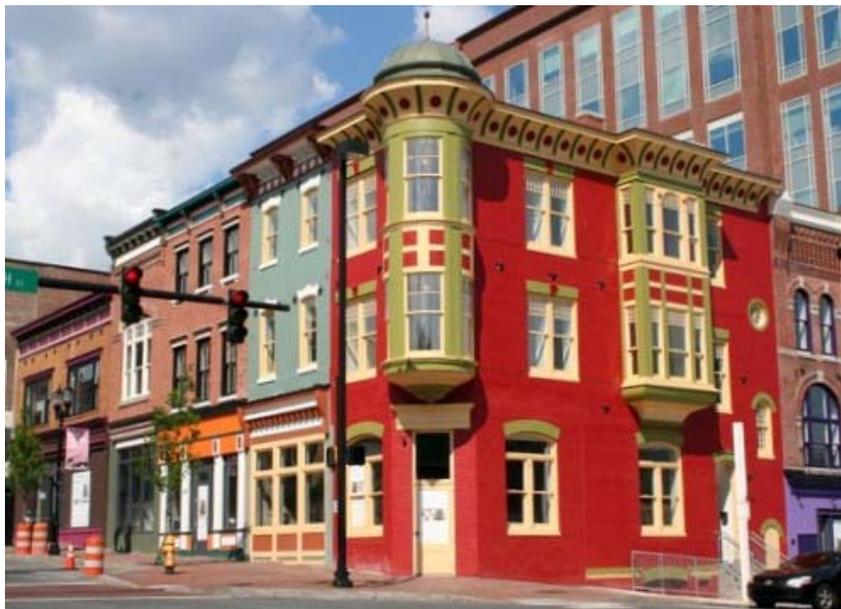


Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' State Historic Preservation Office

Recent Accomplishments April 16, 2013



Before-and-after photos of a building at 400 N. Market St. in Wilmington that was recently rehabilitated with assistance from the Delaware Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.



Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' State Historic Preservation Office Recent Accomplishments

A unit of the state's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the mission of the [Delaware State Historic Preservation Office](#) is to locate, study and record Delaware's historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, landscapes and archaeological sites. The office consults with federal and state agencies on projects subject to preservation laws and regulations, oversees tax-credit programs that promote rehabilitation of historic properties, assists local governments with preservation programs, works with individuals and organizations to nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places and maintains the Historic Properties Research Center, a repository of information on historic properties within the state.

Following is a sampling of some significant recent accomplishments of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

State historic preservation plan released

On April 16, 2013, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs released "[Preserving Our Past for a Better Future: Delaware's Historic Preservation Plan, 2013–2017.](#)" Begun in January 2012, the creation and updating of the plan was required as part of the state's [Historic Preservation Fund](#) grant from the National Park Service. The new plan provides an invaluable method for focusing on the broader goals and needs of Delaware's preservation community over the next five years.

Throughout the process, the planning committee sought the widest possible public comments in order to thoroughly understand the needs and desires of Delawareans regarding the preservation of the state's historic places. Development of the plan included:

- ◆ Seeking input via an on-line survey that posed a series of questions related to historic preservation in Delaware. Questions explored what "preservation" meant to the respondents, how they felt about Delaware's historic places, what were the challenges and threats to historic places and what they viewed as the best strategies and tools to address issues affecting these places. The survey garnered a total of 287 responses.
- ◆ Five public meetings held in locations across the state attracting 75 participants.
- ◆ Formation of a goal-setting working group that helped develop goals and strategies for implementing the historic preservation plan based on input from the survey and public meetings. The group was comprised of twelve members including the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, three county planners, two municipal planners, two state land-managing agency planners, officials from



Public meeting at Dover's Old State House sought input for the state historic preservation plan.

statewide preservation- and archaeology-organizations and representatives of each of the state's higher-education preservation programs.

- ◆ Seeking input from the Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service on the draft of the plan.

