The PA SHPO, a bureau within the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), 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, encourage, and enable Pennsylvanians to value and preserve the commonwealth’s unique cultural and historic heritage. Our role is to identify, promote, and protect the architectural and archaeological resources of Pennsylvania.

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

The government’s investment in Pennsylvania’s older and historic places has far-reaching benefits that touch every Pennsylvanian through the state and federal historic preservation programs administered by the PA SHPO.
PA SHPO’s accomplishments are captured each year through our reporting for the federal fiscal year (Oct—Sept), state fiscal year (July—June) and the calendar year. The figures above represent a snapshot of PA SHPO accomplishments for 2019.
PA SHPO Community Engagement

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 celebrated, documented, invested, protected, and taught people about Pennsylvania’s older and historic places.

SHPO’s main office is in Harrisburg and its regional offices are in Pittsburgh and Fort Washington, Montgomery County, to serve constituents throughout the commonwealth. These offices are represented by large light blue circles.

This map represents the many ways and many places that SHPO’s three offices make connections between people, place and community.

29 Staff
375+ Activities
5,100+ People Engaged

Celebrating
Documenting
Investing
Protecting
Teaching
Celebrating Pandenarium
East Lackawannock, Mercer County

In November 1854, 63 manumitted African Americans from Virginia moved to a small settlement north of Indian Run, Mercer County. Archaeological investigations over the past twenty years have started to document Pandenarium’s important stories of freedom and perseverance in Pennsylvania’s African American community.

In 2019, Pandenarium was one of 18 subjects to receive a Pennsylvania Historical Marker.

Blair County Courthouse Law Library Hollidaysburg, Blair County

Built in 1875, the Blair County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places a century later as outstanding example of institutional Gothic Revival architecture.

In 2016, PA SHPO awarded the Blair County Commissioners an $80,000 Keystone Historic Preservation Grant to restore the former law library, which had been ravaged by time, water infiltration, and minor but invasive alterations.

The project, which included restoring the original paint scheme, repairing marble, and cleaning, is the centerpiece of the county’s plans to preserve more of the building’s original interior.
Documenting

John Updike Childhood Home
Shillington, Berks County

Acclaimed novelist, poet, short-story writer, essayist, and critic John Updike spent his childhood in this home, which had a strong and lasting impact on him and recurs throughout his work.

The John Updike Society listed the late author’s childhood home in the National Register of Historic Places in 2019 to honor Updike as well as to further their mission to open a museum dedicated to Updike’s literary career. A PA Historical Marker for Updike was also approved in 2019 and will be installed at his childhood home in 2020.

Jamison City Tannery
Jamison City, Columbia County

PA SHPO staff and interns visited the site of the former Jamison City Tavern in 2019 to help the property owner document the buildings and archaeological sites there.

The tannery site, which operated between 1889 and 1925, is now part of a 110-acre camp that supports Vets in the Valley, a Pennsylvania non-profit with outreach to veterans, educators, and others to raise awareness about the need for healthy forests and conservation.

PA SHPO is working with the property owner to determine if the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which would assist in its preservation through access to preservation incentives.
Century Inn (formerly Hill’s Tavern)
Scenery Hill, Washington County

Constructed between 1788 and 1794, the Century Inn is the oldest continuously operating inn on the National Road.

PA SHPO helped list the tavern in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and again helped the owners with the building’s rehabilitation after a destructive fire in 2015.

Using both the federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit and Pennsylvania’s Historic Preservation Tax Credit, the owners and their team were able to repair and reopen the inn.

Soldiers & Sailors Monument & Curtin Memorial @ Centre County Courthouse
Bellefonte, Centre County

Many communities across Pennsylvania have prominent memorials to honor their local veterans. In 1906, Centre County dedicated the granite and bronze Soldiers & Sailors Monument and Curtin Memorial, which stands prominently in front of the county courthouse.

In 2017, PA SHPO awarded a Keystone Construction Grant to Centre County officials to begin a two-year conservation and restoration project on the memorial. With the help of this grant, conservators restored and repaired the granite and cleaned the bronze plaques.
Erie Historic Preservation Task Force
Erie, Erie County

PA SHPO is a member of Erie’s Historic Preservation Task Force, which was established in 2019 as a joint City Council and Mayoral effort. They group will meet for two years and offer policy recommendations to address historic preservation, growth, and economic development in the city.

Virgil Cantini Mosaics
Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

In 1964, Pittsburgh’s Urban Redevelopment Authority commissioned mid-20th century artist and educator Virgil Cantini to design a mosaic for a pedestrian underpass in the Lower Hill District. In 2015, a transportation project called for the removal and reinstallation of this significant public art.

Beginning in 2017, PA SHPO started working with local advocates, the city, PennDOT and FHWA to explore ways to minimize, mitigate, or avoid an adverse effect to this National Register-eligible object.

