

HARRISBURG HERITAGE



Newsletter of Historic Harrisburg Association • December 2002 / January 2003

29TH Annual Candlelight House Tour “Holiday Happenings”

On Sunday, December 15, 2002, Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA) will host its annual Candlelight House Tour. *Holiday Happenings* will be held from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm and will feature many lovely homes and historic properties in Dauphin, Fishing Creek Valley Road and the Village of Heckton. **An added bonus to our tour is The Pennsylvania Governor’s Mansion.**

Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 the day of the tour. Tickets are now available at the following area locations:

Crafty Generations
Strawberry Square, Harrisburg

Harriett Too
2120 Colonial Road, Harrisburg

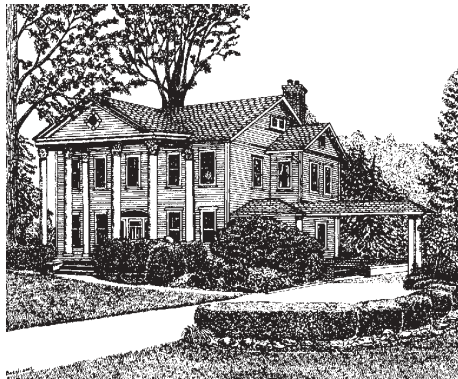
Kathie’s Christmas
3309 Hartzdale Drive, Camp Hill

Picture This
301 Bridge Street, New Cumberland

Historic Harrisburg Association
1230 North Third Street, Harrisburg
(Will also be open Sat. Dec. 14 and
Sun. Dec 15 from 12:30 – 3:30pm)

The Old Dauphin School House (Lion’s Building) at 300 Church Street in Dauphin will sell tickets on the Day of the Tour Only from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm.

The following information is very important in regards to parking. You will need to park in different locations for different parts of the Tour:



For Dauphin: (which includes the properties at 300 Swatara Street, 409 Allegheny Street, 300 Church Street and 600 Erie Street), you may park at the St. Matthews Catholic Church, Zion Lutheran Church, Old Dauphin School House or on the street). Any of these locations is walking distance to all tour properties in Dauphin.

For Fishing Creek Valley Road: (which includes 680 Fishing Creek Valley Road only), you may park at the top of the driveway, either in front of the garage or the two circular areas in front of the house. *Please note the driveway is one way and very long, extending up the hill to the house, so be aware of oncoming cars.*

For the Peter Allen House: you may park in the field on your immediate left as you enter the property, or limited parking is available adjacent to the house.

For the Village of Heckton: (which includes the four North Front Street proper-

ties: 5513, 5517, 5521 and 5533), you may park on both sides of Front Street or in the Fish and Game Commission parking lot. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN ANY OF THE HOMEOWNERS’ DRIVEWAYS OR YARDS.**

We are very excited about this year’s tour and feel it will be a truly spectacular event! This is always a wonderful opportunity for HHA to show off Harrisburg’s unique neighborhoods and build support for its essential work in historic preservation. It is yet, another opportunity to continue enjoying the beautiful sights and sounds of the holiday season!

We invite each of you, your friends, relatives and co-workers to attend and celebrate, “*Holiday Happenings*”! For further information, please contact the HHA offices at (717) 233-4646.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2002
CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR
CORPORATE SPONSORS:**

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**THE PENNSYLVANIA
ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY BANKERS**

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE
YOUR SUPPORT!**



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www.historicharrisburg.org

Historic Harrisburg Association is a non-profit, volunteer community organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enjoyment of historic neighborhoods and landmarks. HHA is funded by voluntary contribution from members, friends and businesses. Additional support is provided by the Allied Arts Fund, Inc.



HARRISBURG HERITAGE

– DEC 2002./JAN. 2003 –

Editor: Penny M. Poerksen

Harrisburg Heritage, the newsletter for the Historic Harrisburg Association, Inc., is published as a membership benefit.

2002 Fall Lecture Series

We have just completed our 2002 Fall Lecture Series and appreciate the support of those persons who attended. Thank you to the HHA Education Committee for their hard work in researching the topics and requesting the speakers.