"Preserving Our Past for a Better Future: Delaware's Historic Preservation Plan, 2013–2017" includes the following guiding principals and goals:

- ◆ **Guiding Principle 1: Protect Delaware's important historic properties.**
 - Goal I: Encourage all governments to serve as positive models for stewardship of historic properties which they own.
 - Goal II: Encourage active participation in historic preservation by all local governments.
- ◆ **Guiding Principle 2: Communicate widely the value of preserving historic properties to Delaware's present and future.**
 - Goal III: Develop effective collaborations on historic preservation with non-traditional partners.
 - Goal IV: Expand opportunities for public education to increase support for historic preservation.
 - Goal V: Maintain and expand access to information about historic properties and preservation.



Aspendale, Kenton, Del., one of the 13 National Historic Landmarks in the First State. Built between 1771 and 1773, this Georgian-style residence passed from the hands of its original builder to descendents who continued to own and occupy it for 200 years.

While the Delaware historic preservation plan is extremely useful for the preservation office, it is not a blueprint for state government alone. Rather, it includes goals and strategies that benefit preservation advocates across Delaware. The plan provides all Delawareans who are passionate about historic preservation with a framework for effective decision-making, for coordinating statewide preservation activities and for communicating statewide preservation policy, goals and values to the preservation constituency, decision-makers and interested and affected parties across the state.

Cultural resource survey program revived

During 2012, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office continued efforts to revive its cultural resource survey program which has been largely dormant since the 1990s due to budget constraints. [Survey](#)—the physical and archival search for, and recording of, historic buildings, structures, archaeological sites and other types of cultural resources—is crucial in planning for land-use projects, and in managing and protecting cultural resources.

Most cultural resource surveys are undertaken for federally funded or sponsored projects. While these surveys are a major source of new historic-property information, their scope is typically limited to the affected project area. The focus of the State Historic Preservation Office's program is on areas and themes that may be missed by project-driven surveys in order to provide a broader, more balanced perspective on the patterning of site locations and cultural context.

Cultural resource surveys may be conducted directly by State Historic Preservation Office staff, or they may be supported by the office through the hiring of consultants or by managing and assisting others who conduct surveys including consultants, interns and volunteer organizations.

In 2012, several cultural-resource surveys were conducted including the following:

- ◆ With funding and support from the Delaware Department of State, the preservation office hired a consultant and led many volunteers to help find and test for [archaeological remains of Fort Casimir](#), a Dutch military site established in 1651 in what is now New Castle. An archaeologist from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, helped develop the research strategy, and field work produced encouraging evidence that intact remains of the fort may still exist.
- ◆ The preservation office provided support for a comprehensive survey of the Revolutionary War battlefield in areas around Cooch's Bridge in New Castle County. Methods and criteria from the National Park Service's [American Battlefield Protection Program](#) were used to guide the survey and analysis. Preliminary results have revealed good recovery of information of this little understood first battle of the Philadelphia Campaign.
- ◆ Through research conducted by CARE Team staff, the preservation office continued its participation in the [War of 1812 site-survey](#) with more than 120 sites identified including extant structures, maritime locations and sites known through archival and documentary sources. The purpose of the survey is to learn more about the physical landscape of the conflict and to provide a fuller understanding of the war, the role Delaware played in the defense of the Delaware Valley and Delawareans' service to the nation.
- ◆ Preservation-office staff researched and surveyed buildings in the Camden (Del.) Historic District in support of a long overdue amendment of that town's National Register of Historic Places nomination. This effort will continue in 2013.
- ◆ Preservation-office staff assisted in [investigations at the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark](#) in Wilmington which legend holds as the 1638 landing place of the first Swedish and Finnish colonists in America. Preliminary technical survey was conducted by a consultant, with support from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Additional scientific sampling and analysis is underway to assess the site's archaeological potential and to lay the groundwork for further study.



Archaeologists and onlookers at the Fort Casimir archaeological site on the New Castle waterfront in June 2012.



Survey work being conducted at the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark.

Over \$4.6 million in historic preservation tax credits awarded

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office awarded over \$4.6 million in [Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) during fiscal year 2012. These state tax credits were granted to property owners for eligible expenses incurred during the rehabilitation of 25 historic buildings in communities across the state including Delaware City, Henlopen Acres, Lewes, Middletown, New Castle, Odessa, Smyrna and Wilmington.

Working with [Preservation Delaware, Inc.](#), the program was promoted through four presentations and workshops for community organizations, and a public-oriented Power Point presentation created to facilitate public outreach.



