Administration
In Pennsylvania, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Director of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Historic Preservation Board
The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, requires each state historic preservation program to maintain an adequate and qualified state review board. In Pennsylvania, it is also required by the Pennsylvania History Code. This body is known as the Historic Preservation Board and includes 15 members appointed by the governor.

PA SHPO Divisions
PA SHPO is divided into four units, each with different programs and responsibilities under NHPA and the Pennsylvania History Code. Together, the divisions provide public outreach, education, training, and technical assistance to all constituents.

Preservation Services
The Preservation Services Division manages the National Register of Historic Places, administer the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, and assists municipalities and organizations with community preservation planning.

Preservation Incentives
The Preservation Incentives Division administers the Keystone Historic Preservation grant program, manages the commonwealth’s historical marker program, and assists applicants applying for the federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) program and state Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC) programs.

Environmental Review
The Environmental Review Division manages the consultation process for project reviews that may affect historic properties, including archaeological sites, in cooperation with state and federal agencies under NHPA and the Pennsylvania History Code.

Mapping, Assistance, Resources & Survey
The MARS Division oversees PA SHPO’s historic and archaeological resource survey programs (PAGS and PASS), manages PA-SHARE and its companion mobile tool Surveyor, triages incoming projects, conducts initial project reviews, and assists users through the PA-SHARE Help Desk.

PA SHPO uses its resources to educate Pennsylvanians about the commonwealth’s vast collection of historic and archaeological resources, encourage them to value these resources as part of our collective past and future, and enable them to preserve the places that tell our local, state, and national stories for future generations.
The benefits of the PA SHPO’s historic preservation programs can be seen throughout the commonwealth. These programs help Pennsylvanians realize preservation outcomes for the places that are important to them through activities that support, honor, advise, record and educate.

$600 million+ Dollars of new rehabilitation work in Pennsylvania’s communities through historic tax credits

23,900+ People reached through PA SHPO outreach

460+ In-person and virtual events

50+ Historic places recognized for their significance with a Historical Marker or National Register listing

7,830+ Reviews for Federal or state-funded projects

50+ Places closer to reaching their goals because of a Keystone Historic Preservation Planning or Construction Grant

9,460+ Historic and archaeological resources added to PA-SHARE

February 2022 PA-SHARE Launched

July 2022 Surveyor Launched

This map represents the many ways and many places that SHPO’s 27 staff in three offices — in Fort Washington, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh — make connections between people, place and community.
Travel north along Route 209 through the lush forests of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to find the Borough of Milford, Pike County. In 2021, this small town of nearly 1,200 full time residents joined over forty-five other Certified Local Governments (CLG) in Pennsylvania.

Milford can trace its origins to about 1733, and the establishment of a gristmill in the area. The community was named the county seat when Pike County was formed in 1814, and incorporated sixty years later in 1874. Much of the borough’s history and identity comes from its reputation as a bucolic tourist destination in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and for its association with the Pinchot family. Gifford Pinchot, who lived at what is now the nearby Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, was a former Pennsylvania governor and founded the U.S. Forest Service.

The commercial core of the borough was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, and the historic district boundary was enlarged to include the residential areas in 1998. In 2000, Milford Borough Council designated the commercial area as a local historic district and appointed a Historic Architectural Review Board to help manage change in the downtown.

Milford has always taken preservation seriously and conversations about the CLG program began in 2019, following training provided by the PA SHPO. Given the borough’s longstanding commitment to preservation, the CLG program was a natural fit for the community.

Milford is the first CLG in Pike County and the only community to participate in the program in north-eastern Pennsylvania. It is also the smallest CLG in the commonwealth based on its population, proving that small towns can develop and implement well-organized and thoughtful preservation programs that rival even the largest cities.
Marking Native American History
Conewango Township, Warren County
Perry Township, Clarion County
Lemoyne, Cumberland County

One way we can learn about Pennsylvania’s indigenous past is through archaeology. Archaeology can provide insight into the daily lives of indigenous peoples and provide a richer interpretation of thousands of years of the region’s history that is commonly overlooked in history textbooks.

