

# HARRISBURG HERITAGE



Newsletter of Historic Harrisburg Association • February / March 2003

## HHA 30th Anniversary Flashback – The 1970's

*The following is the first in a series of articles, which will trace the 30 Year history of the Historic Harrisburg Association*

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Historic Harrisburg Association and particularly the month of February when the original organizational meeting of the Association was held in 1973. Following the Agnes Flood of 1972, classic urban renewal activity of the time resulted in the establishment of flood recovery zones in Harrisburg and the conventional approach of demolition of damaged buildings for new development.

At that time, there was no historic preservation movement in Harrisburg, nor was there the existence of historic districts to protect what would soon be recognized as one of the city's greatest assets; its landmarks and historic neighborhoods. Many homes on N. Front Street were unilaterally demolished, as was a good part of South Harrisburg and a much larger Shipoke neighborhood. In addition, a new vehicular bridge over the Susquehanna, to replace the decommissioned Walnut Street Bridge, was proposed at Washington Street, which would have resulted in the clearance of northern Shipoke and the isolation of the John Harris/Cameron Mansion, representing the earliest roots of Harrisburg's history, from its surroundings.

Unrelated to the flood, but coincidentally devastating, was the closing of the noble Penn-Harris Hotel, in December of 1972, which reinforced the dire condition of downtown Harrisburg at the time and the

Citizens to organize an activist association, which would encourage City government to reverse the course of 1960's urban renewal activity and offer an educational forum in which to elevate the general public's awareness of the value of restoration work. Such pioneers as Marianne and Bill Faust, Bob and Eileen Young, Morley Baker, Ronn Fink, Marion Rauch and Pat and Duryea Cameron came together as charter members of the new organization which immediately initiated a three prong approach to get the message out; 1) the establishment of a monthly newsletter, 2) the creation of an annual house tour over the holiday season to promote city living, and 3) the advancement of municipal legislation to halt further demolition of historic structures.

With Marianne Faust as the first HHA president and Bill Faust as the Director of Harrisburg's Bureau of City Planning, the pieces started to fall into place to build a strong community/governmental partnership in addressing the new realm of urban conservation. Jeb Stuart joined the Planning office the following year and undertook the survey required to identify the boundaries of the new historic district. By mid 1974, the legislation was enacted and the Architectural Review Board established, with Faust and Stuart serving as staff, fol-

(continued on page 8)



subsequent loss of the historic landmark through its graphic implosion nine months later.

The culmination of such drastic changes coupled with a growing national sentiment toward historic preservation prompted a group of devoted Harrisburg



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Association**

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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**

**– FEB/MAR 2003 –**

Editor: Penny M. Poerksen

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

# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight House Tour "Holiday Happenings"

On Sunday, December 15, 2002, Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA) held its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight House Tour in Dauphin, Fishing Creek Valley Road and the Village of Heckton. The tour featured 11 properties, which included beautifully decorated homes and churches. The tour brought out over 400 people and was enjoyed by all who attended! **We truly appreciate the participation of all the homeowners and residents.** We know it was a lot of hard work to get ready for a big crowd to come through their homes at holiday time, and we thank each and everyone for their willingness to participate! Our participants were as follows:

**The Pennsylvania Governor's Residence**

**The Home of Cyndi & Chip Brown**

**The Peter Allen House (Frank & Barbara Pinto)**

**Old Dauphin School House**

**Dauphin United Methodist Church (Peter Allen Chapel)**

**St. Matthews Catholic Church**

**The Home of Doug Bonsall & Craig Staller**

**The Home of Robert & Linda Geary**

**The Home of Mary Kate & Deryck Henry**

**The Home of Dr. James C. & Molly Miller**

**The Home of Valerie Spence & Scott Frange (The Heckton Mansion House)**

Special thanks to our **Co-Chairs, Linda Geary and Mary Jane Davis and their Committee**, who did an outstanding job of organizing our Tour!