As a result of the PA SHPO’s and consulting parties’ efforts, the I-576 project was redesigned to allow for the careful removal, storage, and reinstallation of the mosaic panels in a new location.
Teaching

**Preservation for Planners**  
**Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County**

PA SHPO, in partnership the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, hosted a day-long workshop in April 2019 for municipal and county staff focusing on historic preservation basics and how historic preservation intersects with other aspects of local and regional planning.

Over 40 attendees learned about preservation ordinances and other planning tools, preservation incentives, and the importance of consulting parties in the Section 106 review process.

**Design Standards Workshop**  
**Pittsburgh, Allegheny County**

PA SHPO, in partnership with Preservation Pittsburgh, hosted a workshop in May 2019 for architects, developers, community leaders, property owners, preservation advocates, consultants, and Main Street managers to learn more about historic preservation incentives and how to take advantage of these programs.

Over 110 attendees learned about the federal 20% historic tax credit, Pennsylvania’s Historic Preservation Tax Credit, and Keystone grants.

As a result of PA SHPO’s education and outreach, the workshop attendees better understand how to use preservation incentives to improve their communities.
Every community deserves the chance to realize the economic, environmental, and quality-of-life benefits that preservation offers. This plan can help.

The statewide historic preservation planning process gathered brilliant ideas for improving the future of historic places in Pennsylvania. The resulting plan is a means to achieving that goal, but in order to be successful, the plan must mobilize people and resources.

This five-year plan lays out a framework of activities and goals that will:

- implement the plan,
- help Pennsylvanians better understand historic preservation and its benefits,
- appreciate their own histories and their shared histories as told through historic places, and
- balance history, economics, and development to manage change within their communities.

It also satisfies Pennsylvania’s statewide historic preservation planning obligations set forth under the National Historic Preservation Act and the PA History Code.

Learn more at [www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Preservation-Plan](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Preservation-Plan).
#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 hashtag #PreservAtionHappensHere in their social media posts or email the PA SHPO with their Preservation Success Story.

Organizations, municipalities, agencies, projects, places, and individuals are all eligible to win.

**Award Recipients include:**

- Fighter’s Heaven, Schuylkill County
- Lazaretto, Delaware County
- Mahoning Drive-In Theater, Carbon County
- Roxian Theatre, Allegheny County
- Walk In Art Center, Schuylkill County
- Jefferson County History Center, Jefferson County
- Redbank Valley Trails Association, Clarion County
- Bradford Revitalization Team, McKean County
- East Liberty Development, Inc., Allegheny County
- Hidden City Philadelphia, Philadelphia County

Learn more at www.pahistoricpreservation.com/community-initiative-award.
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.

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.
In Pennsylvania’s many diverse communities, the iconic blue and gold cast aluminum markers are memorials, history lessons, travelers’ guideposts, tourist attractions, and sources of pride.

Pennsylvania’s historical markers help people capture the memory of people, places, events, and innovations that have affected the lives of Pennsylvanians since William Penn founded his commonwealth through PHMC’s Historical Marker program.

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

Nominations for historical markers may be submitted by any individual or organization and must be received by the PA SHPO on or before the annual deadline of December 1. The nominations are reviewed by a panel of independent historical experts in both academic and public history fields with geographic distribution across the state.

Most markers are dedicated in public events featuring public officials, local historians, community representatives, and others. Each dedication presents opportunities for Pennsylvanians to celebrate and understand their heritage. While the nominator or a local sponsor is responsible for the costs of marker production and installation, PHMC assumes ownership of the marker and oversees its long-term maintenance.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Historical-Markers.

Historical marker dedication in Lancaster, Lancaster County for athlete Henry Norwood “Barney” Ewell, who won three medals in the 1948 Olympics.
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 life.

A 20% tax credit is available for certified historic properties. To be eligible for the 20% tax credit, the building(s):

- 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 components of the 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/Grants-Funding/Pages/Federal-Tax-Credits.
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 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 $3 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/Grants-Funding/Pages/State-Tax-Credits.

The Stoehr and Fister Building in Scranton, Lackawanna County was awarded Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credits in 2019.
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.

The Keystone grants are one of the few dedicated funding sources available to support these types of historic preservation projects. Since its inception, this program has provided over $40 million in funding to 800 projects preserving the commonwealth’s diverse array of historic properties. From covered bridges to county courthouses, from roller coasters to museums, these grant funds have leveraged over $156.3 million investment in local communities.

There are two type of grants under this program: Planning Project Grants and Construction Grants.

**Planning Project Grants** provide financial assistance of $5,000 to $25,000 as a matching grant to nonprofit organizations and local governments for the planning and development for publicly accessible historic properties.

**Construction Grants** provide financial assistance of $5,000 to $100,000 as a matching grant to nonprofit organizations and local governments for small construction projects for publicly accessible historic properties.

