furniture or appliances, and electrical and plumbing materials. Each detail on an old or new building comes with a story.

Questions to consider about the building's interior:

- Was the building initially one house or designed as an apartment complex?
- What was the original layout of the room?
- Does the building contain any dead-ends, odd placements of doors/windows, or a sealed-up chimney?
- What kind of flooring was used? Any transitions to different materials?
- Are there any signs of original paint color or wallpaper?
- How old are the appliances, electrical, and/or plumbing materials?
- Is the furniture or décor from a specific era?
- What is the height of the ceiling?
- Are there any trim, molding, or paneling on the walls? If so, describe it and photograph it.
- Are there old desks or furniture that might contain documents or pictures of the home?

Resources

- [Dictionary of Architectural Terms-PHMC](#)

- [Residential Architectural Styles- National Association of Realtors](#)
- [Farmhouse Styles- PA Historic Preservation Office](#)
- [Sears Archive Historic Homes](#)
- [Assessing Building Conditions- Preservation Pennsylvania](#)
- [Technical Preservation Services- National Park Service](#)
- [Preservation Library-Preservation Directory](#)

Writing Your Property's Story

After assessing the building inside and out, you must use your newfound knowledge to find documentation about the historic property. Using newspapers, books, and other published histories can provide an overview of the location and period where the historic property was initially built. Local archives and universities may also have written histories of the community in books and dissertations that can provide background on the property's local community. One book that would provide a wealth of information about Pennsylvania is Miller & Pencak's *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth*. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office has also researched context studies on various topics such as agriculture, industry, and ethnic heritage that can increase community knowledge. You can access the context studies virtually: [PHMC Historic Contexts](#).

Contacting and interviewing previous owners, neighbors, or community members could provide you with many stories and materials not found in an archive or historical institution. You may also want to talk to builders or architects of the property. Oral histories can verify facts and provide new context to events. Before conducting an interview, create a guide with names, dates, significant events, property changes, and gaps in the information so you can follow the interviewees' story. If possible, bring the interviewee to the property. They can provide context for changes in the property. They may also recount information and stories that are not recorded such as folklore, family traditions, or community events.

A few critical notes to bear in mind before you begin your search: Pennsylvania history is complicated. Pennsylvania counties and municipalities have changed over time, so knowing when the county and township were created or incorporated helps to learn the property's history. Secondly, getting to know the neighbors who live near the house is helpful because they are a frame of reference. The distance of their property to the property you are researching is essential when locating your property on a map. A neighbor's property may also have similar building styles.

Deeds, Tax Records, & Land Warrants

Your first step in researching a historic property would be to learn its legal description. Legal descriptions give the property's exact location and parcel boundaries, found in the most current deed or at the county assessor's office. Postal addresses are NOT legal descriptions.

Deeds and tax records are a valuable source of information. Having the current property owner's name to access a deed or tax record is best. Once you find the most current deed, you will need to work backward, tracing the ownership of the property to when the property was first

established. You obtain deeds at your local Recorder of Deeds Office, or you can access these documents at <https://www.landex.com/> (offices using landex.com are noted below). Tax records are found at the Tax Assessor's Office, and land warrants are found at the Pennsylvania State Archives.

Deed: A deed documents the legal ownership of property. Early deeds are sometimes referred to as indentures. Note that deeds primarily document the saving of land, NOT a building, although some deeds may mention a structure on the land. To find a deed you need the deed number; however, historically deeds have been found using the following formula the Deed Book Letter + Volume # + Page #. You can sometimes find the current deed number using an online property website, which are listed below; however, it is not always accurate. If you cannot find a deed number or instrument number, you will need the surname of the owner. You will need to know the variations of the owner's surname in case of misspellings.

Deeds use specific terminology such as grantors and grantees. The grantor is the person selling the property away, while the grantee is the receiver of the property.

A deed contains helpful information about the owner and sometimes previous owners of the property. Deeds include dates of property transfer, price of the property, boundaries of the property, and the legal description of the property. They also can sometimes provide clues to the owner's financial status and the purpose of the property. Historically males have owned property, but frequently the spouses name is also given. Some deeds might list a dower at the end. A dower will have a wife's name, which protects her financial claim to the property if her husband died. If you cannot find a deed the land might be inherited, or the deed might not have been filed. In this case, dig further to find one from a different year. It is also helpful to read the deeds of nearby neighbors.

Finally, most deeds refer to earlier deeds documenting the previous land sale. The "deed chain" (a title defect that occurs when a link in the chain of title is broken) can help you trace the owners of a parcel of land back in time. You can view information about the current property at the websites listed below. The websites provide a lot of information but are not always accurate, especially regarding the property's age.

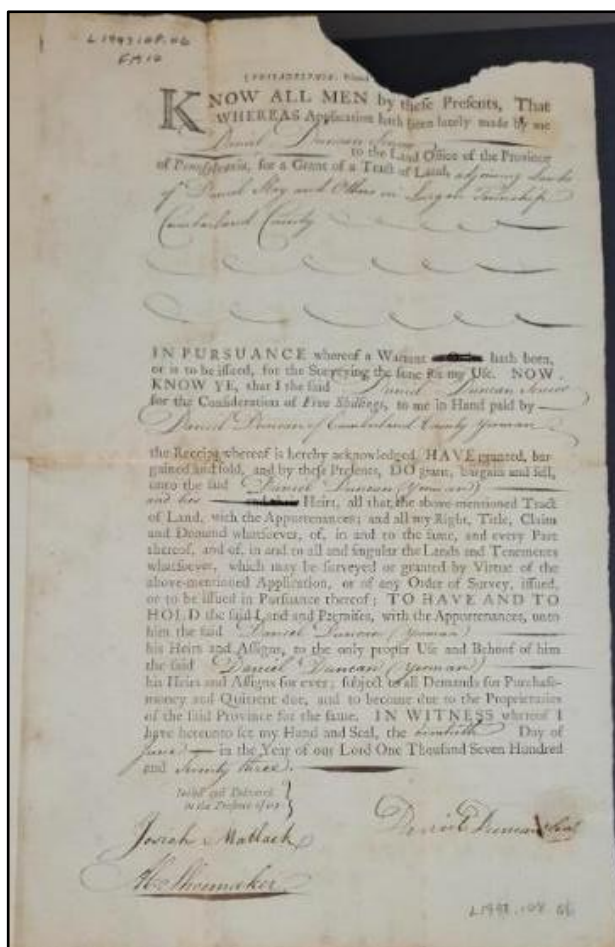
Online Property Websites:

- [Adams County Tax Parcel Viewer](#)
- [Cumberland County Property Mapper](#)
- [Franklin County Web Parcel Mapper](#)
- [York County Property Viewer](#)

Tax Record: Tax records are valuable documents of information. They will provide a financial assessment of the property and its owner. If you find a significant increase in tax on the record, you could assume a building has been added or that the building has significant alterations. Since people do not want a tax increase, additions may have been added earlier than recorded. Tax records contain building descriptions, the owner's name at the filed time, and remodels of the property. Property reprisals sometimes included more minor remodeling details than we would

traditionally see today. Compared to estate tax records, personal property tax records will have other assets a person owns such as animals or stocks, since they record nonreal estate assets. Depending on the age of your property, the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 (a.k.a. the Glass Tax) would provide a highly detailed property report. Tax records will usually be found at historical societies or county archives.

