



Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh

Presents

**New
Frontiers
In
Preservation
2 0 0 4**

**Historic Preservation Priorities
for the
Southwestern Pennsylvania Region**



Acknowledgements

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Introduction

This report is about choices. The Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh's "New Frontiers in Preservation" project was launched to educate individuals about the choices they have to shape the world around them. We can either allow our communities to be shaped by chance—if we do nothing—or choice, if we decide to get involved.

This report is your report. There were more than 100 people who participated in ten focus group meetings to provide input on what they believed was historically important in each of the nine counties that comprise our region: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland, plus the City of Pittsburgh.

For the first time ever, the Pittsburgh region has a list of historic preservation priorities. You said, overwhelmingly, that Main Street revitalization—the reinvestment of public and private funds in historic commercial corridors that define this region—is a top priority.

What this report reveals is that no one is in control of our region. We do not have one regional government or a regional executive. We have hundreds of municipal governments—130 municipalities in Allegheny County alone—and dozens of county commissioners and executives, all making decisions that affect where you live, how you get to work, where you play, and whether you will appreciate and use the historic and cultural amenities in the region.

If no one person or organization is in control, that means this is your opportunity to shape your community as you see fit by providing your input into the decisions that affect your community.

In addition to voting, you can weigh in with public officials who must decide how to spend your tax dollars. Consider the following choice: should your elected and appointed officials spend your tax dollars that they collect from inner-city communities to build roads, infrastructure, and malls on pristine farmland far outside established communities? Or should they spend your money to rehabilitate existing roads, bridges, main street commercial districts, and other historic assets that are right in your back yard? Again, it's your choice.

In one sense, you have already conveyed your desires to public officials by participating in the "New Frontiers in Preservation" workshops: each county planner will get a copy of this report.

But like the parable—if a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?—will your elected and appointed leaders listen to what you have to say? Again, that depends on you.

It is up to all of us to communicate with our elected officials, planning departments, and even the un-elected bodies that govern our region, such as the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and Allegheny Conference on Community Development. You didn't vote for them, but they need to hear from you. You need to tell them how important historical and natural assets are in your community. You can do this by writing a letter, making a phone call, sending an e-mail, participating in public hearings, or by sending them this report.

Most importantly, the New Frontiers project reveals the need for regional cooperation among historical societies, museums, environmental organizations, and preservationists. It is imperative that all of us in the Pittsburgh area think and act regionally. This means making contact and doing business with other heritage-related organizations within the region and outside of your comfort zone. Butler County needs to communicate with Greene County and Indiana County needs to cooperate with Beaver County. Why? Because we're all in the same boat.

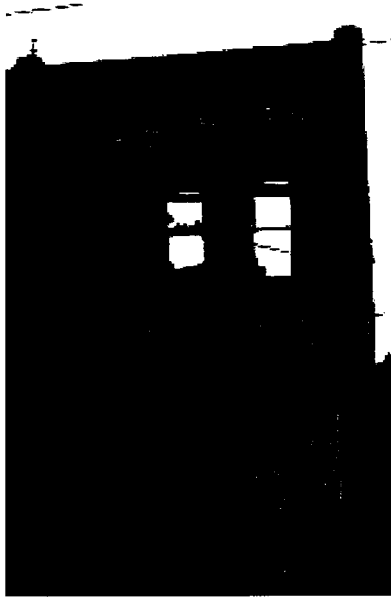


Exercising choice: Route 65 in Emsworth.

There's a funny joke about two people in a rowboat and one says to the other, "you're having a problem with your boat because there's a hole in the bottom and you're sinking fast." This boat—the southwestern Pennsylvania region—contains us all. We can't afford to let one community, say, Braddock, go down and expect that Homestead will magically be uplifted by the decline. We're in this together and need to work in partnership to identify and agree upon a common agenda for fortifying the region.

At a conference called "Equity & Regionalism: The Impact of Governance Restructuring on Communities of Color," sponsored by Sustainable Pittsburgh on November 19, 2004, David Miller, Associate Dean of the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs described four criteria for successful regions:

1. A fiscally-sound center;
2. Land-use policies which are guided at the regional level, including housing, education, transportation, and tax policies;
3. An anti-sprawl strategy; and
4. Regional institutions.



Braddock is gone.

The New Frontiers project is our opportunity as preservationists, environmentalists, decision makers, bankers, investors, homeowners, business owners, employees, and engaged citizens to ensure that we, too, will have a strong region.