We were so fortunate to have a wonderful reception committee, who coordinated a delicious meal for the post-tour reception for the homeowners and our HHA Board members. **Thank you to Shirley Blough, Delores Doud, Kathy Lemke and Lindsay Mills!**

Thank you to all the following volunteers, HHA Board members and staff who helped make our 29<sup>th</sup> Candlelight House Tour such a success. Many of these gave monetary donations or food for our reception, several worked at one of the properties on the day of the tour, or helped sell tickets or gave of their time. We truly could not do this without everyone's help!

Irene Anderson  
Evelyn Andrews  
Terry Barnaby  
Dawn Bedell  
Peggy Belfonti  
Rose Boegli  
Chip Brown  
Duryea Cameron  
Carole DiMartile  
Jennifer Donley

Gina Douty  
Clayton Dressler  
Terry Hanyok  
Leah Kleiman  
Margaret Leedom  
Renee Lieux  
Mangia Qui Restaurant  
Diane McCormick  
Jim Moyer  
Lindabeth Parker

Daisy Prosser  
Lynn Renz  
Robin Rowe  
Laurie Saltzgeber  
Peggy Schenck  
Melissa Snyder  
Gretchen Sullivan  
Charlie Wilson  
Victoria Zellers  
Judy Zerbe

**Thank you again to our Corporate Sponsors,  
McKissick Associates and the Pennsylvania  
Association of Community Bankers!**



# THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

By Penny M. Poerksen, Executive Director

Happy 2003! Hope each and everyone of you had a wonderful holiday season. February 2003 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HHA! To commemorate this important milestone, a Committee of Volunteers has been working on ideas and ways to celebrate during the year. (Please see related article).

I guess we are now back to business as usual. I always like to take on new challenges and set goals at the beginning of a new year. My biggest goals are to continue being a strong advocate for historic preservation, increasing our membership, identifying ways to best maintain our headquarters, develop new fund raising sources, and planning a wonderful celebration to commemorate our 30 years of existence. So read on for further information!

Before 2002 is completely closed, I want to mention the success of our Candle-

light House Tour. This year we took a different approach and had our tour in 3 areas (Dauphin, Fishing Creek Valley Road and the Village of Heckton). Our tour drew over 400 tourgoers and a good time was had by all. I really appreciate the hard work and dedication of the HHA staff, Board members, volunteers and especially the homeowners for their willingness to participate. (Please see related article).

Another great success was Elegant Progressions, which is our partnership project with the Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania. As always, this was a lovely evening by which we featured 3 beautiful properties in the Hershey area.

Plans are under way for 2003 Preservation Week. The dates are May 5-11, 2003. The theme for this year is, "New Frontiers in Preservation". HHA will be offering 2 events during that week and we hope each and everyone of you will come and support us! (Please see related article)

Please mark your calendars for our

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual House and Garden Tour, scheduled for Sunday, June 29, 2003.** We are in initial planning stages and will provide you with more information as it becomes available. If any of you would like to serve on the Committee, please contact the HHA offices at 233-4646.

**Additionally, Elegant Progressions is scheduled for Friday, December 5, and Saturday, December 6. Our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, 2003.** We will keep you posted on plans and information for these events as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Historic Harrisburg Association. Please feel free to call me at 233-4646, if you have questions or need assistance. I can also be reached by email at: [ppoerksenhha@onemain.com](mailto:ppoerksenhha@onemain.com).

Thanks to all!!!

## HHA Celebrates 30 Years During 2003! Preserving The Past, Envisioning The Future!

**HHA is celebrating 30 years during 2003!** During the year we hope to convey the message that HHA has had a very strong role in advancing the transformation and renaissance of Harrisburg. We want to honor the pioneers, visionaries, and the many volunteers and donors who contributed to HHA's record of achievement over the past 30 years. We are hopeful that we can generate increased support, enthusiasm and achievement by attracting new supporters, energizing current supporters and reinstating former ones -- all while looking at the past, present and future of historic preservation

We have put together a Committee of volunteers dedicated to commemorating this milestone of HHA. But, we can always use more help, so please call the HHA offices at 233-4646 if you would like to help with our ongoing celebration plans.