Land Warrant: A warrant is a document that shows the original transfer of land ownership from the state to a private citizen. A person would apply to purchase land from the State Office to get a land warrant. Once granted, the applicant receives a land warrant to certify the transfer. More information about warrants can be found at the Pennsylvania State Archives: [Land Warrant Archives](#) and [Land Record Indices](#).



Land Warrant

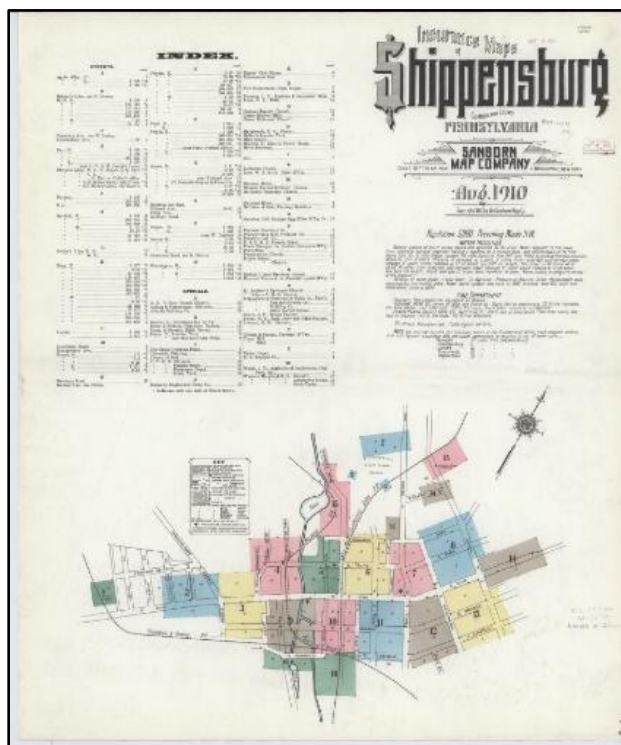
Atlases, Maps, & More

Maps and photographs can show the progression of a property's changes and help verify information found in deeds and tax records. Using various maps and photographs from different years can help you determine when the building was constructed on the property. You can access these documents at local archives, historical societies, and the [Library of Congress](#).

Atlas: These documents provide a first look at the property. By comparing atlases of differing years, you can note changes in its development.

Road Papers: The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation website contains many historical maps of state roadways. Road papers can provide old addresses and surrounding buildings near your property. You can access historic county maps virtually: [PA Historic County Maps](#)

Bird's Eye View Maps: A bird's eye view is an artist's rendition of a town, house, or landscape. The documents do not always accurately depict the property but provide a general picture.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Library of Congress

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Created by Sanborn (Beginning in 1867 to the 1970s), these maps will provide you with information about the construction of the building. You can track the changes in the building's exterior using a Fire Insurance Map. They include information about the boundary line, windows, doors, and roofing materials. Sanborn Maps were used in towns, so they will not be helpful with country properties. You can access these maps virtually through the Penn State University Digital Library: [Sanborn Maps](#) . They can also be found on the [Library of Congress](#) website and local historical societies will have original copies.

Photographs & Postcards: Like maps, photographs provide essential information about a property's interior and exterior. They can show changes, additions, and styles of rooms. Postcards use artistic license, but sometimes they are the only image source of the property. When searching for photographs of the property, you most likely will not find a photograph using the property's name. You often see images of nearby important landmarks with the property in the background.

Using newspapers to find events near the property may show a photograph of the property. Local archives and history centers have lots of photographs you can explore. Architectural photographs are another great source that can typically be found online. Lastly, do not forget to ask neighbors and previous owners for photographs of the property.

Plat Map: A plat map (a.k.a. cadastral maps) describes the property's size and legal description. They are at your county's surveyor, engineer or tax assessor office.

Surveyor Field Notes: Surveyor notes contain the original description of the property and physical descriptions of the landscape and size of the property. These documents are less reliable due to landscape changes but provide abundant historical information. Access to some survey notes and information can be found at [PHMC Surveys and Survey Lists](#).

Census Records, City Directories, & Newspapers

Census records, city directories, and newspapers provide information about tenants, businesses, and public events concerning the properties. Accessing census records and newspapers will require an online database or visiting the National Archives. Many local historical societies provide free access to databases such as Ancestry.com and newspapers.com in their libraries. They are noted below. Other websites of interest include [Familysearch.org](#) and [FindaGrave.com](#). City directories can be found in local historical societies and on the Library of Congress website.

Census Records: A census record will provide little information about historic properties. The purpose of a census record is to research the property owner and tenants. It might provide information about their occupation, age, and family size. It is important to note that census records can be inaccurate. They are a great source of information but are riddled with misspellings and can lead to faulty information. They are most effective when you have significant information about the person you are researching. Census records will provide variations of an owner's surname due to misspellings on the record. Census records are updated every ten years beginning in 1790. Early records only list the head of household. Beginning in 1850 all members of a household are listed. There are other special censuses that occur from

time to time. The Pennsylvania State Archives offers free access to Pennsylvania records on Ancestry.com. More information may be found: [Pennsylvania State Archives Ancestry.com PA](#).

City Directories: A city directory provides information about residents and establishments (i.e., churches, businesses, government buildings, etc.). It is helpful in finding people or previous uses of a property. More information can be found: [U.S. Cities Directories-Library of Congress](#)

Newspapers: Newspapers can be beneficial in researching historic property. You can find real estate ads, business ads, estate sales, auctions, and obituaries. You may also find organizational groups such as churches, gentlemen's clubs, and associations providing details about the people or businesses that use the property.

Newspaper Databases:

- [Chronicling America](#)
- [Pennsylvania Newspaper Archives](#)
- [Newspapers.com](#) (paid subscription)

Estate Inventories & Wills

Estate inventories and wills can aid your research by providing detailed lists of personal property. Wills can be more difficult to find than real estate inventories. These documents can be located at your local archive, register office, or courthouse; however, these documents can be challenging to locate. You also can access public documents on <https://www.landex.com/> (offices using landex.com are noted below).