Another way to learn about the commonwealth’s deep cultural heritage is through the many historical markers across the landscape that honor and celebrate this rich heritage and the field of archaeology. Last year, new historical markers were dedicated that bring to life more stories about Native American history and archaeology in Pennsylvania.

In Warren County, PA SHPO archaeologist Justin McKeel joined Dr. Stanley Lantz at the dedication for the Mead Island Tradition historical marker. In 1967, Lantz excavated a pre-Contact village on Mead Island and identified, for the first time, a distinct culture that dominated the region.

In Clarion County, a new marker was erected for the Parkers Landing Petroglyphs. Overlooking the Allegheny River west of Perryville, the petroglyphs provide a significant record of the legends and beliefs of native people who lived and traveled in Pennsylvania thousands of years ago.

In Cumberland County, the Lemoyne Borough Council recognized the importance of marking the discovery and significance of the Susquehannock Village Site. This site was uncovered in 2005 during archaeological investigations for a new rail line, which required compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Research at the site has led to enhanced understanding of the Susquehannock.
Preserving Gamble Mill with Tax Credits
Bellefonte, Centre County

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, Gamble Mill is one of the only a few surviving gristmills in the county. This piece of Pennsylvania’s early industrial history would have been lost if not for a visionary owner with an interest in preserving local history and investing in the community.

Gamble Mill can trace its roots back to 1786 when William Lamb built this water-powered gristmill on the banks of Spring Creek. After operating for over 100 years, the mill suffered a fire in 1892 and was rebuilt with new sections next to the 18th century sections. The mill operated for 50 more years until it closed in the 1940s. It sat vacant for many years until it was purchased in 2019.

The mill’s $2 million rehabilitation, which was completed in 2021, used the federal Historic Tax Credit and the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs as part of the project’s financing package. PA SHPO staff worked closely with the applicant to design a project that would meet the owner’s needs and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties.

With a focus on retaining the mill’s historic character, work included retaining the historic materials and features such as the exposed heavy wood timber framing, and wood flooring, repairing original wood windows and masonry walls, and preserving details like cast iron stars, wood trim, and painted “ghost” signs.

Now operating as a small inn with modern suites, a fresh-from-farm restaurant, a craft cocktail bar, small event space, and local boutique, the Gamble Mill is a part of Bellefonte’s revitalization efforts and supports heritage tourism in the area.
Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church  
Mount Holly Springs, Cumberland County

The Mount Tabor African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church was almost lost until an oral history interview in 2016 lead to its rediscovery.

The Mt. Tabor congregation was formed in Mount Holly Springs, where formerly enslaved and free African Americans settled following the Civil War, around 1877. The simple one-room log church was dedicated 9 years later in April 1886 and the small cemetery was established about two years later in 1888.

The church was the heart of the Black community in Mount Holly Springs for almost a century. Typical of many African American churches, it served as a home for educational, social welfare, and recreational opportunities in addition to its religious purpose. Around 1970, the congregation dwindled, the church closed, and the building was left vacant.

As part of the efforts underway to preserve and protect Mt. Tabor since its rediscovery, PHMC awarded Mount Holly Springs Borough a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant in 2019 for emergency stabilization and to prepare architectural plans for the property.

PA SHPO also listed the church in the National Register of Historic Places in 2021 through its proactive National Register program.

The African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), authored by PA SHPO staff and accepted by the National Park Service in early 2021, provided the framework and context needed to prepare the National Register nomination and understand Mt. Tabor’s significance as a symbol of African American agency and community in Pennsylvania.
Introducing PA-SHARE
Virtually across Pennsylvania

In February 2021 PA SHPO launched PA-SHARE (Pennsylvania’s State Historic and Archaeological Resource Exchange), which combines a geographic information system (GIS) platform with custom-built project management software to make it easier and faster for users to find information about historic places and archaeological sites, to process project submissions, and to utilize state and federal historic preservation programs.