We are incorporating much of our celebration into our 2003 Spring and Fall Lecture Series/Monthly Membership Meetings. So read on for dates and program information:

- In each of our newsletters, we will look at the accomplishments and changes that have taken place since our incep-

tion, sharing information in 5-year increments, starting with 1973-1978. (Please see related article on front of newsletter).

- On Monday, February 24, 2003, we will kick-off the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at HHA with a "30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party". The party will begin at 5:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm. We will honor our Past Presidents and Founders during this celebration and will be serving birthday cake and champagne. This is to be a fun, festive evening and we encourage all of you to attend, and help us kick-off our 30-year celebration!
- On Monday, March 24, 2003 beginning at 7:00 pm, we will host our Annual HHA Membership Meeting where our 2003-2004 Slate of Officers will be presented. Our HHA membership will receive the Slate of Officers prior to the meeting and there will be a short program as well as continuing the celebration of our 30 years!
- On Monday, April 28, 2003, our program will be on "Historic Restaurants

of Harrisburg" and will honor Harrisburg's Restaurant Royalty.

- On Monday, September 22, 2003, our program topic will be, "Preserved Treasures and Lost Landmarks of Harrisburg".
- On Monday, October 27, 2003, our program topic will be a forum on "Looking Ahead to Preservation Issues".
- On Monday, November 24, 2003, our program topic will be on a "Brief History of the HHA House Tours".
- On Sunday, December 14, 2003, we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Candlelight House Tour. The tour will be called, "Candlelight Gleam: A History of HHA House Tours". We will keep you posted on the plans for this special day!

As always our monthly membership meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the HHA Resource Center, unless otherwise noted. These are free and open to the public with light refreshments being served. I hope to encourage all of you to attend.

# Harrisburg Lost and Found:

BY KEN FREW

## Severino's Houses Reflected Stonemason's Art

One of the more creative spins on the popular semidetached house format in Harrisburg are those dwellings erected on North Second Street by the legendary Joseph P. Severino. Of all the city's small-time 1920's building contractors, Severino's are unmatched for their peerless stonemasonry; their unique, chain-like interconnection via their automobile porticos that makes the duplexes stand out like family.

Emigrating with his parents from his home near Naples as a 15-year-old in 1897, Severino was part of a large migration from southern Italy hard-hit by famine. An oppressive government there favored the northern part of the region. According to his son Joseph, Jr. who still resides in the Harrisburg area, prospects for work on the new Rockville Bridge brought his father and grandparents to the United States.

America's cities were growing rapidly. Immigration poured into them in search of jobs where speaking English was not required. Severino's son recalled that his father learned English by struggling through the daily newspapers and spoke with no accent. He could only speculate what it must have been like for him to have arrived third class (steerage) into a terrifyingly beautiful land, fitted with little more than his talent — ah, but what a talent it was to be.

The leading Italian families of Harrisburg were the Russ brothers, originally the Rossi's of Lucca in southern Italy, and Castiglione's Peter Magaro, also of the southern half. Italians stuck together in the U.S., particularly by region. The Russ's eventually controlled much of Harrisburg's hotel, fruit and beer business and along with Magaro sponsored many of the immigrants who came new to town. Peter Magaro had risen from newsboy in 1887 to real estate magnate and always knew of a warm place for a countryman.

Young Severino worked on the Rockville until its completion in 1902. Like many of the stonemasons employed on it he was easily absorbed into Harrisburg's building boom, a full-tilt wave of unprecedented construction by the turn of the century. The new Capitol was going up. New office buildings, houses and schools. There was concrete work, sidewalks, curbing and a sewerage system to build. Architecture — be it foundation digger, hod carrier or stone cutter — was soon leaping from the hands of immigrants arriving by the trainload from New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Harrisburg was no picnic ground. It was battered by labor strikes, material shortages and water and milk-borne diseases such as typhoid. The immigrant laborers were largely non-unionized and resentment grew. Many Italians were forced to live in substandard housing; some according to newspapers of the time, under the piers of Mulberry St. Bridge. Severino however, just 20, was having no part of it.