Estate Inventories: An estate inventory is a list of items a person owned at the time of death. When a person dies without a will, their items become the courts' responsibility. Estate inventories will provide you with information about the financial status of the property owner. The inventories can be very detailed and might help you understand the interior layout of the home.

Wills: A will is a legal document about a person's estate once they die. Unfortunately, a will does not have to be filed at a public office, so there may be no paper trail to follow. A will is the most all-inclusive document because it contains information on the building and personal property. The Register of Wills Office at the county courthouse is a place to begin a search. There may be wills that have been included in the archives at the historical society.

Other Records of Interest

Some records are situational and may only apply to some properties. The documents listed below can be more difficult to find. An appointment with your local historical society will be the first step in finding these documents.

Company Records: Depending on the property's location near to a factory or railroad, digging into the company's financial records may be helpful. The property in question could have been

built for the workers and financed by the company. If the property was also a rental, looking at business records would provide names of tenants who once lived in the building.

First Family Series: The 1st Family Series identifies the original families that purchased land from the Penn family in 1750 Cumberland County (Susquehanna River to western board of the state). These are published by the Cumberland County Historical Society.

Other Public Records: Every property has information somewhere. If you struggle to find a lead you could try other less notable public records, such as divorce cases, insanity cases, mechanic liens, telephone books, building permits, fire logs, inspector reports, orphans court records, criminal records, litigation records and post office records.

Locating Your Historical Societies & Public Records Offices

The following chart provides a list of places to begin your search. It is not an all-inclusive list. As you find information, you will need to access collections at local universities, colleges, museums, and historical sites not listed below. The chart provides the society's name, website, and databases you can access at the location. For example, at the Cumberland County Historical Society you can access Ancestry.com. The Additional Access section also notes if information from the site can be found remotely on landex.com. Landex.com is a paid website you can access virtually from your home.

Lastly, most historical societies require appointments and payment of a small fee to use their research room unless you are a member or student. Appointment times and fees are located on each public office or historical societies website.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Website</u>	<u>Additional Access</u>
Adams County		
Adams County Historical Society	https://www.achs-pa.org/	<u>Resources:</u> Ancestry.com Newspapers.com Fold3
Adams County Courthouse	https://www.adamscountypa.gov/courts	
Cumberland County		
Cumberland County Historical Society	https://www.historicalsociety.com/	<u>Resources:</u> Ancestry.com Newspapers.com Fold3
Cumberland County Courthouse	https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/2568/Public-Records-Access	<u>Virtual access:</u> https://www.landex.com/
Cumberland County Archives	Digital Archives: https://ccweb.ccpa.net/archives/	

	Office: https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/2566/Archives	
Franklin County		
Franklin County Historical Society	https://www.franklinhistorical.org	Resources: Ancestry.com Newspapers.com
Franklin County Archives	https://franklincountypa.gov/index.php?section=government-archives	
Franklin County Register and Recording Office	https://franklincountypa.gov/index.php?section=government_register-record-office	
York County		
York County Historical Center	https://www.yorkhistoricalcenter.org/	
York County Archives	https://www.yorkcountyararchives.org/	
State Resources		
Pennsylvania State Archives	https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives.html	Resources: Ancestry.com Fold3
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office	https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html	

Section IV: Sharing Your Research

Your love and desire to preserve a property should be shared with others. Depending on your goals for the historic property, you may want to advertise to gain not only community support, but financial support for your cause. No matter your reasons, the first step of building support begins with a positive story. Your story should be your motivator for the project. Instead of thinking about the question, “Why do I want to save this historic property?” think, “Why should the community care about saving this property?” People will have opinions about the property you are saving. Listen to the good and the bad to help create your story. The message you bring to the public should be positive, concise, and relevant. To make your message relevant, consider what it might be about your story that other people might find most interesting.

Once you have a story, why not share it with your community? Consider developing positive contacts with your local news stations and keeping them posted about your project. The media can be your ally in gaining support for your cause. You can also host community functions and use the Internet to tell others about an at-risk historic property and discuss why it is vital to the community.

Website, Social Media, & Publications

Once the community is excited and involved in preserving the historic property, they need to be kept informed about the process. Using websites and social media pages can help you maintain an active presence for the project in the community. Your webpage should be dedicated to more in-depth knowledge about the property, while social media sites allow you to stay relevant in the community’s mind.

Website: A website is a handy tool for providing important information about your project to the public. If you choose to create a webpage, keep it up to date! A website should provide more knowledge than a social media site, but it is recommended to have both. In its simplest form, your website should contain your testimony or story about why the community should be invested in your project. It should also have pictures and stories about the property. Most importantly, it should have a “Getting Involved” section. The section should have information about how to contact you and planned events people can attend. Lastly, make sure to link all social media pages on the website.

Social Media: Your social media pages (i.g., Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat) should be used for fast and relevant information. A social media page will reach a broader audience than your website. These pages are not landing sites for information; they are used for concise updates about the project. You should include your website link on your social media “about” section for people to access.

Publication: All publications (i.e., posts, blogs, updates) on your website and social media pages should pertain to your message and story. Publication should be positive, relevant, and frequent. You want everyone to remember your wonderful cause. You should post the latest changes and ways the community can get involved. As mentioned, preservation takes time, so you might wonder, “What should I post when nothing is happening?” Some suggestions when there is no

news to report on the preservation process would be pictures of the original property, fun facts/stories about people or the business that used the property, highlighting people on your team, and polls/surveys about historical trivia.

Walking Tours

A walking tour is a great way to involve the community in preserving your property. Walking tours offer a personalized experience at the property you love. Like your social media page and website, a walking tour must propel your message. Your story should refer to a universal theme of family, tradition, restoration, etc. Walking tours should be carefully thought out. You do not want your joyful celebration of restoration to turn into a long-drawn-out story for the people on the tour. To keep your audience engaged, keep the message concise and positive, highlight places on the property, include photographs or artifacts from the property that could be passed around, and, most importantly, choose a well-spoken public speaker. Your speaker is the key. They should be knowledgeable and tell a compelling story.

Resources

- [Creating A Heritage Trail- National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
- [Self-Guided Walking Tours- Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Mercersburg Historical Walking Tour- Franklin County](#)

Interpretative Signage

Another way to advertise your property effectively is through using interpretative signage. These signs should share the history and reasons why your property is being preserved. The signs should be easily accessible to the public. Many different types of interpretative signage include historical markers, plaques, and panels. Flyers for an event would be a type of interpretative signage as well. A flyer should be eye-catching and include information about the property's history. Including QR codes that link to your website would be beneficial for people to learn more about the building.