Every county in southwestern Pennsylvania is in the process of preparing a Comprehensive Plan (also known as a Consolidated Plan or Master Plan). The Comprehensive Plan is a regional, county or municipal document that contains a vision of how the community will grow and change. Section III of the commonwealth enabling act for comprehensive land use plans states that all county comprehensive land use plans must address issues related to historic resources.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the planning process. But if you choose not to participate, other people—often highly paid consultants who don't live in your community—will make the decisions for you. In other words, if you don't let your public officials know what is important, they will decide for you.

Fortunately for those who participated in the Young Preservationists' New Frontiers project, a list of important historic preservation priorities was developed for each of the nine counties, along with the City of Pittsburgh. This list will be conveyed to elected officials, planners and consultants who are preparing the Comprehensive Plan. But you should not stop there. If there is a particular site or issue that you believe should be included in your county's preservation priorities, tell your local planning official.

For the southwestern Pennsylvania region, two organizations have influence over how your tax dollars will be spent. One is called the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, or SPC, the regional planning agency that serves the Pittsburgh 10-county area (including Lawrence County). Unlike your county government, SPC officials are appointed, not elected.

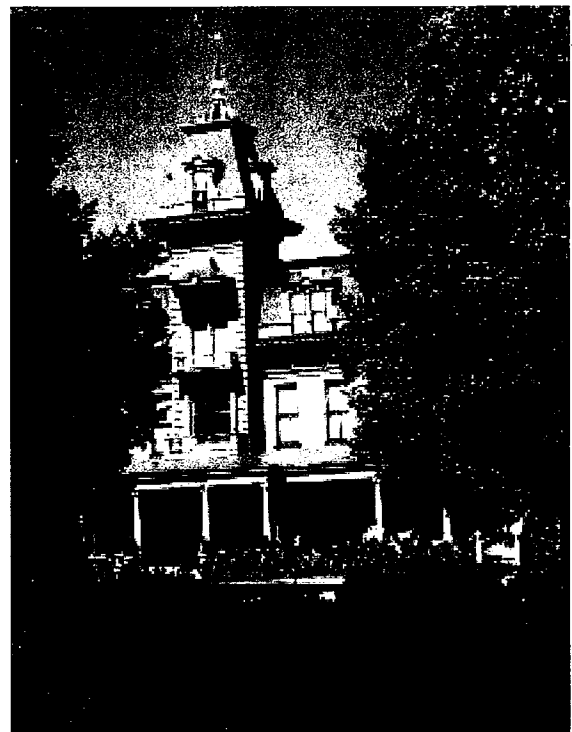
In addition, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, another un-elected board of corporate and civic leaders, also makes economic development decisions that affect the region. Regardless of whether these two bodies are not democratically elected, it is important that you weigh in with them as well. The decisions that they make directly affect your community.

For instance, members of these two bodies have been strong advocates for completion of the proposed Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway. Conversely, they may also make decisions that affect whether your community will get public transit or assistance with a Main Street project. Therefore, it is in your best interests to let them know how you feel about such projects before it's too late.

A list of planners for each county is provided in the report's appendix.

This New Frontiers report is a starting point, not the final word. That responsibility rests with you. Ultimately, the future of your community—and of our region—rests in your hands. The Young Preservationists encourage you to get involved with your community's planning process, know your planners and elected officials, and convey to them how important it is to preserve and reuse historic properties in your community. We are building a foundation for a collaborative effort among various stakeholders to ensure that the historic, cultural, and natural assets of southwestern Pennsylvania are preserved for the next generation.

Give life to history.SM



Pittsburgh's Highland Park neighborhood is healthy.

Executive Summary

For decades, Pennsylvanian cities, towns, and suburbs have worked hard to reverse the indicators of a declining region: deindustrialization, population exodus, job losses, and diminished vitality. But recently, efforts to grow the region out of its slump by abandoning older towns and boroughs and developing farmland and greenspace into malls and low-density housing has only exacerbated the decline. The "New Frontiers" project set out to show that historic preservation remains one of the most effective tools for growth and revitalization and should be considered as an alternative to the inconsistent growth pattern known as sprawl.



Will Fayette County become the next victim of sprawl?

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a hotbed of preservation opportunities. Within many of the older, established towns and boroughs lie hundreds of historical and natural resources. The Young Preservationists Association's annual "Top Ten Best Preservation Opportunities" list demonstrates that there are a number of historic investment properties that could turn around communities. But a lack of consistent regional planning leaves older communities neglected and abandoned. In order to return the region to preeminence, communities need to concentrate on making the most of our unique, established places by thinking and acting strategically to identify, restore, and reuse these historic assets.

To stimulate policy planning and development around historic preservation, the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh launched the New Frontiers in Preservation initiative. Funded by a grant from the Sprout Fund and with support from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the initiative provided ten workshops in the Pittsburgh Region with three main objectives:

- 1) to raise awareness of historic preservation and its economic benefits,
- 2) to prioritize preservation opportunities in each county in the Pittsburgh Region as well as the City of Pittsburgh that can influence regional land-use plans, and
- 3) to develop an action plan for the targeted localities.