Photo courtesy of Joseph P. Severino, Jr.

*Joseph P. Severino, Sr.*

Via a network of houses established by their sponsors, the family bounced from address to address. As early as 1910, Joseph P. Severino "contractor" was established in the city at 8 North Ninth St., a no longer existent dwelling somewhere off Market St. From there to Fulton, N. Second, Forster, Crescent and Hummel streets, Joseph and his brothers, Salvator, Michael and Frank who had followed him to America, moved around like nomads. Salvator and Frank also found work as stonemasons. Michael started a midtown tailor shop.

A record of the early projects of Joseph Severino has long since been lost but he was definitely subcontracting by this time. Around 1915, while attending a silent movie in Carlisle, he met his wife-to-be, Marie, just over from Rome. Joe, Jr. remembers his father telling him he used to pick her up at her theatre job in his old, freezing, heaterless model T Ford. The Ford was so cold he used to place a "hot brick" under the seat on dates.

By 1925, the years of toil had begun to pay dividends. Severino built 3218-20 Derry St., a Paxtang duplex near the entrance to Cameron Parkway. He and Marie and little Joe lived in one half and sold the other. Paxtang was still very rural; Joe, Jr. keeps a photograph of the family strolling the sidewalks with barns in the distance. Their home was very suburban however, soundly constructed of limestone, stucco and brick.

Rising to the level of general contractor, Severino set about erecting more houses. The Harrisburg *Telegraph* of 9 December 1925, reports that he took out an \$18,000 permit for a two-and-one-half story house of stone and concrete block at 2817-19 N. Second St. A garage to the rear rounded it out to a \$20,000 job.

By four years later and in small builder's fashion, the family moved from Paxtang into newly erected 2518 N. Second. This 'build-and-move in/move on' method was widely practiced by local con-

tractors trying to keep their heads above water. By 1931, Severino had freshly-built 2827 N. Second ready and they moved three blocks to the north.

Severino's houses in the 2700 and 2800 blocks of N. Second St. were the real epitome of his house art. Numbers 2717-31 linked the often Tudorish duplexes together in chain fashion almost as if he was referencing his former bridge building technique. The repetitive arch motif used again and again throughout the houses is an interesting concept, Italian in origin but erected English-style. In back was a frog pond that the neighbors used to use for a dump in the early days uptown. Eventually it was filled in and developed.

Built from private plans, Severino's three-story Mediterranean-styled Valencia Apartments at the corner of Second and Wiconsico was the capstone of his 20-year career. Its all-concrete block construction, steel joists and plaster walls "stippled" with steel studs cost \$80,000 going into the worse depression in the nation's history.

In fact, the Valencia completed in 1933 just made under the wire as new construction folded like a house of cards. With daughters Lenora and June now in the fold, the Severino's lived on the fourth floor while

renting out the balance of the apartments. Times were getting tight. Marie Severino briefly opened the Venice Cafe at 1015 N. Second but it was gone inside of a year.

As the Great Depression wore on, the March, 1936 flood devastated much of the Susquehanna Valley. Water came up to the second floor in a house Severino built in Speecheville in 1927. Harrisburg and N. Second St. were inundated. The Valencia's first floor was ruined. Joe, Jr. is certain that it contributed to his father's first heart attack.

Like most of the city's building contractors, Joseph P. Severino adopted survival technique to weather the hardening economic times. He remodeled a house into Severino Apartments at 24 S. 19th St.; built homes on Allison Hill; many of the city's gas stations. You do what you have to do. Everybody kept waiting for things to get better but they never really did. Not like the old days. Not when houses were built like forts. Buildings you can lose yourself in the closets in.

He died a few days after Pearl Harbor. There in his beloved pink-colored Valencia, his houses all around. The mighty Rockville grinning on into the sunset. They don't build 'em like Joseph P. Severino anymore.



Photo: Ken Frew

*One of the Severino interconnecting "chain" in the 2700 block of North Second Street*

## HHA GEARING UP FOR NATIONAL PRESERVATION WEEK ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS DINE DOWNTOWN

May 5 – May 11, 2003 – National Preservation Week – *New Frontiers in Preservation*. During this week, HHA will be hosting 2 events to honor Preservation Week.