This private residence in Smyrna was rehabilitated in 2012 with assistance from the Delaware Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.

Federal projects proceed smoothly due to expeditious environmental-reviews

During fiscal year 2012, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office received for review and comment 496 new environmental-review projects in Delaware that are being undertaken, funded or permitted by federal-government agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers; the Federal Communications Commission; the Federal Highway Administration; and the departments of Agriculture, Education, and Housing and Urban Development. The preservation office closed nearly 90 percent of these projects. The remaining cases, complex and lengthy in nature, are proceeding through various stages of activity. As part of this process, the preservation office expedited and then closed 26 federal environmental-review projects associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



The Armstrong-Rogers archaeological site outside Middletown, Del. was recently featured in the winter 2012-2013 edition of *American Archaeology Magazine*. The site was excavated as part of a project to relocate Route 301 in New Castle County. Plans for this project were subject to a Section 106 review by the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Under Section 106 of the [National Historic Preservation Act](#), federal agencies are required to take into account the effects of their undertakings on buildings, districts and archaeological sites that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Under Section 101 of the act, state historic preservation offices are responsible for advising federal agencies on the presence or absence of historic properties in a project area, and on ways that adverse effects to historic properties may be avoided or mitigated.

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office works with federal agencies and applicants to update or create new programmatic agreements to streamline project reviews. The office currently operates under approximately 30 such

agreements covering 12 different agencies' programs including a significantly revised programmatic agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and the Delaware Department of Transportation that is nearing completion.

Four new additions to the National Register of Historic Places

During the past year, four historic properties in Delaware were added to the [National Register of Historic Places](#). State Historic Preservation Office staff members provided vital assistance to the property owners in preparing and submitting their National Register nominations for review.

David Robbins Homestead (Milton)

Built circa 1850, the David Robbins Homestead is architecturally significant as one of a handful of surviving examples of vernacular domestic architecture constructed along the "Road from Milton to Broadkilm Beach" before 1868. The Robbins family owned, farmed and occupied the premises for more than 60 years. In 1925, Charles G. Jones, a pioneer in Delaware's holly industry, purchased the property and expanded his business there. Known as the "Holly Wreath Man," Jones perfected a preservation technique which enabled him to ship holly-wreaths to New York and Philadelphia during the holiday season.



Public mausoleum in Riverview Cemetery.

Riverview Cemetery (Wilmington)

Located along North Market Street in Wilmington, the 42-acre [Riverview Cemetery](#) was founded in 1872 by a coalition of 18 fraternal lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Still in active use, it features a wide range of funerary art as well as the state's first public mausoleum and Delaware's only-known example of a patented mausoleum design created by the American Mausoleum and Construction Company of Clyde, Ohio. The cemetery is also historically significant as the recipient of a U.S. patent in 1921 for the manufacture of cement burial-vaults.

Stockton/Montmorency (Greenville)

An outstanding example of [Colonial Revival](#) architecture and the Country House Movement, Stockton was built in 1937 for Helen Page Echols and her husband Angus Echols. Designed by William Lawrence Bottomley, a Colonial Revival architect who worked primarily in Virginia, the house is characterized as a five-part Palladian plan and is constructed of rose-colored Williamsburg brick. Its simple symmetry and perfect proportions recall 18th century houses such as Carter's Grove, a James River Plantation in Virginia. The property was purchased in the 1960s by Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. I. du Pont who added Montmorency to its name.





Tunnell-West House (Ocean View)

Built between 1868 and 1890, the Tunnell-West House is a significant vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style and is the oldest known three-bay, two-story frame house with cross gables in Ocean View today. The home retains a high level of integrity represented by its historic plan, materials and interior embellishments. Owned by the Town of Ocean View, the building is currently being restored by the [Ocean View Historical Society](#) and will function as a museum chronicling the history of coastal towns in the area.