This report is a record of the project results, containing the list of the Top Ten Preservation Priorities in each county that comprises the region: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Westmoreland, and Washington counties and the City of Pittsburgh. A detailed list of preservation opportunities in southwestern Pennsylvania and action steps for each of the Top Ten Priorities are included within this report.

This report is also an analysis of the identifiable trends concerning preservation efforts, including but not limited to the revitalization of historic downtowns, brownfield redevelopment, and the preservation of green spaces. The New Frontiers in Preservation project also acknowledges trends in the development of heritage tourism and the preservation of a sense of place in southwestern Pennsylvania.

In addition, this report is a compilation of recommendations intended for community stakeholders and the public. The county commissioners, departments of planning and development, and tourism agencies will receive copies of this report, as well as county historical societies, municipal governments, educational institutions, and other agencies.

The information in this report is intended to influence comprehensive land use plans in southwestern Pennsylvania and the PHMC's Preservation Plan. Most importantly, the results of the New Frontiers in Preservation project will serve as a guide for how the region can grow *with* its history as a foundation for progress.

The YPA believes that people and places are inherently linked and that the development of historical assets of a region is essential to the lifeline of the community — to its sense of place, to the growth of its economy, and above all to the quality of its future. In the same way that human beings have shaped the present, individuals have the power to determine the future of a region.

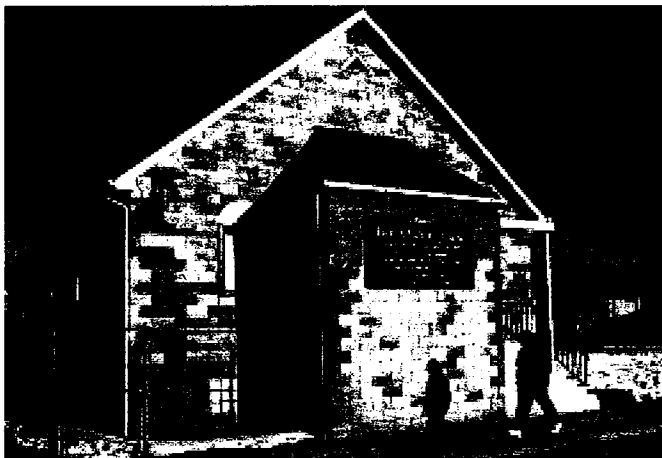
The New Frontiers in Preservation initiative empowers community members with the opportunity to determine the future of the Pittsburgh region by preserving its past. Now more than ever, strategic plans that utilize the region's historic and natural resources are needed to revitalize Pennsylvania's towns, cities, and suburbs.

Findings

Upon review of the records and results of each workshop, general trends and recurring issues can be identified in regards to the status of historic preservation in Pittsburgh and its surrounding counties. The lists of priorities developed by workshop participants reflect the present public interest and the awareness of the importance of preserving the past for the future. A chart in the appendix contains the list of the top ten priorities identified at each of the New Frontiers in Preservation workshops and displays current preservation trends in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Trends Identified in New Frontiers in Preservation:

- ◆ Revitalization of Main Street historic business districts was a priority in five of the nine counties in southwestern Pennsylvania, and was the top priority for the City of Pittsburgh.
- ◆ The preservation of the region's industrial heritage was listed as a priority in nine separate instances.
- ◆ Local history education was selected as a priority in six different instances.
- ◆ The preservation of railroad structures, train stations, and other remnants of transportation history was listed as a priority in seven different contexts.
- ◆ The preservation of green spaces, rural landscapes, vistas and scenic byways was identified as a priority in six different instances.
- ◆ Heritage tourism was a priority for three counties in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- ◆ Cooperation among historical societies and local governments was identified as a priority at three of the New Frontiers in Preservation workshops.
- ◆ Anti-sprawl efforts were listed as a priority at two of the New Frontiers workshops.



Can historic preservation save New Kensington?

Additional Trends

Preserving a Sense of Place

Above all, workshop participants recognized the value of historic and cultural resources and stressed the importance of preserving southwestern Pennsylvania's historic heritage. Virtually every discussion that took place at the workshops touched on the importance of preserving a sense of place. Specifically, many participants identified Main Street and Elm Street Programs as a means of fostering historic integrity. Workshop participants also maintained that the preservation of historic corridors and the revitalization of historic business districts would further economic development in the region.