A special thanks to Ernest Morrison, for his wonderful presentation on the history of the “**City Beautiful Movement**”. *As many of you are probably aware, Mr. Morrison passed away in October and we extend our condolences to his family.* He was such a wonderful teacher and historian and will be

sadly missed by the Harrisburg community.

Special thanks to Vance Enck, for his most delightful presentation on, “**Balus-trades, Bargeboards and Brackets: A Victorian Architectural Dessert**”.

Finally, a special thanks to **Jim Schmick**, for his very informative presentation and slide show on the “**Historic monuments of Gettysburg**.”

Plans are under way for our Spring 2003 Lecture Series. We will have information available in our February/March 2003 Newsletter.

HHA Members' Home to be on Home and Garden TV

Many of you may recall from several newsletters ago, that Home and Garden TV (**HGTV, channel 65 on cable**), was coming to Harrisburg and wanted to profile some historic homes and properties for their segment, “**If Walls Could Talk**”. Through the assistance of many people, HHA provided the show with a list of possibilities. I am thrilled to say that one of the homes chosen was that of Eric Papenfuse and Catherine Lawrence, 315 South Front Street in Harrisburg. The show is scheduled to air on Super Bowl Sunday, January 26, 2003 at 10:00 pm EST. Please be sure to tune in! Please call the HHA offices at 233-4646, should you have additional questions.



HHA Clean-Up – A Great Success!

On October 16 and October 23, HHA hosted a clean-up of the inside and outside of our building. This group of “die-hard” volunteer cleaners did an outstanding job! Not only can we see our alley again, but the inside of our buildings looks shiny and new!

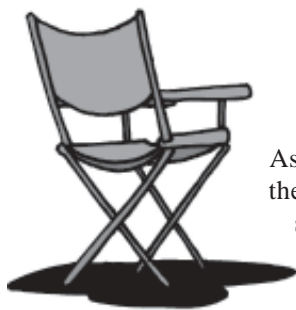
Thank you to the following, who volunteered their time to come and help. We could not have done it without you:

- Duryea Cameron*
- Lindabeth Parker*
- Daisy Prosser*
- Peggy Schenck*
- Charlie Schenck*
- John Scott*
- David Sink*
- Gregg Warner*
- Victoria Zellers*



THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

By Penny M. Poerksen, Executive Director



As we move into the Holiday Season, it is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. As the saying goes, *so much to do and so little time*. Overall, I think HHA has had a good year, we have worked very hard on increasing our membership, we developed a new fundraiser, "Dine Downtown", and we spent a lot of time focusing on fundraising, corporate sponsorships and improving upon our existing events and monthly membership meetings. Lots of ideas and plans are in the works for 2003, especially our "30th Anniversary Celebration of HHA". We plan on this being a year-long celebration with special highlights to commemorate the 30 years that HHA has been in existence. I encourage each and everyone of you to keep yourself posted to all the activities planned for 2003.

Before 2002 comes to a close, there are still a few things to be done. Read on for more information.

The 11th Annual Elegant Progressions, our partnership project with the Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania was held on December 6 and 7, 2002 in Hershey. The evening known as "Making Merry in Township Derry" was a lovely way to kick off the holiday season and the many guests enjoyed a spectacular evening at 3 incredible Hershey mansions. **A BIG THANK YOU** to Bob Haynes, General Chairman, and the Elegant Progressions Committees, as well as the many volunteers for planning such a wonderful evening!

The 29th Annual Candlelight House Tour will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2002 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. "Holiday Happenings", will feature many lovely homes in Dauphin, Fishing Creek Valley Road and the Village of Heckton. **A BIG THANK YOU** in advance to the Committee, volunteers, homeowners and businesses for your help in making this event a great success! (Please see cover story).

Our Fall Lecture Series continued with 3 excellent speakers, **Ernest Morrison, Vance Enck and Jim Schmick**. Each of

these gentlemen presented very informative and interesting presentations to our membership. **A BIG THANK YOU TO EACH!** Be sure to watch for upcoming information on our Spring 2003 Lecture Series. (Please see related article).