Since launching, PA SHPO has delivered group and one-on-one trainings to audiences throughout the commonwealth and developed several tools to assist users in learning and using this new system.

In 2021, PA SHPO delivered live virtual training to federal and state agencies, SHPOs throughout the country, classrooms, cultural resources and community development consultants, municipalities and individuals as needed and on request. Training was audience-specific and ranged from an introduction to the system to specific tools and tips. Virtual training was recorded and is available through the dedicated PA-SHARE playlist on the PHMC YouTube Channel.

Dedicated pages on the PHMC website for PA-SHARE are another tool PA SHPO launched in 2021. These pages include instructions for creating a unique login, system troubleshooting, accounts and subscriptions, FAQs, and help materials like step-by-step tutorials.

PA-SHARE communications complement the training and online materials available to anyone interested in learning more about PA-SHARE. An e-newsletter to help communicate important PA-SHARE information leading up to and immediately after launch helped prepare users for this new way of doing business with the PA SHPO.
Pennsylvania’s Statewide Historic Preservation Plan

Every community deserves the chance to realize the economic, environmental, and quality-of-life benefits that historic preservation offers. Pennsylvania’s Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, with its four realistic and relatable goals, can help.

The statewide historic preservation planning process gathered brilliant ideas about how we can improve the future of our commonwealth’s historic places from thousands of Pennsylvanians. The resulting plan is a means to achieving that goal, but in order to be successful, the plan must mobilize people and resources.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Pages/Statewide-Historic-Preservation-Plan.

Community Initiative Awards

PA SHPO’s Community Initiative Awards recognize organizations, municipalities, agencies, and individuals whose work embody the spirit of #PreservAtionHappensHere.

#PreservAtionHappensHere is the idea that great preservation activities are happening every day across Pennsylvania. These activities whether they may or may not be thought of as historic preservation, nevertheless, need to be identified, shared, and celebrated.

The PA SHPO is always looking for the next Preservation Success Story for the Community Initiative Awards. To be considered, Pennsylvanians can simply use the #PreservAtionHappensHere hashtag in their social media posts or submit their success story through PA-SHARE.

View the list of award winners and learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/education-outreach/Pages/Community-Initiative-Awards.
Education and outreach are core components of the PA SHPO’s mission and programs and empower Pennsylvanians to engage and promote preservation in their own communities. The PA SHPO works with a wide variety of audiences, including the general public, municipal governments, Tribes, state and federal agencies, and legislators.

The PA SHPO’s role is to provide information about and assistance with historic preservation activities and the federal and state historic preservation programs in Pennsylvania. Guided by the Education & Training Program Strategic Plan, PA SHPO works to:

- meet our audiences needs for education and training;
- increase access to accurate and timely information;
- improve the use of federal and state programs;
- advance knowledge of and activities regarding historic preservation in Pennsylvania; and
- foster stronger relationships with partner agencies and organizations.

In addition to the education and outreach that happens daily, there are other specific tools and activities we use to reach Pennsylvanians, including:

- a weekly blog, pahistoricpreservation.com, which covers a variety of topics relating to historic preservation, archaeology, and Pennsylvania history;
- two monthly and two bi-annual e-newsletters
- live and recorded webinars, workshops, and presentations; and
- exhibit booths at partner conferences and events.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/education-outreach.
PA-SHARE, Pennsylvania’s State Historic and Archaeological Resource Exchange, is an innovative platform designed to streamline, speed, and improve projects. It is the PA SHPO’s enterprise-wide, integrated online database management and spatially enabled cultural resource Geographic Information System (GIS).

PA-SHARE allows users to submit and track projects and resources online in real time and receive electronic responses when projects are reviewed. Wizards for most PA SHPO programs and to submit information about historic and archaeological resources streamline the submission process with fillable fields, interactive mapping and photo and file uploads.