Heritage Tourism

In addition to the preservation of historic districts, workshop participants discussed the role of historic preservation in Heritage Tourism. Presently, many historic sites and communities in southwestern Pennsylvania have the potential to become major tourist attractions but lack the necessary funds and organization. Workshop participants identified the need for coordination among historical societies, as well as between state and local governments, in working towards common goals. Statewide coordination to create better directional signage to historic sites, as well as partnerships between private organizations and businesses, were also suggested as a means of facilitating the development of heritage tourism, particularly in Historic Harmony in Butler County.

Industrial Heritage

The preservation of the region's Industrial Heritage also surfaced as a top preservation priority at several workshops. Specifically, the preservation of Pittsburgh's Steel Heritage was identified as the number one priority in Allegheny County (at the Carrie Furnace site in Rankin), and the preservation of sites related to glass, coal and coke production were listed as priorities in different contexts and counties. Ironically, workshop participants also recognized the disastrous effects of longwall mining and listed preventative measures as a priority in affected counties.

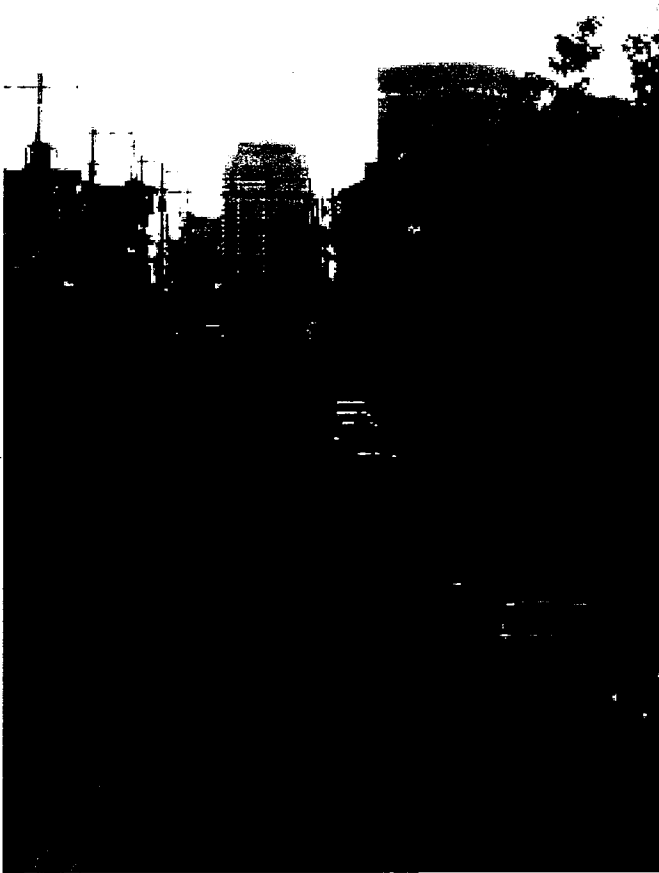
Green Spaces

Other preservation issues that were identified at the workshops included urban sprawl, brownfield redevelopment, and the preservation of green spaces. The preservation of rural landscapes, riverfronts, vistas and scenic byways also appeared as priorities in regions where sprawl and development have destroyed the natural terrain. Through education at both the governmental and public levels, workshop participants hope to prevent further sprawl and to promote the preservation of open spaces in the Pittsburgh region.

Education

Finally, workshop participants recognized education as a top priority in the region. Specifically, participants stressed the importance of educating citizens—particularly our young people—about the history of African Americans and Native Americans in southwestern Pennsylvania. The preservation of their respective histories is essential to maintaining the region's character and sense of place.

Teaching local history in schools is an essential part of promoting the preservation of a variety of historic resources for the next generation. Pittsburgh and its surrounding counties have histories that are as diverse as they are complex, and saving those historical assets involves making educated choices that enter into the complexity of preservation.



Preservation provides hope for the Hill.

The Top Ten of the Top Ten

The following list contains the Top Preservation Priority from each New Frontiers in Preservation workshop.

Allegheny County

- ◆ The Carrie Furnace Site in Rankin

Armstrong County

- ◆ Ford City Heritage Park

Beaver County

- ◆ Rivertown Main Streets Initiative

Butler County

- ◆ Main Street Business Districts

Fayette County

- ◆ The National Road Heritage Corridor

Greene County

- ◆ Greene County Museum

Indiana County

- ◆ Ewing's Mill

Washington County

- ◆ Heritage Tourism

Westmoreland County

- ◆ Teaching Local History in Schools

City of Pittsburgh

- ◆ Preservation of Historic Commercial Corridors

Methodology

In May 2004, the YPA invited more than 1,200 individuals to participate in the New Frontiers in Preservation workshops, including historical societies, banks, elected officials, and community development corporations. In addition, the workshops received publicity from Preservation Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania History and Landmarks Foundation, and Sustainable Pittsburgh, as well as from local newspapers and radio stations.