**1.) Monday, May 5, 2003 – 7:00 pm**, is our Annual Preservation Awards presentation at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center. More details to follow in our next newsletter.

**2.) Wednesday, May 7, 2003 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm**, for the second year, HHA will offer their annual fundraiser, "*Dine Downtown 2003*". This is an event open to anyone who likes to go out to dinner. You can bring your friends, family, and co-workers for a fun evening in several downtown Harrisburg restaurants. A complete list of participating restaurants will be included in our April/May newsletter.

**We hope each and everyone of you can come out to support our events and Historic Preservation!!!!**

## BELCO Credit Union

*(Article Submitted by Duryea Cameron, HHA Board Member)*

On Monday, January 6, 2003, Tom Leonard with several additional members of the Capitol Area Neighborhood, Brett Peters, Architect, and Duryea Cameron met with representatives of Belco and their Architects (Overton & Associates, LLC., a design-build firm from Bladensburg, Maryland) to discuss the proposal of office expansion at their Second and State Street site. Belco plans to relocate outlying offices to one central office at this location. Their interior space needs are under study.

Discussion began with all present agreeing that this is a very significant site that impacts both Second Street and the State Street Mall. The Belco Architects stated that the expanded site parking area at the rear of the proposed construction is but one parking space short of code requirements for on-site parking spaces for an office building of this size. Their presentation includes structural engineering reports on the several existing three and four-story brick properties on the site. All have questionable structural conditions. Several letters from other Architects state that the existing facades are not noteworthy. With these factors in mind, as well as the fact that the existing abutting properties have varied floor levels, Belco has determined that the demolition of all these existing structures is necessary to produce the office space they require. Belco also stated that phased construction may be required, in which case only those existing buildings required for immediate replacement will be demolished.

Overton displayed proposed Second and State Street building elevations that are revised drawings reflecting comments made by the Review Board and from the floor at their first Review Board hearing.

The existing Belco building is to have an added third floor, which will replicate the existing elevation style. Just north of their existing office building along Second Street,

(continued on page 7)

# BELCO Credit Union *continued from page 5...*

there are two existing three-story storefront buildings, one of which is the State Street Restaurant. The new building is shown as replacing these three-story brick shop fronts with similar facades complete with second floor bow windows and Italianate cornices. Retail stores are indicated at this time, using salvaged architectural details.

North of this new building façade, a three-story brick façade in darker brick and with an arched opening over the parking lot entrance is shown. The revised elevational drawing then shows a three-story brick office building, extending to the corner, with window spacing replicating the existing building and an appropriate cornice. There was the most discussion concerning the façade treatment at the corner. This is the proposed to have Belco's main entrance in a two-story structure with a small terraced roof over. Just beyond this terrace is a third-

story conference room with a domed roof over. The State Street elevation is shown as being a three-story brick structure relating in scale and detail to the five adjacent brick row houses that remain in this block.

The Belco Architects expressed willingness to hear and discuss the comments of those present. They propose that revised drawings will be resubmitted to the Architectural Review Board. Those present hope to acquire copies of these drawings before the Review Board meeting.

It was noted that there may be some City money available to study the beautification of the State Street Capitol Mall, and that this proposed structure should be designed to enhance the Mall. Washington, D.C. has its ceremonial Pennsylvania Avenue – Harrisburg's State Street has the same "Pennsylvania Avenue" significance!

## Community Historic Preservation Fund (CHPF)

**It's application time!  
Deadline is March 15, 2003**

For the third year, the Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA) is inviting applicants to complete the enclosed form for the Community Historic Preservation Fund (CHPF), Architectural Preservation Grant. This program will allocate up to a total of \$5,000 in matching funds to help cover the costs of physical improvements for the preservation of buildings in the City of Harrisburg. Homeowners, businesses and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Interested parties should prepare a project description, not to exceed two typewritten pages, along with a completed application, proposed budget and timetable for completion. **Only projects completed, or planned to be completed, in 2003 are eligible.** The application deadline is **March 15, 2003!** (Please see application on page 7).