Resources

- [Historical Markers and War Memorials in Pennsylvania- Historical Marker Database](#)
- [Civil War Signage- Cumberland Valley Rail Trail](#)
- [Plaques Commemorate Civil War Structures- PennLive](#)
- [Recommendations for Developing Interpretive Signs- South Dakota Historical Society](#)
- [Interpretive Signage- Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#)
- [NPS: Wayside Exhibits](#)

Section V: Additional Readings

- Howe, Barbara J., Dolores A. Fleming, Emory L. Kemp, and Ruth Ann Overbeck. *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*. Edited by David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1997.
- McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide of American Houses*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2013.
- Miller, Randall M., and William Pencak, ed. *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth*. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.
- O'Donnell, Eleanor. *National Register Bulletin: Research A Historic Property*. U.S. Department of the Interior, 1998.
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB39-Complete.pdf>

Section VI: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter

- Botanic Gardens Conservation Interpretive Signage Guide:
https://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/Education/Making_your_garden_come_alive/chapter_5_interpretive_signage.pdf
- Cumberland County Visitors Bureau Self-Guided Walking Tours:
<https://www.visitcumberlandvalley.com/blog/post/5-hidden-gems-self-guided-walking-tours/>
- Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Civil War Tour: <https://www.cvrhc.org/civil-war-signs/>
- Historical Marker Database:
<https://www.hmdb.org/Results.asp?Search=State&State=Pennsylvania&u=>
- Library of Congress
 - Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers:
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 - Map Collections: <https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/>
 - Sanborn Map Collection: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/articles-and-essays/introduction-to-the-collection/#:~:text=The%20Sanborn%20map%20collection%20consists,States%2C%20Canada%2C%20and%20Mexico.>
 - U.S.: City and Telephone Directories: <https://guides.loc.gov/united-states-city-telephone-directories/city-directories>
- Mercersburg Walking Tour Guide: <https://www.explorefranklincountypa.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Walking-Tour-of-Historic-Mercersburg.pdf>
- National Association of Realtors Architectural Styles:
<https://www.nar.realtor/magazine/tools/architectural-styles/residential>
- National Park Service
 - Preservation & Sustainability: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/index.htm>
 - Wayside Exhibits: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/upload/Wayside-Guide-First-Edition.pdf>
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - Creating a Heritage Trail: <https://savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-tips-tools-seven-steps-plan-heritage-trail>
- Patriot News Plaques Commemorate Carlisle's Civil War-era Structures:
https://www.pennlive.com/midstate/2013/04/plaques_commemorate_carlisles.html

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Historic County Maps:
<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Maps/Pages/County-Type-10-Historic.aspx>
- Pennsylvania State Archives
 - Ancestry Pennsylvania: <https://www.pa.gov/en/services/phmc/access-pennsylvania-state-archives-at-ancestry-com.html>
 - Land Record Indices: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives/research-online/research-guides/land-records-indices.html>
 - Warrant Registers (1733-1957): <https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-88WarrantRegisters/r17-88AllCountiesInterface.htm>
- Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
 - Dictionary of Architectural Terms:
<https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/resources/dictionary.html>
- Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
 - House Types in Pennsylvania: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/education-outreach/pennsylvania-agricultural-history-project/field-guide-agricultural-resources/house-types.html>
 - Historic Context Topics: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/national-register-of-historic-places/contexts-by-topic.html#sortCriteria=%40copapwptitle%20ascending>
- Pennsylvania State University
 - Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection:
<https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/sanborn-fire-insurance-maps>
 - Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive: <https://panewsarchive.psu.edu/>
- Preservation PA Protect and Preserve the Historical Places that Matter to You:
https://www.preservationpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Preserve-Protect_Community-Guide_Preservation-Pennsylvania.pdf
- Preservation Library:
<https://www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationBlogs/LibraryArticles.aspx>
- Sear Catalog of Historic Homes: <http://www.searsarchives.com/index.htm>
- South Dakota Historical Society Interpretative Signage Guide:
<https://history.sd.gov/preservation/docs/CHTInterpretiveSignRecommendations.pdf>
- Tax Parcel Viewing
 - Adams County: https://mapping.adamscountypa.gov/apps/Public_Parcel_Viewer/
 - Cumberland County: <https://gis.ccpa.net/PropertyMapper/>
 - Franklin County: <https://fcgis.franklincountypa.gov/taxparcelviewer/>
 - York County:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5774257ab4fb4aee9cf318e7313049ee>

Section VII: References

- Anerson, Pamela. "Researching Pennsylvania House Histories." Lecture presented at South Mountain Partnership, Carlisle, Pa, September 17, 2024.
- The City of Lancaster. "Researching the History of a House: A Guide to Researching Old Properties in Lancaster." (2013). <https://www.cityoflanasterpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/researching-house-history.pdf>.
- Curtis, Cara, "Introduction to Property Research." Lecture presented at South Mountain Partnership, Carlisle, Pa, September 17, 2024.
- Freeman, Tilden. *Interpreting Our Heritage*. Edited by R. Bruce Craig, 4th ed. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007.
- Hammerstedt, Erin. "How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places That Matter to You," Preservation Pa, n.d., https://www.preservationpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Preserve-Protect_Community-Guide_Preservation-Pennsylvania.pdf.
- Howe, Barbara J., Dolores A. Fleming, Emory L. Kemp, and Ruth Ann Overbeck. *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*. Edited by David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1997.
- Pennsylvania State Archives, "Land Warrant Applications", 2024, <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/pa-state-archives/research-online/research-guides/land-warrant-applications.html>.
- Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. "National Register of Historic Place Fact Sheet," Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, March 2017, <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/phmc/documents/preservation/about/documents/National-Register-of-Historic-Places-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Chapter 5: Tools, Resources, and Funding Sources for Preserving Places that Matter

One goal of historic preservation work is to ensure future generations can enjoy the special buildings, sites, and spaces that connect us to the past and that define the character of our communities. The challenges we sometimes face can seem daunting. Maintaining and preserving historical buildings can be very expensive. Development pressures are real. The owners of historical buildings or landscapes may not necessarily have the same passion you hold for preserving the character and features of those places. Yet, through our efforts and the efforts of our friends, local governments, and the owners and stewards of historical sites we can make a difference and preserve many of the places that matter the most.