From June to September 2004, the YPA held interactive workshops at historic sites in each of the following locations: the City of Pittsburgh and the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland. At each workshop, participants viewed a presentation given by YPA facilitator Dan Holland and various representatives from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) on the economic benefits of historic preservation. The presentations included an overview of the comprehensive plan, PHMC's Preservation Plan, and other tools that facilitate economic revitalization.

Following the presentation, YPA asked workshop participants to identify historic preservation priorities in their respective counties. A list of historic sites and issues, such as "sprawl" or "Main Street revitalization" was created by the participants.

Next, participants were asked to perform a weighted vote on the Top Ten priorities by assigning one of five numbers to each of their priorities. Each number represented a certain point value, with one being the highest and five being the lowest. The purpose for this was to create weighted values for the sites and issues listed. It created a way to assign higher values to sites of greater importance. The YPA then tallied the points for each priority to create a Top Ten List of Preservation Priorities.

After identifying the number one preservation priority, the YPA collaborated with workshop participants to develop a preliminary action plan. In order to create a list of steps, participants were first asked to identify owners, actors, and issues, and then to find solutions and establish a timeline for the action plan.

The resulting lists of priorities and action plans represent the outcomes of the New Frontiers in Preservation Project that will affect the future of historic preservation efforts in southwestern Pennsylvania.

It is the YPA's hope that the local hosts and actors identified in the action plans can remain to execute the plan. YPA stands ready to assist in the execution of these plans.



New Frontiers participants select preservation priorities in Indiana County.

Workshop Reports: Allegheny County

In Allegheny County, internal planning for a Comprehensive Plan has been on-going for the past one-and-a-half years to develop the scope of work and to obtain funding. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.5 to \$3.0 million. Fourteen potential funding sources have been identified including state and federal grants matched by Allegheny County Capital Budget funds and in-kind services. The project has over \$1.2 million in committed funding, excluding in-kind services. Work has begun on the transportation element of the Plan, and four consultant teams have submitted proposals for the major portion of work that are currently under evaluation. The Plan should be completed in about two years. The Allegheny County planning department is seeking public input into the plan.



The Top Ten Preservation Priorities for Allegheny County

1. Preservation of Pittsburgh's Steel Heritage, particularly the Carrie Furnace site in Rankin
2. Main Street Revitalization, including, but not limited to, the following communities:
 - ◆ Homestead's East Eighth Avenue
 - ◆ Main Street Braddock
 - ◆ Tarentum
 - ◆ Bellevue
 - ◆ West View
 - ◆ Coraopolis
 - ◆ Carnegie
3. Housing Development (affordability and accessibility)
4. Green space Protection / Scenic Byways
5. Crestas Terrace in North Versailles
6. Brownfield Redevelopment
7. Preservation and Reuse of Rail Transportation (Monongahela and Allegheny Valleys)
8. Dixmont Hospital in Kilbuck
9. Ethnic Churches
10. Pennsylvania Train Station, Wilksburg

At the workshop, the presentation of the Comprehensive Plan spurred discussion among participants about immediate concerns in Allegheny County, specifically the issue of building repair. Many homes and buildings in low-income areas have become hazardous due to neglect, and it was questioned whether certain structures are beyond repair. Several buildings in Braddock are also in danger, in particular the historic theater along Main Street whose roof has completely deteriorated. Workshop participants remained inconclusive about solutions to the problem but agreed that a plan of action should be developed to save the historic properties.

Additional Preservation Opportunities in Allegheny County

- ◆ Preservation of Wilmerding's Historic Value
- ◆ Grant School (Bellevue)
- ◆ Historic Theaters
- ◆ Crestas Terrace (North Versailles)
- ◆ Port Perry
- ◆ Borough of Elizabeth
- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ Airport Corridor (create an anti-sprawl zone)
- ◆ Riverfronts (accessibility & recreation)
- ◆ Rehabilitation & Construction of Housing in Braddock and Rankin (for seniors, low-income residents)
- ◆ Row houses in Braddock (Cherry Way)
- ◆ Redevelopment of businesses and urban parks
- ◆ Main Streets (Homestead, Braddock, etc.)
- ◆ Anti-sprawl zoning / Green space Protection (especially Route 910)
- ◆ Sewickley (low-income areas)
- ◆ Route 8 Corridor
- ◆ North and South parks

Action Plan for the Carrie Furnace Site



The Carrie Furnaces, as seen from Homestead, 1989.