# Elegant Progressions

On Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7, 2002, HHA and the Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Elegant Progressions. It was held in Hershey and there were 3 lovely properties where guests were able to enjoy wonderful h' or d'euvres, dinner and dessert. The evening was a great success, and a good time was had by all who attended. **A special thank you to Bob Haynes, General Chairman for Elegant Progressions and his wonderful volunteers on both the Executive and Corporate Sponsorship Committees. This event would not be successful without the dedication of these individuals. Thank you so very much!**

For the first year, I (Penny) was asked to oversee the Dessert House, which was a wonderful experience! I couldn't have been put in a better setting, as I love sweets and desserts. Thankfully, there were some leftovers after each seating that I got to sample! We certainly have some wonderful bakers! **I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many wonderful volunteers of Historic Harrisburg Association, Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania and the Junior League of Harrisburg who baked desserts or volunteered to help serve on one of the two evenings.** I truly could not have done this without everyone's help. The volunteers were:

Margie Bentz  
Kirk Brechbiel  
Ann Bryant  
James Cowden  
Liz Delaney  
Lillian Drayer  
Nora Gulden  
Margie Harle  
Mary Lou & Ray Harris  
Greta Ingraham  
Julie Isaacson  
Katie Karam

Jean King  
Alison Kroh  
Shelly Kunkel  
Sally Kurtz  
Christopher Leahy  
Karen Lehman  
Renee Lieux  
Karen Mackrides  
Diane McCormick  
Vern McKissick  
Kelly Melzer  
Shirley & Arley Miller

Ann Moffitt  
Juliet Moringiello  
Lynne & Dean Olsen  
Lindabeth Parker  
Sandy Patterson  
Craig Peiffer  
Dana Pierce  
Michael Poerksen  
Daisy Prosser  
Lisa Ritter  
Joanne Roth  
Debby Sharp

Colette Silvestri  
Judy Stammerman  
Gretchen Sullivan  
Julie Sullivan  
Nancy Thompson  
Pam Tulchinsky  
Leigh Twiford  
Paula Ulsh  
David Volkman  
Victoria Zellers

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THESE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS!  
YOU HELPED MAKE THE DESSERT HOUSE A GREAT SUCCESS!**

# Community Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application

**CHPF provides philanthropic aid to preserve historic buildings, neighborhoods, and landmarks in Harrisburg and its environs.**

## I. General Information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount requested (**No more than 50% of total project**): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated project dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you or your organization a member of Historic Harrisburg Association?  Yes  No

## II. On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following:

1. Describe the relevant property, its location, and any historic significance of the building.
2. Is the relevant property a residence or business? If the property is a residence, do you reside in the residence? If the property is business, please give a brief description of the business.
3. Please describe the project for which CHPF funds will be utilized if granted. Please describe the project's significance. Will the project affect or improve the structural integrity of the property? Will the project maintain the historic authenticity of the area? How will the project contribute to the overall character of the neighborhood?
4. Has your project been approved by HARB (Harrisburg Architectural Review Board) if applicable? **Approval by HARB, if applicable, is mandatory.**

## III. Please submit photographs of the project area.

## IV. Please submit an estimate of the cost of the project and the specifications on letterhead from a licensed contractor.

*I hereby do state that the facts set forth in this CHPF Application and Attachments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Let's start with a riddle:

**What do the following things have in common?**

1. **American Graffiti was released.**
2. **The disposable lighter was invented.**
3. **Cease-fire in Vietnam went into effect.**
4. **Elvis and Priscilla divorce.**
5. **Historic Harrisburg Association is started.**

**Give up? They all happened in 1973!** HHA is officially 30 years old in February. We're planning a yearlong celebration, but we'd like your help. If you have any photographs or mementos of the early days of HHA, please call me. We want to make a traveling exhibit of sorts, displaying pictures and relevant artifacts, i.e. old newsletters, newspaper clippings **about HHA**, etc. If you have questions about whether or not something may be suitable, call me.