Section I: Preservation PA’s “How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places that Matter to You”

We are very fortunate that our statewide historic preservation organization, Preservation Pennsylvania, recently released a wonderful, detailed handbook called “How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places that Matter to You” written by Erin Hammerstedt. It is available free on the organization’s website as a full-color PDF. It covers most of the topics that are central to mounting an effort to organize and protect an endangered site, illustrated with real-life case studies from across Pennsylvania. Importantly, it also examines practical questions about the economic feasibility of preserving a building, and when it is best to accept that a building cannot be saved. The topics covered in the work include:

- Section 1: Understand the Problem and Build Support
- Section 2: Understand the Building
- Section 3: Consider Alternatives and Use Appropriate Tools
- Section 4: Assess the Project’s Financial Feasibility

The full document can be found here on the Preservation PA website:

Erin Hammerstedt, “How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places that Matter to You”
<https://www.preservationpa.org/resources/expertise/>

Section II: Generating Public Awareness of Historic Places: Sharing Your Research

One of the important ways that we protect historic places is by making others aware of their history, significance, and value to our communities. If you love a place, then share that love so that the people in your community know a site’s history and learn to care about it, too. The time to build public support and interest in preservation is now—before threats arise, and when

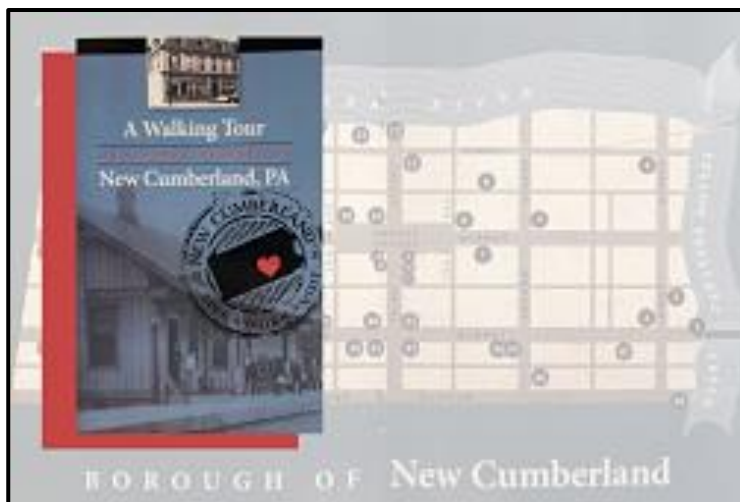
educating others about its value can have the greatest long-term impact. Options become far more limited when a development plan is underway, or when the bulldozers are bearing down on a site. Remember that the work you are doing to identify, document, research, and share the story of sites today will provide the foundation for preserving those sites into the future.

There are lots of ways that you can share your interest:

- Start a social media page and regularly post bits of history and images of sites.
- Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations to see if they will run a story about local historic places.
- Reach out to your local historical society or public library to explore doing public presentations, talks, or public walking tours.
- Work with your local municipality or county to have historic sites included in official planning documents, including comprehensive plans, as well as maps and inventories of local historical resources.
- Add places to a local or county register of historic places. If that does not exist, you might work to create one in your county or community.
- Work with the PA State Historic Preservation Office to have sites listed in PA-SHARE
- Consider developing brochures and publications featuring local historic sites that could be distributed at local businesses, historical societies, or the local Chamber of Commerce

Case Study: Celebrating Local Historic Places That Matter: New Cumberland, PA

Local historian Linda Ries researched 48 historic places within the original 1831 borough limits of New Cumberland using the extensive local history collections available at the New Cumberland Library's community archives. With financial assistance from the Cumberland County Historical Society, the research was converted into an attractive pamphlet with an easy-to-follow map at its center entitled, "A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown New Cumberland." The publication is now available at the library and the Cumberland County Historical Society's History on High Museum Shop, and proceeds from sales support the New Cumberland Library.



Section III: Seeking Official Designations for Historic Places that Matter

One way to bring additional visibility to special historic places is to pursue having them officially listed on a register of historic places, or to nominate them for one of a variety of special honors awarded to places that meet certain criteria. While these designations usually will not protect a building from potential alterations or demolition, they can help to demonstrate that people outside your community also recognize the value and significance of your community's historic sites. That fact alone may be enough to cause developers, property owners, and decision makers to pause before taking irreversible action.

Receiving official designations can often be a slow process requiring months of research and documentation, followed by additional time for applications to be reviewed and evaluated. While no one needs to be a professional historian, researcher, or writer to complete most nominations—the process can often seem daunting. Seeking help from people experienced with the process can often be helpful and can reduce some of the confusion associated with the terms and forms. Start by speaking with the staff responsible for administering the program, and then consider reaching out to local historical societies, faculty at local college and university history departments, or if funds are available, contracting with a professional consultant. Here are a few options worth considering:

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register process evaluates sites, buildings, landscapes, and objects for official listing on the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the National Park Service. Places can be of local, state, or national importance, and must reflect both physical integrity and historic significance. Historic significance is defined as one of four ways: 1) that a site is associated with broad patterns or events in history, 2) That is it associated with a significant person, 3) that it has extraordinary physical properties such as architectural style or engineering, 4) or that it may be able to reveal future evidence (such as an archaeological site, or a historic building that can be studied to understand unique styles of design or construction). Sites must first be determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register, and then eligible sites can submit a formal application to be evaluated for official listing on the National Register.

If you have a site that you would like to have considered for the National Register, you will want to begin by contacting the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. They can assist you with the process and offer guidance on how to complete the required forms.

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html>

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office: National Register Process

<https://www.pa.gov/en/services/phmc/submit-a-property-for-national-register-consideration.html>

Cumberland County Register of Historic Places

Cumberland County has its own, county-level listing of historic places that have been nominated and evaluated as “resources that contribute to the county’s rich and diverse historical and architectural landscape.”

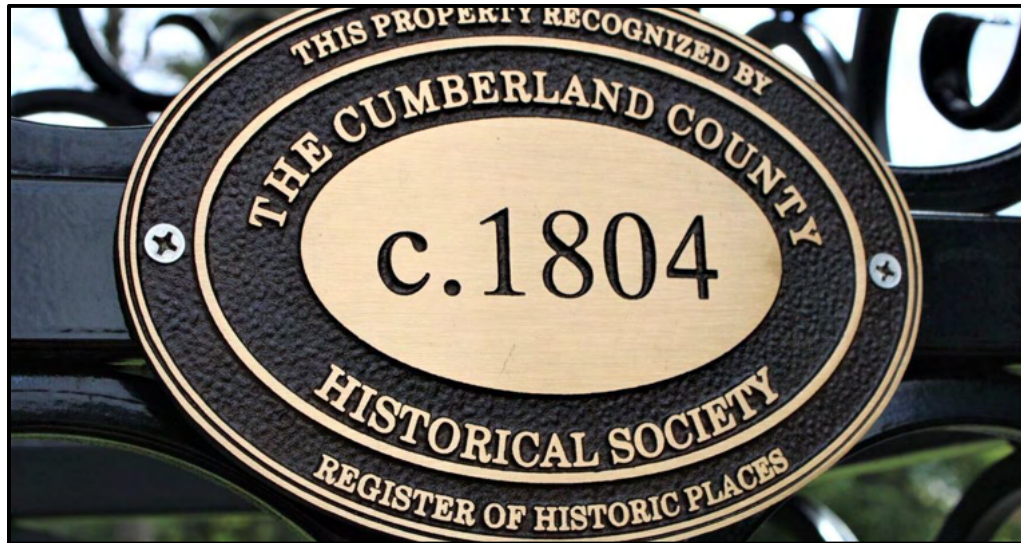
To be eligible for the County Register, properties must “retain certain essential historical architectural qualities and be at least 50 years old.” Additionally, they must meet one of three categories of eligibility:

- Significant Historical Events: The property was the site of an event significant to our county’s history.
- Significant Historical Persons: The property was associated with people who made a significant contribution to our county’s history.
- Architectural Significance: The building exhibits and retains architectural details for the time period for which it is nominated.