\$52,832 sub-granted to certified local governments

During fiscal year 2012, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office re-granted \$52,832 in funds it had received from the federal Historic Preservation Fund to support preservation-related activities conducted by four of the state's certified local governments. The grants were as follows:

◆ **New Castle County**

A \$17,848 grant funded a consultant to work with the county's acting preservation planner to document historic properties within the county that have been found to be losing significant structural and/or architectural integrity. In addition, the grant provided funding for the consultant and planner to prepare nominations for eligible properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

◆ **Wilmington**

A grant of \$20,704 provided support for Wilmington's preservation planner who assists, among other tasks, the citizens of Wilmington and city-government personnel to identify and evaluate historic properties, nominations to the National Register, preservation planning, treatment options including tax incentives, review and compliance activities, heritage education and public outreach activities on preservation issues. The grant also provided funding for the continued evaluation survey in the Concord Heights area of the city.

◆ **Delaware City**

An \$8,568 grant was used to document the construction, use and repair-history related to the Delaware City lock of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The documentation will be used to inform future interpretation, and to provide background information for a conditions assessment and future rehabilitation of the historic structure.

◆ **Lewes**

A grant of \$5,712 was used in support of a public workshop on substitute materials and best paint-practices; and two workshops targeted to members of the state's historic preservation commissions on opportunities for commissions to educate the public and officials in their communities on preservation-related issues.

Division launches certified local government page on its website

In January 2013, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs launched a new page on its website showcasing [Delaware's Certified Local Government Program](#). Local governments that recognize the

importance of historic preservation and its role in creating sustainable, economically-viable communities are encouraged to pursue certified local government status. The program strengthens preservation efforts at the local level by providing technical and financial assistance, while encouraging successful preservation programs and practices. The initiative is jointly administered by the division's State Historic Preservation Office and the [National Park Service](#). Currently, Delaware has five certified local governments: Delaware City, Lewes, Milton, New Castle County and Wilmington.



Street scene in the Lewes Historic District.

About the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office

The widespread demolition of older buildings and neighborhoods in America's cities in the early



The Kirk/Short Building, a contributing property to the Dover Green Historic District and home of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office. The building's exterior was extensively rehabilitated in 2012.

1960s helped spur the federal government to enact the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This legislation provided for the designation of a state historic preservation officer and a qualified staff within each state to help promote preservation of historic properties of local, state and national significance.

Delaware's State Historic Preservation Office resides within the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, with the division director serving as the state historic preservation officer. Working in concert with academic and professional communities, preservation organizations, concerned citizens and all levels

of government, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office coordinates preservation efforts throughout Delaware and serves as an advocate for the preservation of Delaware's historic places and unique cultural identity.

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office is supported with federal Historic Preservation Fund formula grants on a 60 percent share/40 percent matching basis. In general, the preservation office performs the following services, fulfilling federal and state mandates:

- ◆ Administers the annual federal Historic Preservation Fund appropriation.
- ◆ Reviews federally-funded, permitted or licensed undertakings/projects and advises the sponsors of the effects on historic properties including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites, objects and landscapes.

- ◆ Reviews and comments on land use and development proposals under the State Preliminary Land Use Service.
- ◆ Leads efforts in securing and accepting nominations of significant properties and sites to the National Register of Historic Places in conjunction with the Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation.
- ◆ Encourages and assists local governments in securing certified local government designation which makes them eligible to receive a portion of the Historic Preservation Fund grant for local historic preservation activities. Delaware has five certified local governments: New Castle County, City of Wilmington, Delaware City, Lewes and Milton.
- ◆ Administers federal and state historic preservation tax incentive programs for the rehabilitation of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ◆ Monitors and enforces the terms of maintenance and public benefit covenants and easements under the stewardship of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.
- ◆ Provides guidance upon the discovery of unmarked human burials and/or skeletal remains, and advises on appropriate treatment and disposition, in accordance with state law. Works with developers and landowners on efforts to avoid such discoveries.
- ◆ Conducts, or supports others in conducting, statewide cultural resource surveys of historic properties.
- ◆ Maintains a central research repository of historical and cultural resource information related to historic properties and sites in Delaware.
- ◆ Provides technical assistance to the public on historic preservation topics.
- ◆ Provides and participates in educational programs about Delaware history, archaeology and historic architecture.
- ◆ Drafts every five years and maintains a commitment to implement Delaware's state historic preservation plan.
- ◆ Disseminates historic preservation information via the latest information technologies including a WordPress blog, YouTube channel, Flickr photostream and Twitter feed.