I again want to take this opportunity to thank the HHA Board of Directors, membership and my very dedicated staff of Daisy and Minnie, for their assistance and support throughout 2002. I truly could not do my job without all this help! Please feel free to call me at 233-4646, if you have questions or need assistance. I can also be reached by email at: ppoerksen@onemain.com.

I wish all of you a very Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season! Look forward to seeing all of you in January 2003!

Thanks to all!!!!

HHA Office Closing During Holidays

Please note the Historic Harrisburg Association offices will be closed from 1:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24, 2002 through Wednesday, January 1, 2003. We will re-open on Thursday, January 2 at 9:00 am.

Wishing you health and happiness throughout the holiday season!



30TH Anniversary Celebration of HHA!

January 25, 2003 marks the official 30th Anniversary of HHA, but we plan to make this a year-long celebration. The idea is that we do several things throughout the year to commemorate this special occasion. **Our first planning meeting has been set for Wednesday, December 18, 2002 at 5:30 pm at the HHA offices, 1230 North Third Street.** As we have asked in previous newsletters, any of you that would be interested in serving on our planning committee please call HHA at 233-4646, if you are interested in attending! **THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Historic Walking Tours

As you know, HHA offered Historic Walking Tours throughout the late summer and fall, which received a great deal of interest. We are planning to offer our tours again next year. We will start in Spring 2003 and will provide a schedule of dates (TBD) that will continue into Fall 2003. I would like to ask that if any of you would have an interest in helping to lead these tours, please call our offices at 233-4646. Currently, we have one person, Vance Enck, who has done a superb job and will continue to guide some of our tours. However, we would like to have more than one tour guide, so give us a call if you are interested. Please look for dates of our tours in our early Spring 2003 newsletter.



Miller & Long Advanced East State St. Vista

Harrisburg Lost and Found:

BY KEN FREW

Before 1873, East State Street really didn't have a lot going for it. Harrisburg Cemetery had opened in 1845 but it was just a nob on the hill, hard to reach by narrow Cemetery Road which wended its way from Cameron and Market. A scattering of small farms and pastureland bordering the cemetery held promise for development but building efforts were retarded due to a lack of easy access — namely a bridge — to this part of the borough's environs.

The major obstacle was the growing Pennsylvania Railroad yards. City annexation in 1860 (to 13th), and again in 1869 (to 19th), left State Street's eastern half still out in the boondocks and largely accessible across a dangerous nexus of rails. Only in 1872, when a new Fourth St. farmers' market facing the rear of the Capitol opened, did PRR remedy the increase in traffic by erecting the first iron, stone ramped bridge.

Reservoir Park's opening brought an even steadier flow of traffic east in 1890. Although PRR's bridge was only a conveyance of carriages, livestock and pedestrians, Richard H. Steinmetz and Harold E. Cox in their book, *Streetways of Harrisburg* (1988), note that the closest streetcar line which left 13th and Walnut and went over old Jonestown Road to bypass much of the area, was also overwhelmed by the Park's popularity.

By 1900, things were so congested along the single trolley track, a new line was laid on E. State St., a return run for the earlier line. Carloads of picnickers headed home after a day at the park began getting ideas about those idle-looking fields.

Alexander Sharp Miller (1859-1923) had arrived in the city an unlikely developer in 1899. Miller managed Newville's railroad station for 15 years but nowhere in his dossier is there any indication that he had the tools for launching a building contracting company. His partner, his brother-in-law, Christian Lightner Long (1859-1935) late of Shippensburg where he had run a drugstore, hardly seemed to bring

much to the table with a degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

In 1903, the City contracted Warner-Quinlan Co. to begin street paving and for grass plots and flower beds on State St. The following year newly organized Central Pennsylvania Traction laid a second, westbound track running to 18th, offering two-way traffic. This prompted extensive repairs to PRR's iron bridge. The floor system by then had completely rotted out and it was closed temporarily to all but foot and wagon traffic. Numerous closings became necessary until it was eventually replaced by the present Memorial Bridge.

Earlier (1901), Miller & Long broke ground for the first of their units, 8 houses on the northeast corner of 15th. But Long, the creative end of the partnership, had been buying up the largely rural north side of E. State soon after his arrival in the city. Engaging a New York architect for ideas, the partners were advertising another 20 new bricks by the spring of 1904.