Sites that are determined eligible for the county register may display a bronze county historical marker:

Cumberland County Register of Historic Places

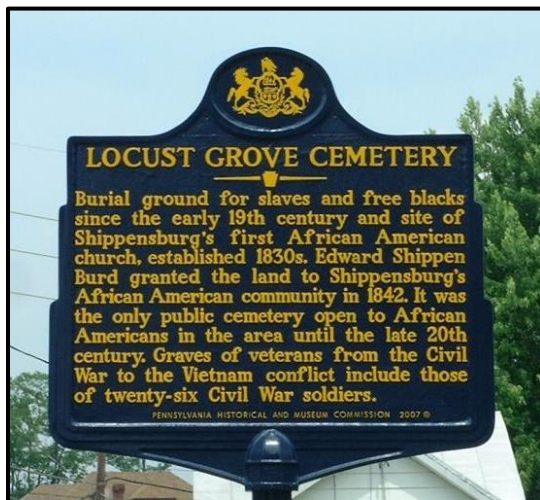
<https://www.historicalsociety.com/about/historic-preservation-initiatives/>



Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission: Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program

Across Pennsylvania there are almost 2,600 blue and gold aluminum signs telling the stories of places, events, and innovations that have impacted the commonwealth. They feature diverse topics, including “subjects related to the histories of Native Americans, early colonialization, government and politics, athletes, entertainers and artists, movements for freedom and equality,

historic industries, commerce, and utilities, and a multitude of other noteworthy topics of statewide or national significance.”



The Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program is quite competitive, and each year there are more applications than signs approved. To be eligible for a sign, a site must be of statewide or national significance. This is a requirement that is more stringent than the National Register of Historic Places that lists sites of local significance. Additionally, it is important to note that sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places do not automatically qualify for a Pennsylvania Historical Marker because the criteria are different for each program.

For those considering applying for a historical marker, there is a three-step process with pre-applications due by January 15, draft applications due by February 15, and final applications due April 1. For more information about the program and the steps to nominate a historical marker, see:

Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/pa-historical-marker-program.html>

Steps to Nominate a Historical Marker

<https://www.pa.gov/en/services/phmc/nominate-a-pennsylvania-historical---museum-commission-historica.html>

Century, Bicentennial, and Tricentennial Farms Program

To recognize historical family farms in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture administers the Century, Bicentennial, and Tricentennial Farms program. The program’s website outlines the criteria that farms must meet in order to be recognized by the state:

“The same family must own the farm for at least 100 (Century Farm), 200 (Bicentennial Farm) or 300 (Tricentennial Farm) consecutive years. A family member must live on the farm on a permanent basis; and the farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holding, OR gross more than \$1,000 annually from the sale of farm products.”

Individuals wishing to nominate farms can complete the application available on the program’s website, have it certified by a notary, and then submit it directly to the Department of Agriculture for review.

Century, Bicentennial, and Tricentennial Farms Program

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/pda/plants-land-water/farmland-preservation/century-and-bicentennial-farm-program.html>

Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and African American Civil Rights Network

The National Park Service operates two programs designed to recognize sites connected to the history of the Underground Railroad and the African American Civil Rights Movement.

According to the program’s website, the **Underground Railroad Network to Freedom** program, “honors, preserves and promotes the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight, which continues to inspire people worldwide. Through its mission, the Network to Freedom helps to advance the idea that all human beings embrace the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression.”

While the program seeks to recognize historical sites associated with the Underground Railroad, it also recognizes programs and facilities, such as museums or libraries, “with a verifiable connection to the Underground Railroad.” For more information, including a link to the application see: [National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom](#)

The African American Civil Rights Network is administered by the National Park Service, and is “a collection of properties, facilities and programs that offer a comprehensive overview of the people, places, and events associated with the African American civil rights movement. The Network is an opportunity to ensure that the history of the civil rights movement and the sacrifices made by those who fought for its cause are remembered, shared, and commemorated.”

For more information about the program, including the application process, see: [The African American Civil Rights](#)

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites: National Votes for Women Trail

To commemorate the centennial of women receiving the right to vote, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites launched the National Votes for Women Trail. As the program's website notes, the "National Votes for Women Trail seeks to recognize and celebrate the enormous diversity of people and groups active in the struggle for women's suffrage," and it consists of: 1) a database with digital map and 2) a program of historical markers for about 250 women's suffrage sites across the country, funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the federal Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission."

For more information about the nomination process and the program, see: [National Collaborative for Women's History Sites: National Votes for Women Trail](#)



Civil War Trails

The Civil War Trails is a multistate signage program designed to link together noteworthy site associated with the American Civil War and to generate visitors to those sites. As the program's website notes:

"Civil War Trails® has been working with communities since 1994 to share their stories and connect visitors with small towns and big stories across a network that now spans six states. Travelers look to Trails to put them in the footsteps of the generals, soldiers,

citizens, and the enslaved who found themselves in the midst of this Civil War...Today the program guides visitors to more than 1,200 sites, over 700 of which we are proud to interpret to the public for the first time.

Each and every site on the Trail is generated at the grass roots level, where local interest begins our process. When communities approach Civil War Trails, we start our work by bringing in local historians and descendants. This community-driven approach allows us to tell history and share stories that oftentimes have not been heard before. This approach allows us to interpret—not commemorate or memorialize—the events, people, and places of the most pivotal time in our nation’s history.”

Because of the emphasis on identifying sites that would be interesting to visitors, the Civil War Trails program notes in its Frequently Asked Questions section: “We look for sites with a strong significance, an intriguing story and safe parking.” It is important to note that this program has an upfront cost of \$3,500 and an annual membership fee of \$300 dollars per year. For more information about the program and the application process, see: [Civil War Trails](#)

A Few Final Thoughts on Official Designations

While it is a great feeling to know that a site you care about has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places or will be recognized with a sign or plaque indicating its significance, it is important to keep in mind that the most important thing is that a *place* matters to you and your community. Just because it is not eligible for the National Register or is not going to be on the Civil War Trail does not diminish its value or make it less meaningful to the people who care about it. It just means that you are going to have to use other tools and methods to share the place’s value and to work for its preservation.