With your help, this will be a great reminder to Harrisburg of the role we've played (and continue to play!) in seeking to balance preservation and progress for 30 years now!

By the way, we're still seeking a Volunteer Coordinator. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact me at 233-4646 and I can give you the specifics about what the job entails.

As always, thanks for your continued support!

## Anniversary Flashback – The 1970's *continued from page 1...*

lowed by a flurry of demolition permit applications, which would test the integrity of the new legislation in preventing the razing of buildings for parking lots and gas stations. That same year, the Harristown Urban Renewal Plan was adopted which complimented the historic district element by providing a comprehensive strategy which in part encouraged high-rise new construction in the Central Business District rather than in the historic district north of Walnut Street.

With the ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts of HHA, the Review Board and City Council had the support necessary to, for the first time in the City's history, deny demolition requests based purely upon the merits of historic preservation. One of those cases, BP Oil vs. the City of Harrisburg, involved the proposed demolition of four townhouses on the southeast corner of N. Second and Forster Streets for a gas station. The City's denial of this request, which was strongly supported by HHA, was tested upon appeal in Dauphin County Court for the first time with the city ultimately prevailing as the townhouses are preserved to this day; a

monumental achievement in establishing precedent for the future.

To reinforce the City's bold move in establishing the district, the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, through working with HHA, established the first National Register Historic District in the city in 1975, albeit consisting of a much smaller geographic area than the system of National Register districts which are in place today. By the close of the 1970's, HHA had successfully collaborated with the City in seeing new zoning regulations adopted that were sensitive to historic preservation including sensitive signage controls and off-street parking regulations. The Commonwealth had abandoned plans to demolish what is now Old Fox Ridge for the expansion of the Capitol Complex and a policy evolved to concentrate state offices in older existing structures to encourage rehabilitation in favor of neighborhood clearance.

Marianne Faust would step down as President in 1976 to run successfully for City Council. Jeb Stuart took over as newsletter editor that year and brought on Ken Frew as feature writer. Subsequent Presidents in-

cluded Harry Courtright in 1976, Wick Havens in 1977 through 1978, and Arnold Kogan in 1979. The annual Candelight House Tour grew from featuring houses primarily in Shipoke in 1973, to a variety of properties as far north as Verbeke Street by 1978 with a cumulative total of 70 buildings included on the Tour over that period, helping to establish HHA's early reputation as being masterful in producing such events.

HHA did lose a few demolition cases, such as failing in joint litigation with the City and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1978 to obtain a temporary restraining order in Federal Court to block the demolition of the Telegraph Building. Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it stood where the Locust Street Garage is today. The loss however only further strengthened the resolve of the Association to enter the 1980's with increased vigor in membership and volunteer spirit to expand the scope of its mission in supporting community conservation, revitalization and education in the value of historic preservation.

- Jeb Stuart

# CAPITALS AND PILLAR MEMBERS

*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:

## CORINTHIAN CAPITALS

Allied Arts Fund  
Anonymous  
Greater Harrisburg Foundation  
The Kline Foundation  
Milspaw and Beshore  
McClure Mechanical Services  
Penn National Insurance  
PPL  
Reynolds Construction

## IONIC CAPITALS

Kathleen Knisely



## DORIC CAPITALS

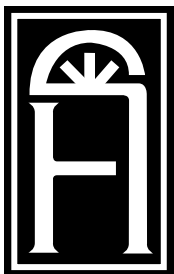
BackYard Benefits  
Robert L. Coldren, M.D. and John F. Barnett  
John H. Enos, II  
First Union National Bank  
Janice Culton  
Steven L. Daniels  
James Facinelli and Restorations Unlimited  
Harriet, Too  
Joan Kreml  
Hannah Leavitt and Jack Krill  
Gretchen Sullivan