For both grants, applicants must be based in Pennsylvania, have tax exempt status or be an entity of local government, and must be incorporated and serving the public for at least five years prior to application. Historic properties are those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Awardees are selected through a competitive application process once a year.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Grants-Funding.
Throughout Pennsylvania’s early development, our communities settled along the banks of the commonwealth’s more than 86,000 miles of streams. During this time rivers and creeks functioned not only as a vital source of sustenance, but also as sources of industrial power and the backbone of the Keystone State’s first transportation and commerce networks.

Because of the commonwealth’s extensive network of waterways, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) has identified flooding as the single greatest natural threat to life and property in each of the state’s 67 counties, a threat which is only expected to become more severe in future years as heavy rainfall events become more frequent and intense.

PA SHPO began its Disaster Planning Initiative in 2014 in response to Hurricane Sandy. As part of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-2), the National Park Service awarded the PA SHPO $1.5 million to help stabilize or repair historic properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy and undertake disaster-related planning initiatives.

Using these funds, PA SHPO is working with PEMA and other partners through 2020 to:

- Integrate disaster planning into historic resource survey efforts;
- Incorporate and prioritize historic properties into hazard mitigation planning at the local, county, and state levels;
- Develop model guidance related to historic properties;
- Offer grants to property owners and nonprofit organizations for reimbursing the costs associated with repairing National Register eligible or listed historic properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy;
- Provide training and educational programs on disaster-related topics.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Disaster-Planning.
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 a competitive, annual 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/Community-Preservation/Pages/Certified-Local-Government.
Municipalities have many options available to them for identifying, preserving, and enhancing historic places in their communities. To help local governments and organizations foster and manage historic preservation programs at the local level, the PA SHPO’s Eastern, Central, and Western Pennsylvania 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 developed 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.

Each year, the PA SHPO Community Preservation Coordinators provide training for communities like Milford, Pike County, which established its local historic district in 2000.
PA SHPO manages two survey programs for identifying and recording older and historic places in Pennsylvania. The inventory of buildings, sites, structures, objects and landscapes is maintained and made available online 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 Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) is PA SHPO’s statewide inventory of over 25,000 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/Cultural-Resources-GIS/Pages/Recording-Resources.
In Pennsylvania, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Pennsylvania History Code require federal and state agencies to take preservation values into consideration when they propose a project that may affect historic properties or archaeological sites.

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

- the identification of historic properties and archaeological sites in their project area; and
- determining if the proposed project will affect these places.

If historic properties and/or archaeological sites will be affected. PA SHPO staff often assist agencies with:

- suggesting revisions to a project to avoid historic properties or archaeological sites or minimize the impact of the project or
- identifying mitigation to compensate for the loss of a historic property or archaeological site.

The PA SHPO has been working successfully with state and federal agencies and consulting parties to develop creative, innovative, and meaningful mitigation outcomes 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, public education, including websites and exhibits, and design guidelines for historic districts.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Environmental-Review.

PA SHPO worked with PennDOT and local consulting parties in the successful rehabilitation of Reading’s Penn Street bridge.
Education and outreach are core components of the PA SHPO’s mission and programs & empower Pennsylvanians to engage and promote preservation in their own communities. The PA SHPO works with a wide variety of audiences, ranging from the general public to municipal governments, from state and federal agencies to 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 our 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.

Testimonial videos like the one for Scripture Rocks, Jefferson County, showcases some of Pennsylvania's preservation successes.
In fall 2020, PA SHPO will launch Pennsylvania’s new online GIS and project management software called PA-SHARE. PA-SHARE, Pennsylvania’s Historic & Archaeological Resource Exchange, is a web application that will replace the current Cultural Resources GIS (CRGIS) and the PA SHPO’s existing paper-based systems.

PA-SHARE users can search for and locate historic properties and archaeological sites using GIS technology, retrieve and download information about these places, submit and track projects, and manage communications related to PA SHPO’s programs electronically from the comfort of their home or office.

PA-SHARE Advantages

- PA-SHARE is a new consultation, communication and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool that transforms how the PA SHPO conducts business by facilitating streamlined program delivery including National Register, Environmental Review, Historical Markers, and more.
- Public accessibility – users and partners can access a wide range of data remotely rather than make an appointment to view paper files in Harrisburg.
- Electronic submission for most PA SHPO programs & emailed responses resulting in decreased response times.
- User dashboards – tools to locate past projects, see status updates, connect with other project contacts.

The Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS), PA SHPO’s current online system for sharing historic resource information with the public and our partners, will sunset once PA-SHARE is launched.

Learn more at www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Cultural-Resources-GIS.
Tom Wolf
Governor

Nancy Moses
Chair, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Andrea Lowery
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
& State Historic Preservation Officer

Andrea MacDonald
PA SHPO Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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