Section IV: County Government Technical & Financial Support for Local Preservation

County Planning Departments are responsible for preparing and implementing comprehensive plans and they are often the first point of contact for questions regarding local ordinances or information regarding historic preservation provisions in a community. They review subdivision and land development plans for municipal planning commissions and offer advisory input on these plans. Many planning departments offer technical assistance to municipalities in the form of ordinance and plan development, including model ordinances to address priority issues for municipalities.

Cumberland County offers funding through The Cumberland Grants Program which is administered through the Cumberland County Planning Commission and Planning Department. The purpose is to provide funding for county and local planning projects that have goals

articulated within the county comprehensive plan. Municipalities or non-profits working closely with municipal partners are eligible to apply. There is a match requirement, and there is \$50K of funding available per calendar year. Typical awards are in the \$10-25K range which can fund plans, studies, zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development ordinances and official maps.

Cumberland County's 2024 update to the comprehensive plan is organized around eight principles that emphasize exemplary planning practices in the county. These principles touch on all areas of the comprehensive plan and identify effective practices that feature responsible planning in action. Each principle has a brief policy statement with an explanatory descriptor. Each has its own chapter of the comprehensive plan and specific actions identified to implement the principle. They all have some relevance to historic preservation, but three in particular to highlight are Grow In Not Out – efficiently accommodate growth in locations with appropriate infrastructure, Plan for People and Places – design communities to value sense of place and encourage healthy living and unique character and Engage to Improve – include community members in the decisions-making process.

There is alignment between strategies that support the principles at the core of the 2024 Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan and historic preservation initiatives. Farmland preservation allows productive agricultural land to be permanently protected, which may allow opportunity to preserve or restore historically significant structures on those properties. Redevelopment and re-use policies allow for adaptive re-use of historic sites. Flexible design guidelines could allow for preservation to be more economically feasible by reducing parking requirements or allowing for a mixture of uses in appropriate areas.

The PA historic district of 1961, act 167 provides for historic districts and works well where resources are densely concentrated. The district must be on the national register or certified as historic by the PHMC. It requires a Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) and regulates aesthetics as well as structural changes. The sole focus is on exterior alterations and the board of the HARB is advisory only with the governing body making final approval or disapproval of the recommendations.

The regulations enabled by the MPC provides that zoning ordinances provide for protection of natural and historical features and resources – the tools in section 603.b.2 in particular deal with use, size, height, bulk, location, erection, construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, razing and removal of structures. They may also include zoning incentives for the preservation of historic resources. Aesthetics are not permitted to be regulated by the MPC. These regulations work well where resources are more dispersed as well as areas where they are concentrated. Ideally, they are used to complement the PA historic district regulations where appropriate. An overlay district may also be created by the municipality which applies to all structures that are identified as historic resources. This works well with resources distributed throughout a rural community.

Village Zoning districts, traditional neighborhood developments and conservation subdivision designs are tools that have been utilized to preserve community character by requiring that compatible uses are co-located with one another and they are consistent with the character of the residential areas and historic structures that may exist there. Conservation subdivision design requires more densely established residential areas to maintain a significant area of open space as part of the design of the development which may serve to conserve historic landscapes or natural features.

Official maps are tools a municipality can use to depict the locations of planned future public lands and facilities such as streets, trails, parks and open space. The official map expresses a municipality's interest in acquiring these lands for public purposes sometime in the future and notifies developers and property owners of this interest. Official maps may be used by townships, boroughs, cities, and counties. These entities have one year from notification to acquire the land from the landowner before the owner is permitted to build or subdivide. Official maps help municipalities plan for and implement improvements and can be utilized as supportive documentation of commitment when a municipality applies for grants.

Conservation easements are interests in real property and are held by land trusts or governmental units. Property owners are able to maintain ownership and control of their land within limits established through the conservation easement. They may be used to preserve historic structures and landscapes, as in the McCormick Farm in Upper Allen Township, in which case the easement is held by the Natural Lands Trust.

A county-affiliated agency which has a number of resources and programs available to support historic preservation is the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which administers the following programs and processes.

Blighted Property Reinvestment Board

Allows for a property to be declared blighted (a public hazard or nuisance) and for the Redevelopment Authority to become owner or conservator. If this proceeds, the Redevelopment Authority puts out a Request for Proposals that seeks to maintain the goals of the local municipality and neighbors (this could include factors such as historic preservation, consistent zoning, etc.).

Rental Housing Rehabilitation

Allows for deferred or no interest loans available to landlords to ensure rental housing is brought up to code. These loans can be utilized to preserve historic buildings with rental units and help maintain structures that are falling into disrepair.

Homeownership Programs

Provides first time homebuyers with downpayment closing assistance. Assistance allows them to acquire and preserve potentially older single family homes throughout the county.

Commercial Façade Program (Streetview)

This program protects and preserves the facades of historic structures and older commercial structures throughout the county. Qualified properties must be in a municipal historic district or commercial district.

Community Visioning Projects

The Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (CCHRA) works with municipalities to ensure redevelopment preserves and protects historic resources and downtowns.

Grants for Community Revitalization

Federal funds used to eliminate blight to individuals and municipalities by assisting low to moderate income individuals. These funds can also be used for municipal services such as code enforcement that ensure property ownership maintains historic structures and preserve existing structures

For details about any of these programs, please visit the CCHRA www.cchra.com website and email the director.

Section V: State Government Technical and Financial Support for Local Preservation

PA State Historic Preservation Office Community Outreach Coordinator

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office can provide individuals and local governments with information to assist with local historic preservation. This may include:

- Planning and training for local government.
- Advice to community organizations and individuals on preservation issues
- Help for municipal and county governments with policies, ordinances, and training.

Contact the Community Outreach Coordinator for Central Pennsylvania for more information: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html>.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Funding Programs

- **Keystone Historic Preservation Planning Grants:** According to the program website: “Grants are available to nonprofit organizations and local governments for the planning and development for publicly accessible historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.” Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and require a 50/50 match.

For more information: [Keystone Historic Preservation Planning Grants](#)

- **Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grants:** According to the program website: “Funding is available to nonprofit organizations and local governments for small construction projects for publicly accessible historic resources. “

For more information: [Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grants](#)

Historic Preservation Tax Credits

- **Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Incentive Tax Credit Program:** From the website: “The Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC) provides tax credits to qualified taxpayers who will be completing the restoration of a qualified historic structure into an income producing property. All projects must include a qualified rehabilitation plan that is approved by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) as being consistent with the standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings as adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior. “

From more information: [Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Incentive Tax Credit Program](#)

- **Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits (Historic Tax Credits):** From the website: “Certain expenses incurred in connection with rehabilitating an old building are eligible for a tax credit. RITCs are available to owners and certain long term leases of income-producing properties.”