Billing their double units as "Philadelphia style," was the finest laurel Miller & Long could have thrown at themselves. Back to Colonial times, Philadelphia style brought to mind a house with an extra full story. Harrisburg was



1619 State Street seen here, is a project of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Harrisburg.

Photograph: Ken Frew

tiring of the old mansard, straight-up-and-down rows dominating the earlier streetscape. Setbacks, front porches and access to the rear were downright necessities by the early 1900s.

Eclectic in style, Miller & Long's were a subtype of the new Foursquare plan becoming popular with east coast architects. Foursquare was an appropriation of Chicago's Prairie style of architecture. Instead of a mansard, a hipped roof acted as an attic. State Street's used a symmetrical three-story rectangular plan, combining everything from Renaissance Revival (the third story window surrounds) to the emerging Colonial Revival movement in the columned porch porticos.

They were also one of the first, if not the first, developer to take part in landscaping their project. Miller & Long planted some 700 shade trees. Their chocolate-colored, hydraulic pressed brick and dark brown trim for the houses, also complemented the project's cultural anchor in Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (1904, C. Howard Lloyd), which rose simultaneously at 16th and State. A schoolhouse was the ultimate prize for a developer. Obviously Lincoln's timing, reinforced by a trolley whizzing past its doors every 7 and-a-half minutes, couldn't have been better orchestrated.

By 1906, the company had over 200 units under roof, including many on E. North and N. 16th sts. and Pleasant View, a development of Miller & Long's west and north of Reservoir Park on 18th.

Their activity on E. State grew to 59 houses. From 13th to 18th they stretched, affordably priced at \$2,000 to \$5,000, some with fireplaces and fifty foot front lawns. The local *Harrisburg Telegraph* once compared the more Spanish-flavored houses north of 17th to the domestic architecture of Pasadena, California.



State Street looking east from 17th Street - the "Pasadena" houses.
Postcard: City of Harrisburg

Pasadena or no, Miller & Long soon ran out of city. Annexation to and beyond Reservoir Park (the Park was already city-owned) got bogged down for various reasons until 1920. Miller, who also served on old common council and the school board, left the partnership in 1912. He opened a strictly real estate office with his son Ira, before fading from the scene. His home at 1800 State St. was replaced by the Penway Theatre.

Christian L. Long stayed with contracting for the most part. He built a home for himself on the southeast corner of Front and Kelker which was later sold to Isaac H. Doutrich but has since been demolished. In 1920, he built the five-story Parkway Apartments at Front and Boas and numerous housing rows in the uptown until the Depression.

When the trolleys disappeared from the streets in 1939, things were never quite the same. Especially for State St. which had long lost its resident-friendly, green buffer zone down the middle.

Today, the still handsome boulevard has some landscaping and renewal problems but it's nothing that a

few tree islands and new infill construction can't begin to address. With a booming National Civil War Museum at the top of the hill the neighborhood hasn't been this cranked up and ready to go in a hundred years.

The City has already replaced sidewalks and installed antique-style streetlighting as part of the Capitol Corridors program. Plus, residential owners may be eligible through a facade improvement program (FIP) for grants of up to \$4,500 to make improvements to the facades of their buildings. Smaller grants are available to the owners of mixed use properties. Further eligibility details for this may be obtained through the City of Harrisburg, Department of Building & Housing Development (255-6480).

As a side project, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Harrisburg, the City of Harrisburg and area Presbyterian congregations are in the midst of rehabilitating a number of Miller & Long's houses, restoring the front porches which once made them so desirable in the first place. Coinciding upgrades to Lincoln School by the school district are also adding to the renaissance of this grand old street.

*Volunteers don't necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart.*

—Anonymous

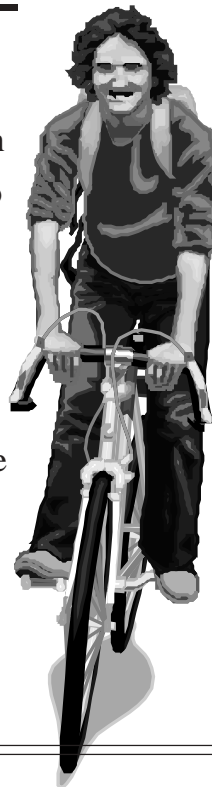
As I began to prepare this article for publication, I read some back issues and found the above quote. It's certainly true, still to this day. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization! That's why we need you...