Users can also access over 1 million scanned pages of information remotely. With PA-SHARE’s search and export functionality, users can search for resources, projects, markers, surveys and reports using a criteria-based search or find out what we have related to a particular area with the spatial search.

Surveyor is the mobile companion application for PA-SHARE. It is a suite of desktop and mobile survey tools that were designed to add convenience, enable teamwork, and expedite data-sharing.

PA-SHARE offers four levels of access to accommodate user needs for interacting with PA SHPO, each with additional functionality and benefits.

Guest and Basic users can access PA-SHARE for free. Pro and Business subscription users have access to all of PA SHPO’s digitized files, project tracking and user dashboards, additional map functionality, and Surveyor for mobile field work.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/PA-SHARE.
Certified Local Government Program

48
Municipalities in Pennsylvania are part of the CLG program

$140,000+
In grants awarded for preservation projects in CLGs in 2021

Local governments can invigorate their historic preservation activities by participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Enabled by a 1980 amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act, this National Park Service program gives municipalities the opportunity to strengthen local historic preservation activities through exclusive funding incentives and enhanced technical assistance. In Pennsylvania, the CLG program is administered by the PA SHPO.

To be certified, local governments agree to enact historic preservation ordinances and/or zoning and to participate in the process of nominating and reviewing properties in their municipality for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. CLGs also agree to maintain and update information on historic resources in their communities and to provide training for local historic district review boards and/or historic preservation commissions.

One of the benefits to becoming a Certified Local Government is financial. Federal law requires that the PA SHPO set aside at least 10% of its Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation for distribution to Certified Local Governments. In Pennsylvania, designated CLG municipalities can apply for this federal funding through an annual competitive matching grant program.

The PA SHPO employs three Community Preservation Coordinators—one each in the eastern, central, and western sections of the state—to assist our CLGs. These Coordinators are also available to assist any Pennsylvania community with historic preservation planning, technical assistance, support, and education upon request.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/CLG-Program.

The Borough of Sewickley in Allegheny County became a CLG in 2021, now one of only seven in the western part of Pennsylvania. The borough hall, shown here, is one of the many preserved places in the community.
Municipalities have many options available to them for identifying, preserving, and enhancing historic places in their communities. To help municipalities and organizations foster and manage historic preservation programs at the local level, the PA SHPO’s three regional Community Preservation Coordinators offer technical assistance, advice, and educational programs, such as:

**Historic Preservation Planning**: The Municipalities Planning Code calls on counties and municipalities to include provisions for preserving historic places and archaeological sites in their comprehensive plans and zoning. The PA SHPO has guidance to assist with developing an effective comprehensive historic preservation plan.

**Ordinances and Overlays**: For municipalities considering a preservation ordinance or zoning code amendment to protect historic properties, the PA SHPO can help find the right solution based on the community’s goals, its historic character, and the administrative capacity of the municipal staff and volunteers.

**Resources for Historic Architectural Review Boards and Historical Commissions**: The PA SHPO offers technical assistance, support, and education for Review Board members and municipal staff.

**Preservation Strategies**: The PA SHPO can help municipalities and organizations navigate state and federal historic preservation programs, promote community revitalization and economic development, and investigate options for preserving key properties.

**Historic District Act certification**: The PA SHPO can assist municipalities interested in designating a local historic district under the Historic District Act (Act 167 of 1961). Assistance can include identifying boundaries, preparing certification requests, and reviewing ordinance language and procedures.

Learn more at [www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Community-Preservation](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Community-Preservation).

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210+ Engagements with local communities in 2021

2,780+ People engaged through Community Preservation Outreach in 2021

PA SHPO staff served as a member of the City of Erie’s Historic Preservation Task Force Local Advisory Committee and worked closely with the team to develop specific policy and program recommendations for the City’s new historic preservation program. The City wants to protect properties like the Chandlery Corner at 4th and State Streets.
$486,000+
Dollars in planning grants awarded to 26 projects in 14 counties in 2021

$1.8+
Million dollars in planning grants awarded to help 121 historic places to date

The PA SHPO administers the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program, which was established in 1994 under the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund to support projects that identify, preserve, promote, and protect historic properties of Pennsylvania for both the benefit of the public and the revitalization of communities.