## P I L L A R S

Academy of Medical Arts and Business  
African American Museum of Harrisburg  
Marian and William Alexander  
Architecture YTT  
Artifex  
Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Aronson  
Sloan and Susan Auchincloss  
Christine and Richard Bair  
Terry Barnaby  
Drs. Michael and Jane Barton  
Shirley Blough  
Steven Batdorf  
Mrs. Guy Bogar  
Caroline E. Boyce  
Mary O. Bradley  
Dr. David Bronstein  
Duryea Cameron  
Catek Computing/Van Cahall  
Mr. and Mrs. John Cramer  
Christine Myers Crist  
Janice M. Culton  
Steven and Leisa Craver  
Cumberland Stained Glass  
Thomas B. Darr  
Mary and William Dallam  
William and Jill Davidson  
Dan Deibler and Elizabeth Johnson  
Delta Sigma Theta  
Christopher and Sheryl DeLozier  
Dolores Doud  
Dr. Crystal Downing  
Dr. Charles Fetterhoff  
William Goodwin  
Lois Lehrman Grass and Bowman Brown  
Peggy Grove

Mary Lou and Raymond Harris  
Harrisburg Civic Club  
Derek and Margaret Hathaway  
Robert and Maxine Haynes  
Sue Helm, Century 21 at the Helm  
Kjerstine Kelly Hoffman  
Nicholas and Ellen Hughes  
Gary and Edna Hutchins  
Jones Masonry Restoration Corp.  
Lillian Juditz  
John Kegel and Helen Porter  
Sally and Joseph Klein  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Kramer  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lappley  
Tom Leonard and Janet Day  
Margaret Leedom  
Jean Lehmer  
Kathy A. Lemke  
Renee Lieux and Kirk Brechbiel  
John and Barbara Long  
Maureen Lynn  
Ted Martin and Dwayne Heckert  
Margaret Masters  
Malcolm and Kathleen McDowell  
Vern McKissick, AIA  
Laurel T. McLeaish, Esq.  
Mellon Bank/Frank Fischer  
Park B. T. Mellott  
Midtown Square Action Council  
David Morrison  
Monday Club of Central PA  
Jim Moyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Spencer G. Nauman  
Lindabeth Parker  
Sallie and Shel Parker

PA. Assn. Of Community Bankers  
Charles Peguese and David Hoffman  
Senator and Mrs. Jeffrey Piccola  
Mark Pickering and Ann Kupfer  
Frank and Barbara Pinto  
Pride Festival Of Central PA  
Mayor Stephen R. Reed and The Committee  
For a Better Harrisburg  
Barbara F. Reily  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Rhoads  
William and Susannah Rothman  
Cindy Rowe and David Taylor  
Jessie Smith and D. George Parr  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. M. Simons  
The Jos. and Helen Simpson Foundation  
David E. Sink  
St. Stephens Episcopal School and Cathedral  
State Museum of PA  
Stratus Communication Design, LLC  
Kate Stevens  
Mrs. Allan Stuart  
Jeb and Robin Stuart  
Dean J. Touloumes  
Kurt and Leigh Twiford  
Dr. Robert Unger  
Vartan Enterprises  
Jeff Walters  
Gregg and Rita Warner  
Mary and Tim Weston  
Jane Whitaker  
Charles D. A. Wilson  
Anne Yellott  
Robert R. Zeigler, R. A.  
Victoria Zellers



# HHA Membership Application

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I/we want to help preserve the residential, commercial, economic and cultural life of Harrisburg!  
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  
Historic Harrisburg Association.*

**Please Bill Me**

**Please charge my VISA/MC**  
(#) \_\_\_\_\_

**Expires:** \_\_\_\_\_

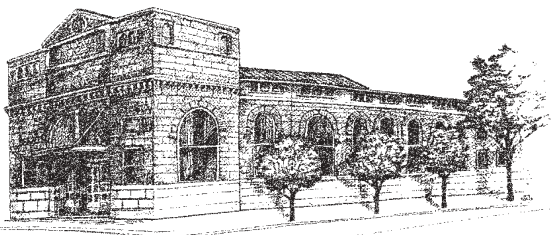
*Authorizing Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 79  
Harrisburg, PA



*Historic Harrisburg Resource Center  
(former Broad Street Office of PA National Bank)  
1230 North Third Street*