The former Carrie Furnace site is located on the border of Rankin and Swissvale. According to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Dennis Davin, director of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, explained that the county has entered into negotiations to buy the Carrie Furnace site from the Park Corporation. Governor Ed Rendell recently awarded Allegheny County a \$6 million grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to be used for the site. Robert Ortiz of the state Department of Community and Economic Development claims that the grant money has to be matched dollar for dollar by non-state money, which could come from the county or federal governments.

A development plan for the site was put together after a series of community meetings. Davin said the plan is for the county to buy the site, clean it up, build roads, install water and sewer mains, and improve access to the area by building a ramp to the land from the Rankin Bridge. The plans call for housing to be built in the western-most section of the property near the Hot Metal Bridge, which would be converted to carry vehicle traffic directly to the retail district at The Waterfront in Homestead.

The working plans also call for an office park to be built on a section of the site and a transportation center that would, essentially, be a large park-n-ride lot for buses and future rail or water transportation. The old Carrie blast furnace would remain and be restored as the centerpiece of a steel industry museum that would be linked to the pump house of the former Homestead Works and the Bost Building on Eighth Avenue in Homestead [Belser, Ann. "County trying to buy Carrie Furnace Site." *Pittsburgh-Post Gazette* Sept 1, 2004 <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/04245/371135.stm>].

Owner: Park Corporation

Actors and Stakeholders:

- ◆ Steel Industry Heritage Corporation

- ◆ Borough of Rankin
- ◆ Allegheny County Dept. of Economic Development
- ◆ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (DCED)
- ◆ National Trust for Historic Preservation's Community Partners program (New Markets Tax Credits)
- ◆ National Park Service
- ◆ Elected officials: U.S. Congressman Michael Doyle and State Representatives and Senators
- ◆ Local foundations
- ◆ Local financial institutions
- ◆ Federal Home Loan Bank
- ◆ Local developers

Problems:

Time and funds are needed to raise the additional \$6 million in match funds needed to make improvements to the Carrie Furnace Site. Also, the site has not been seen as a priority for the County or region.

Solution:

The YPA could help raise the profile of the Carrie Furnace site as a major preservation priority for Allegheny County. The YPA could help coordinate efforts among the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, Allegheny County Dept. of Economic Development, DCED, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Community Partners to ensure that the necessary funding is in place in order for plans to move forward. New Markets Tax Credits remain a viable option for use on this site.

Estimated Cost:

\$6 million in match money. Could come from foundations, financial institutions interested in getting CRA credit, in addition to a return on investment, as well as investors looking for a return on their investment in New Markets Tax Credits.

Next Steps

The Steel Industry Heritage Corporation is the lead organization on this project. They have years of experience in dealing with these partners. The YPA could help facilitate a meeting among them and help raise this issue as a major preservation priority in Allegheny County.



Participants at the Allegheny County Workshop, held Sept. 20.

Armstrong County

At the Armstrong County workshop, a major discussion topic concerned the marketing of preservation in the region. With the recent addition of Armstrong County to the Pittsburgh Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the official "Pittsburgh Region," the county now has to compete with Allegheny County for visibility.

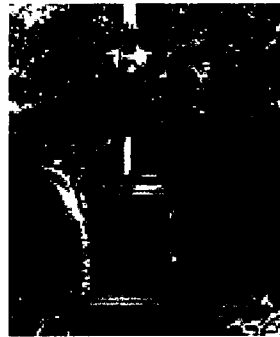
To counteract its low profile in the region, participants discussed several strategies for the county. When marketing inside the Pittsburgh Region, Armstrong County could highlight itself as a heritage tourism attraction near to the City of Pittsburgh.

Tourists in Pittsburgh could consider tourism opportunities in Armstrong County as part of a trip to the Pittsburgh region, much like visiting the Napa Valley as part of a trip to San Francisco. Armstrong County could also market itself outside of the Pittsburgh region, increasing its visibility as a separate entity from the Pittsburgh Region. The most important tool to market Armstrong County effectively, however, is a plan outlining an overall vision for Armstrong County.

Another issue in preservation that the workshop identified is a perceived absence of jobs in Armstrong County. Employers in Armstrong County can help to revitalize business in historic downtowns or on brownfield redevelopment sites. They can also help to attract young people back to the county to care for historic properties that the workshop is trying to protect.