*Planning Project Grants* provide financial assistance of $5,000 to $25,000 as a reimbursable matching grant to nonprofit organizations and local governments for the planning and development for publicly accessible historic properties that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Planning grants support work in four broad categories.

**Cultural Resource Surveys**, such as:
- historic site surveys,
- architectural surveys,
- archaeological surveys,
- thematic surveys.

**National Register Nominations** for:
- historic districts, including rural historic districts,
- Multiple Property Documentation Forms (MPDFs),
- archaeological sites.

**Planning and Project Development**, such as:
- municipal, regional, building, and/or archaeological site preservation plans,
- historic Structure Reports,
- design Guidelines,
- feasibility Studies.

**Archaeology**, such as:
- development of regional site sensitivity models,
- preparation of regional and/or temporal syntheses,
- research and artifact analysis,
- problem-oriented excavation projects.

Learn more at [www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Grants-Funding/Pages/Planning-Projects](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Grants-Funding/Pages/Planning-Projects).
The Keystone Historic Preservation Construction grants are one of the few dedicated funding sources available to support “bricks and mortar” historic preservation projects in Pennsylvania.

Construction grants provide financial assistance as a reimbursable grant for capital improvement projects and require a 50/50 cash match. Often, Keystone grant dollars are part of a larger funding program.

Nonprofit organizations and public agencies that own or support a publicly accessible historic property listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or that own or support a contributing resource in a listed or eligible historic district may apply.

This is a competitive grant program. Applicants can request a minimum of $5,000 to a maximum of $100,000 for projects involving preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation construction activities. All work must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Keystone construction grants can be used for:
- interior work,
- exterior work,
- some site work,
- building systems, and
- accessibility improvements for people with disabilities.

Keystone construction grants do not fund:
- mitigation activities or archaeological excavations,
- new construction or building additions,
- routine maintenance,
- landscaping as part of non-historic site improvements,
- predevelopment work, or
- property acquisition.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Grants-Funding/Pages/Construction-Projects.
Historic tax credits are the most widely used historic preservation incentive program in the country.

Since the inception of the federal Historic Tax Credit program in 1976, Pennsylvania has been a national leader in certified tax credit projects. The commonwealth consistently ranks in the top 10 states in the nation for qualified rehabilitations and total project investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Designed to encourage private investment in the re-use of historic buildings, the historic tax credit program allows the owners of income-producing properties to take a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on federal income tax for eligible planning and construction costs related to the rehabilitation of a historic property for its new use.

A 20% tax credit is available for certified historic properties. To be eligible for the 20% tax credit, the property:

- must be individually listed in the National Register, contribute to a National Register Historic District, or contribute to a Certified Local District;
- must be used for income-producing purposes;
- must be owned by the same owner and be an income producing property for 5 years;
- rehabilitation work must follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation; and
- project must meet the "substantial rehabilitation test" and finished within 24 months.

The PA SHPO administers the historic tax credit program in partnership with the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service. Applicants submit the three-part application to the PA SHPO for review, which is then forwarded to the National Park Service for final certification.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/tax-credits/Pages/Federal-Tax-Credits.
$5
Million dollars awarded to 27 rehabilitation projects in 2021

$28
Million dollars invested by the commonwealth for 97 projects since 2012

The PA HPTC was an important component of the funding needed to rehabilitate Braddock’s Ohringer Furniture Store into artists residences.

The Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit is an important economic development tool for property owners and developers that benefit our communities.

Administered by Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) with assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and the PA SHPO, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC) program provides tax credits to qualified taxpayers who will be completing the rehabilitation of a qualified historic structure into an income-producing property.