For more information: [Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits](#)

Other State Funding Sources for Historic Preservation

Several state funding programs can be used for historic preservation. However, most of these sources are awarded to non-profit organizations and local governments. These include:

- **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Grants.**

For more information: [Community Conservation Partnership Program Grants](#)

- **Department of Community and Economic Development Grants.**

For more information: [Department of Community and Economic Development Grants](#)

- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).** The block grants can be used by local governments for a wide array of purposes, including preservation-related activities:

For more information: [Community Development Block Grants](#)

- **Redevelopment Assistance Development Program** is a state grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the design, acquisition, and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects.

For more information: [Redevelopment Assistance Development Program](#)

A Final Word: Other Sources of Funding

Preserving and protecting historic resources is difficult and expensive work, and raising the funds needed to do the work can often be challenging. As you pursue historic preservation work, you may need to be creative in identifying potential sources of financial support. These might include:

- **Local, Community, and Family Foundations:** In our area, there are a number of community and family foundations. Some of these have very specific projects that they fund, while others invite community organizations to apply as part of a competitive process. To find local foundations in your area that might support historic preservation, you can go to the website Guidestar.com.
- **United Way:** The United Way supports a wide array of non-profit organizations in local communities. If you are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, it may be possible that your local United Way will allow you to become part of their local fundraising campaign.

- **Private Donors & Local Businesses:** As part of your fundraising, you may develop a fundraising appeal that will draw the support of local individuals who support the work you are doing. Local businesses may also be willing to contribute funds to your effort, or to make in-kind contributions of goods or services. Some organizations will also have community days when they may be able to provide labor to assist with preservation-related work.

Case Study: Raising Funds for Historic Preservation: The Shippensburg Corn Festival

In 1981, the local preservationist of the Shippensburg Heritage and Recreation Planning Society (SHARP) needed to hire an architectural historian to complete the National Register application process for the community's proposed historic district. To research and write the application, including a field survey of the hundreds of buildings in the borough would cost \$7,000.

So how did the small band of local preservationists raise \$7,000? They decided to organize a one-day street festival that celebrated the community's agricultural heritage. The event became the Shippensburg Corn Festival; it raised all the funds required to complete the nomination process. On June 7, 1984, the Shippensburg Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For the full story of the Shippensburg Corn Festival, see the article from the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office's blog: [Shippensburg's Corn Festival: Thirty-Five Years of Corn, Fun, and Historic Preservation](#).

Section VI: Virtual Resources Mentioned in the Chapter

- Civil War Trails: <https://www.civilwartrails.org/membership.html>
- Cumberland County Historical Society- County Register of Historic Places: <https://www.historicalsociety.com/about/historic-preservation-initiatives/>
- Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities: <https://cchra.com/>
- Erin Hammerstedt, "How to Protect and Preserve the Historic Places that Matter to You" <https://www.preservationpa.org/resources/expertise/>
- National Park Service;
 - African American Civil rights Network: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/african-american-civil-rights-network.htm>
 - Underground Railroad: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/index.htm>
- National Votes for Women Trail: <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/about-the-trail/>
- Preservation Pennsylvania- Preservation Guides: <https://www.preservationpa.org/resources/expertise/>

- Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/community-development-block-grant-cdbg/>
 - Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC): <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/historic-preservation-tax-credit-hptc/>
 - Programs and Funding: <https://dced.pa.gov/program/>
- Pennsylvania Department of conservation and Natural Resources Grants: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dcnr/programs-and-services/grants.html>
- Pennsylvania Office of the Budget RACP: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/budget/programs-and-services/for-people-doing-business-with-the-commonwealth/for-grantees-and-subrecipients/racp.html>
- Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office:
 - Application for Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grants: <https://www.pa.gov/services/phmc/apply-for-keystone-historic-preservation-construction-grants.html>
 - Century, Bicentennial, and Tricentennial Farms Application: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/pda/plants-land-water/farmland-preservation/century-and-bicentennial-farm-program.html>
 - Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/historic-tax-credits/federal-tax-credits.html>
 - Main Website: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html>
 - National Register Process: <https://www.pa.gov/en/services/phmc/submit-a-property-for-national-register-consideration.html>
 - Nominate a Historic Marker: <https://www.pa.gov/en/services/phmc/nominate-a-pennsylvania-historical--museum-commission-historica.html>
 - PA Historical Marker Program: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/pa-historical-marker-program.html>
 - Shippensburg's Corn Festival: <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/shippensburgs-corn-festival-thirty-five-years-of-corn-fun-and-historic-preservation/>

Conclusion: Working Together to Protect the Places that Matter in the South Mountain Region—An Invitation!

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

~Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

Throughout this booklet, we have often used the phrase, “places that matter,” and that is because we believe that places do matter. They shape our communities, link us to the past, connect us to stories about the people who came before us, and give each community a unique sense of place.

Old buildings are historic artifacts. Some are true works of art built by skilled craftspeople of the past, often shaped out of wood drawn from old-growth forests and stone from local quarries. They literally have traveled through time to be with us in the present—pieces of the past that have persisted and endured. Life has been lived within their walls. The hands and hearts of past residents shaped them and they continue to link us to the people and spirit of times gone by.

These special places and spaces in our communities shape us as much as we shape them.

But there are two important final thoughts we would like to stress as we conclude this handbook:

- 1) **If you want to preserve the historic places that matter to you and your community, it is up to you to make it happen.** If there are places that you care about, if you want to preserve the historic buildings, farms, and natural spaces that you love, or uncover the stories associated with them, then you need to take action. In all likelihood, if you do not do it, no one else will, and some of the places that you care about may be destroyed. You can make a difference, and the time is now.
- 2) **But know that you do not have to do it alone.** We know that historic preservation work can be challenging, and we know that it makes the work easier when you can do it as a part of a group willing to help and support each other. We would encourage you to reach out to your local historical society to see if it has a preservation group or committee. Get involved with the South Mountain Partnership. Join Preservation PA. Look for opportunities to pursue preservation work with your local government or even run for office. Or form your own local group and enlist your friends and neighbors to join you.

Know that you can be part of a preservation community. The more we share, compare, and collaborate, the more we will come to know and understand how the historic places of our region fit together into an amazing mosaic telling the full story of our region. We look forward to working with you to preserve places that matter and to share their stories with the world.

Thank you for your commitment to historic preservation, and we look forward to doing great work together!

NOTES