The Top Ten Preservation Priorities for Armstrong County

1. Ford City Heritage Park
2. Downtowns / Main Streets
3. Cooperation Among Historical Societies
4. Riverfront Access in Ford City
5. Home for Community Theater, Ford City
- 6, 7. African-American Churches
- 6, 7. Marshall House, Dayton Borough
8. Yatesboro Mine Building
- 9, 10. Prince of Peace Church, Ford City
- 9, 10. Armstrong County Historical Site Survey

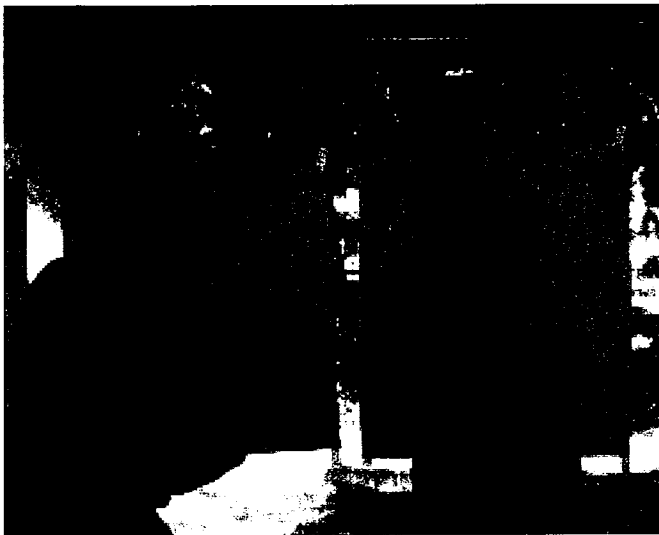


Statue of John B. Ford, Ford City's namesake.

Additional Preservation Opportunities in Armstrong County

- ♦ John B. Ford statue
 - o Ford was a glassmaker who pioneered the industry in Ford City.
 - o Recently, there was a controversy on the direction in which the statue points—citizens wanted it pointing toward the downtown rather than the mills that have been defunct for years. The statue still points toward the mill.
- ♦ Forming a county-wide historical society
- ♦ Fostering cooperation among historical societies
 - o The PHMC provides funding for a county-designated historical society. Armstrong currently does not have an official county historical society, so state preservation money is not coming into the county.
 - o The Armstrong County Community Foundation would like to initiate a countywide roundtable for the historical societies in the county.
- ♦ Marshall House
 - o A younger population must be attracted to care for this property.
 - o The House was significant in the Underground Railroad Heritage of Armstrong County.
- ♦ McKean House in Kittanning
- ♦ Downtowns
 - o Ford City, Kittanning, Apollo, Leechburg, Freeport
 - o A countywide Main Streets program could help concentrate resources for all the downtowns, including drawing people and private investors.
- ♦ Connection from the park to downtown in Kittanning
- ♦ Scenic vistas
- ♦ Greenbaum Building, Ford City
 - o A furniture seller currently occupies this architecturally significant building.
- ♦ Highlighting historic preservation successes
- ♦ Generating excitement for preservation
- ♦ Bike trail along Allegheny River

(list continued on next page)



Deciding on preservation priorities in Armstrong County, June 26.

- ◆ PPG Tunnel in Ford City
 - The tunnel is currently painted in the Ford City school colors. Workshop participants would like to see it painted in its original colors.
- ◆ Original PPG buildings at Ford City Heritage Park
 - Pattern shop
- ◆ Religious heritage/properties
 - Prince of Peace Church in Ford City
- ◆ African American Churches and housing in Ford City
 - Methodist Church
 - "Lower End," "Southern End"
- ◆ Ford City company housing
- ◆ Marshall House, Dayton Borough
- ◆ Orphanage
- ◆ McCormick Mansion
- ◆ Armstrong County Historic Site Survey
 - A site survey in Armstrong County does not yet exist
- ◆ Plaque for PPG Site
- ◆ Riverfront access in Ford City
 - Pedestrian access and commercial development are needed.
- ◆ Old PPG Buildings west of Third Avenue
 - Some buildings are still standing, yet there is a brownfield at one end of the complex. It can be redeveloped, yet it may not be completely environmentally "safe" yet.
- ◆ McGran Schoolhouse, Manor Township
- ◆ Belwood Gardens Schoolhouse
- ◆ Kittanning Opera House
- ◆ Kittanning Theaters
- ◆ Home from Armstrong County Community Theater
- ◆ Theater in Rural Valley
- ◆ Yatesboro Mine Building
 - This building is part of a larger mining complex in Yatesboro. It could possibly be used as a museum on mining heritage.
- ◆ Industrial baseball leagues
- ◆ Industrial archives

Action Plan for the Ford City Heritage Park

Owner: Ford City Borough.

Actors: Ford City Borough, the Greater Ford City CDC, and the community.

Problem: The borough requires funding to complete the restoration of the three older buildings, two of which are very large. Tenants are interested in leasing space, but money is not available to complete the rehabilitation. The borough is experiencing difficulty in getting funds from private foundations in Pittsburgh.