HHA is a vital organization in Harrisburg; I believe that wholeheartedly. So do all of you who are members and continue to support our mission of architectural preservation. Even so, HHA has a staff of 2! Penny and I do as much as is humanly possible, **but we would be unable to function without our volunteers!** We rely on you to help us with many duties here: mailings, all aspects of our tours and even building clean-up and up-keep, just to name a few! **You've been there when we've needed you and we thank you for that. We need you now.** Our volunteer list has diminished in the past couple of years: people have moved away from the area, jobs or living situations have changed. Whatever the reason, our volunteer resources are dangerously low. If you'd be interested in volunteering for any number of things, please call me and I'll send you a volunteer form. Along those same lines, HHA is in need of a **Volunteer Coordinator**—someone who would volunteer their time to find volunteers for us! It would only take a couple of hours a month and it could be done from home or here in our offices.

If you are able to help us, or know someone who is, please call me at (717) 233-4646. (Membership in HHA is **NOT** a requirement for volunteering.) Thank you for your continued support!

Historic Biking Tour – A Success!

HHA hosted its first Historic Biking Tour in conjunction with the Harrisburg Bicycling Club on Sunday, October 20. There were several participants and they were guided on a tour of historic properties and landmarks in the Uptown area of Harrisburg. Many thanks to all who participated. A special thank you to both Charlie Wilson and Marc Farrell, who coordinated and researched the stops for the Tour. We plan to offer again in the Spring, so keep your eyes posted for the next date.



Book For Sale

“Harrisburg’s Old Eighth Ward” written by Drs. Michael Barton and Jessica Dorman is now on sale at the HHA offices, for \$26.95/including tax. This book presents more than 100 photographs denoting the turbulent times in this area of Harrisburg. It also encompasses the complete volume of 35 articles written by J. Howard Wert, which originally appeared in the Harrisburg Patriot in 1912-1913 and introduced readers to some of the colorful characters found in the Old Eighth Ward. For more information, please contact the HHA offices at 233-4646.



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HISTORIC HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION has an active membership of over 1000 individuals, businesses and other supporters. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all members, especially those who have contributed at the following gift levels:

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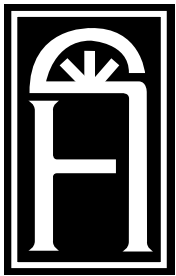
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Victoria Zellers



HHA Membership Application

Mail to: Historic Harrisburg Association • 1230 N. Third Street • Harrisburg, PA 17102

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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Please start my membership at the following gift level:**

___ **Individual** (\$25 per year)

___ **Household** (\$35 per year)

___ **Sustaining Member** (\$50 per year)

___ **“Pillars of HHA”** (\$100 per year)

All memberships are renewable annually.
Questions may be directed to 233-4646.

Members of HHA’s “Capital Club” provide up-
permost levels of support, in the following cat-
egories, which are based on the classical orders
of architecture:

___ **Doric Order** (\$250 per year)

___ **Ionic Order** (\$500 per year)

___ **Corinthian Order** (\$1000 per year and up)

Payment Enclosed
*Please make checks payable to
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Please Bill Me

Please charge my VISA/MC
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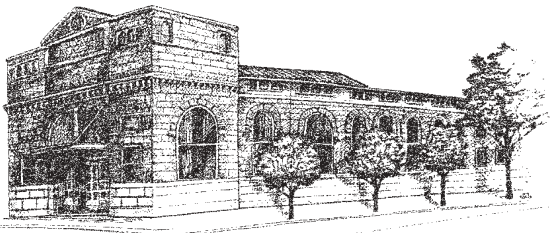
Authorizing Signature _____

Historic Harrisburg Association is properly registered in Pennsylvania as a charitable organiza-
tion. A copy of the registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA
department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Please contact me/us about
Volunteer Opportunities**

HISTORIC HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION
1230 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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