To be eligible for the state historic preservation tax credit:

- Properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or contribute to a listed historic district;
- Applicants must have a rehabilitation plan that is approved by the PA SHPO as being consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation; and
- Applicants must be qualified taxpayers, which includes an individual, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or any other form of legal business entity.

In each application round, a maximum of $5 million in tax credits is available for distribution to qualifying projects on a first come, first serve basis, with equitable regional distribution.

On July 2, 2012, Pennsylvania became the 30th state in the country to offer a state historic tax credit. In 2019, Pennsylvania’s historic preservation tax credit was reauthorized and extended to 2031 with some significant improvements: the annual allocation was increased to $5 million per project and program language was clarified for timing, recapture provides, and transferring the credits.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/tax-credits/Pages/State-Tax-Credits.
In Pennsylvania’s many diverse communities, the iconic blue and gold cast aluminum markers are history lessons, travelers’ guideposts, tourist attractions, and sources of pride.

Since 1946 Pennsylvania’s historical markers have chronicled the people, places, events and innovations that have affected the lives of Pennsylvanians over the centuries. They feature subjects such as Native Americans, early settlers, government, politics, athletes, artists, entertainers, struggles for freedom and equality, industries, businesses, and many other noteworthy topics.

PA SHPO works with a variety of communities and people to help identify eligible stories, prepare a nomination, manufacture and install the markers, and plan dedication ceremonies.

Historical marker nominations are encouraged for underrepresented subjects, specifically archaeology, women’s, Hispanic, and Asian American history, as well as Black and LGBTQ+ history in counties other than Philadelphia.

Any individual or organization may submit a nomination for a historical marker. Nominations are submitted through PA-SHARE and must be received on or before the annual June 1 deadline.

The nominations are reviewed by a panel of independent historical experts in both academic and public history fields with geographic distribution across the state. If a marker is approved, PA SHPO works with the nominator to finalize the text. PHMC assumes the costs for manufacturing and delivering the marker.

Most markers are dedicated in public events featuring public officials, community representatives, local historians, and others. Each dedication presents opportunities for Pennsylvanians to celebrate and understand their heritage.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Historical-Markers.
Pennsylvanians list their properties in the National Register of Historic Places for different reasons. For some, listing brings opportunities for funding that helps with the costs of preserving, rehabilitating, or maintaining a historic property. For others, inclusion in the National Register provides opportunities for recognizing the historic places that are important to a community and for educating others about the value of a community’s irreplaceable assets.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. It is a federal program, authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and administered by the PA SHPO in partnership with the National Park Service. Listing is one tool Pennsylvanians can use to help them reach their preservation goals for their historic properties.

In Pennsylvania, the PA SHPO assists dozens of communities, municipalities, and property owners with the National Register listing process each year. Because National Register listing unlocks opportunities for preservation, the program is often used in conjunction with other state and federal historic preservation programs.

As part of PHMC’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA), PA SHPO routinely identifies older and historic places that can benefit from listing in the National Register of Historic Places and pursues National Register nominations, either through staff preparation or hired consultant, for a select number of properties each year.

National Register nominations are reviewed by Pennsylvania’s Historic Preservation Board three times a year in February, June and October at public meetings.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/National-Register.
PA SHPO manages two survey programs for identifying and recording older and historic places in Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Above Ground Survey (PAGS) and Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS).

Information collected through these survey programs is added to Pennsylvania’s statewide inventory of buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts. This inventory is available online through PA-SHARE for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

The Pennsylvania Above Ground Survey (PAGS) collects information about the commonwealth’s historic and cultural places, such as buildings, farms, bridges, parks, neighborhoods, and landscapes. Throughout the commonwealth, Pennsylvanians are dedicating their time to photograph and document the historic and cultural places that they care about, and they are sharing their work with the PA SHPO.

Places identified through PAGS are mapped in the PA SHPO’s online GIS database and property-level data, when available, can be accessed by individuals, property owners, municipalities, planners, and state and federal agencies to help them in their planning efforts. The launch of PA-SHARE’s Surveyor suite of tools this year has made this sharing even easier.

The Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) is PA SHPO’s statewide inventory of over 26,000 recorded archaeological sites, representing 16,000 years of Pennsylvania’s history. Archaeological site information has been collected across Pennsylvania since the 1940s.

We welcome site information from everyone, including museums, historical societies, students, and collectors. Recording finds and their location is an important step in learning about the past and protecting these important places.

Learn more at [www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/survey](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/survey).
In 2021, PA SHPO started a three-year effort to collect baseline information about thousands of older and historic places across a vast part of Pennsylvania that are underrepresented in Pennsylvania's statewide inventory.

There are several benefits of collecting data on historic resources in Pennsylvania. Historic places define a community’s character, continuity, and a sense of uniqueness. A locally important historic resource might never appear on a list of nationally significant places but its identification in a survey acknowledges that these resources have value to Pennsylvania’s communities and future generations.

Survey data can also inform inventories of National Register historic districts, which can lead to the use of historic preservation tax credits and grants to stimulate rehabilitation of historic buildings. Data from this baseline survey effort can also be used to assist municipalities and organizations in their efforts to interpret and celebrate an area's history.

PA SHPO has identified several survey priorities for this baseline survey effort that reflect themes and geographies underrepresented in the PA Historic Places Inventory and PA-SHARE:

- African American churches and cemeteries
- Places associated with racial and ethnic communities
- Places of local significance/importance as identified by local stakeholders
- Surficial archaeological evidence

Baseline survey efforts will also collect information about recreational properties, urban redevelopment projects, fraternal buildings, representative mid-20th century resources, industrial resources, and commercial and residential properties that represent local building traditions.

Learn more at [www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/survey/Pages/Baseline-Survey-Effort-2020-2024](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/survey/Pages/Baseline-Survey-Effort-2020-2024).
In Pennsylvania, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Pennsylvania History Code require federal and state agencies to take preservation into consideration when they propose a project that may affect historic properties, including historic landscapes and archaeological sites. PA SHPO refers to this consultation as Environmental Review.

Every day, PA SHPO Environmental Review staff work closely with local, state, and federal agencies and historic preservation professionals to advise and assist them with the Environmental Review process, such as:

- identifying historic properties, including archaeological sites, in their project area; and
- determining if the proposed project will affect these properties.

If historic properties will be affected, PA SHPO staff will often assist agencies and their applicants to

- seek and consider alternatives that avoid or minimize the potential impacts of a project, and
- identify mitigation options when adverse impacts are unavoidable.

The PA SHPO has been working successfully with state and federal agencies and preservation stakeholders, known as consulting parties, to develop creative, innovative, and meaningful mitigation in the public interest.

Examples of meaningful mitigation developed by SHPO staff in consultation with agencies this year include funding for historic barns and bridges, National Register nominations and public education, including websites, published histories, and exhibits.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Environmental-Review.
A bureau within the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) administers state historic preservation programs authorized through the Pennsylvania History Code (Title 37 of the Pennsylvania Code) and manages several Federal programs created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 470).

PA SHPO uses its resources to educate Pennsylvanians about the commonwealth’s vast collection of historic and archaeological resources, encourage them to value these resources as part of our collective past and future, and enable them to reserve the places that tell our local, state, and national stories for future generations.

The government’s investment in Pennsylvania’s older and historic places has far-reaching benefits that touch every Pennsylvanian through the federal and state historic preservation programs administered by the PA SHPO.

Congress’ Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is managed by the National Park Service, financially supports the work of all State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and is used for activities that promote cultural heritage while bolstering the economy and creating jobs. The HPF, which is funded through offshore oil leases rather than Federal taxes, provides a significant portion of the PA SHPO’s annual budget.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania supports the work of the PA SHPO through the General Government Operations fund and the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund. The PA SHPO also supplements their annual HPF budget through a number of partnerships with other state and federal agencies to support staffing and program activities.