Solution: There are many possible sources for funding. Federal sources include HUD (through Congressman Murtha), EPA, DEP, and EDA (Economic Development Administration). State sources include DCED and RICP. An additional funding source is the Steel Industrial Heritage Corporation, as well as banks. Rather than applying to private Pittsburgh foundations, the Borough should apply for monies from corporate foundations, and it may get more money by bundling funds. Merchant's National Bank in Kittanning may provide a mortgage.

Estimated Cost: \$3,000,000.

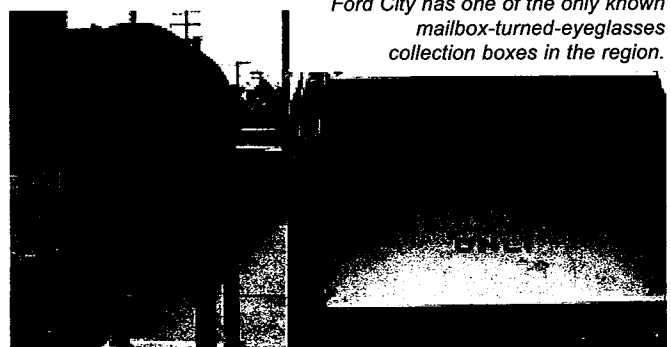
Timeline: Mid-2006.

Action Plan for Historical Society Cooperation

Actors: Armstrong County historical societies, Armstrong County Community Foundation, and PHMC.

Problem: The Armstrong County preservation community is not getting state money for historical societies. An Armstrong County Historical Society exists, but it is not designated as the official historical society for the county. The countywide societies need a coordinator, as conflicts would arise from simply choosing one society to be recognized officially as the county society. This official society would get state monies for staff positions.

Solution: A county historical society may rise from a running roundtable and cooperation from all Armstrong County historical societies.



Ford City has one of the only known mailbox-turned-eyeglasses collection boxes in the region.

Beaver County

Discussion at the Beaver County Workshop began with the topic of heritage tourism. Using Old Economy as a prime example, the workshop participants identified the need for the preservation of specific sites and areas so as to promote tourism in Beaver County. The Rivertown Partnership, formed to assist with funding procurement and to encourage coordination in downtown revitalization efforts in ten communities in Beaver County, was identified as a means of generating interest in the region.

According to Andrea Blenk of the Main Street Center, Beaver Falls is currently in the process of applying for a state Main Street Program. Nine other communities receive comprehensive support for their downtown business districts through the Beaver County Community Development Program's "Main Street Network" system. Town Center Associates, a downtown planning and consulting firm located in Beaver, provides full program management services for those nine communities under a unique contract with the Community Development Program.

The Beaver County Community Development Program, with support from the Rivertown Partnership, made application for the new "Elm Street Program" designation, which is designed to assist with residential revitalization and development within close proximity to downtown business districts. Nine of Beaver County's downtown communities received funding for long-range planning. It is hoped that full Elm Street designation will follow the completion of the planning process.

The Top Ten Preservation Priorities for Beaver County

1. Rivertown Partnership Initiative
2. Logstown / Legionville
3. Preservation Education
4. Promotion and Financing of Heritage Tourism
5. Anti-Sprawl Ordinances
- 6/7. Arthur Bradford House, Darlington
- 6/7. Aliquippa High School
8. Steelworkers Union Local 1211 Building (Aliquippa) and 1212 Building (Midland)
9. Old Economy Village
10. Pedestrian-friendly Ordinances in Older Towns (hidden parking lots/garages, setback ordinances, etc.)



Additional Preservation Opportunities in Beaver County

- ◆ Beaver Falls Library (pictured above)
- ◆ American Bridge
- ◆ Harmony Bank Building
- ◆ Granada Theater, Beaver Falls
- ◆ Ambridge High School
- ◆ J & L Property
- ◆ New Sheffield School
- ◆ St. Cloud Hotel - Homewood
- ◆ McKinley School House
- ◆ Stonechurch Cemetery
- ◆ P & LE (PA & Lake Erie) Railroad in Beaver Falls
- ◆ St. Peter's Evangelical Church
- ◆ Woodlawn / Ambridge Bridge
- ◆ North Country Hiking Trail
- ◆ B.F. Jones Library
- ◆ Stonepoint - Bridgewater
- ◆ Hillman Farmhouse
- ◆ Geneva College
- ◆ Witherspoon General Store - Homewood
- ◆ Plan 12 - Aliquippa (Baseball Complex, War Memorial, Pool)
- ◆ Midland 6
- ◆ Hopewell Community Park
- ◆ Hookstown Historic Log Homes
- ◆ Mayer Chinas
- ◆ P & LE Railroad St - Beaver Falls
- ◆ The "Castle" - Beaver Falls
- ◆ Vicary Mansion
- ◆ Old Economy Village
- ◆ Harmonist Buildings

(list continued on next page)

