

PRESERVATION WILLIAMSPORT



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WINTER NEWSLETTER ISSUE

February 1998

Meet The 1998 Board of Directors

There are many new faces on the Preservation of Williamsport Foundation's board. We hope that you will have an opportunity to meet them all, if you aren't acquainted with them already. Until then, here is a little information about the people who are currently overseeing the mission of Preservation Williamsport.

Charles Luppert is our new President. As you probably know, serving as president is not a role Chuck is unfamiliar with. He joined Williamsport National Bank in 1971 and has been President since 1989. Chuck and his wife Hallie, an excellent golfer, have always been very active in this community.

Deborah Keller, who you can usually find in her downtown store at the corner of William and Fourth Streets, is our new Chairman. Deborah's thirty years in the antique business gives her expertise in many areas which PW is only too happy to use. Deborah also currently serves on the Williamsport Recreation Commission and the Main Street Committee.

Michelle Kaiser Webb is our new secretary. Michelle, a long-time PW volunteer, comes to us from CoreStates Bank with ten years of experience in retail banking. Michelle, her husband Jim and son Jimmy (James Arthur Webb III) are Williamsport residents with a demonstrated commitment to their community.

Allen Brush has been a director on Preservation Williamsport's board since 1994. Allen is a recent graduate of the "Leadership Lycoming" program. Most of you are probably familiar with Allen's many rehabilitation projects as he has been a historic district property owner since 1982. Allen is a newly elected member of the Williamsport Planning Commission and the Historic Architecture Review Board.

Wendy Fenstemaker is a new director who comes to us from Radiant Steel where she is Purchasing Manager. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and is currently serving as Third Vice President of the Williamsport Area Management Association. She has been on the YMCA Program Committee since 1992 and served as a member of the YMCA Arena Capital Campaign and Teen Events Committees.

Robert Kane is the owner of "Kane Victorian Decoration," which specializes in Victorian furniture, lighting restoration and house restoration projects. In addition, he currently holds the following positions: Vice President of the Lycoming County Historical Society, Vice Chairman of the Historic Architecture Review Board, and Committee Member on City Council's Committee on Historic Preservation. In his spare time, Bob is the Senior Manager for Ambulatory Care Services at the Susquehanna Health System

and President of the Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative.

Grace Mabon is a new board member serving as our liaison with the Junior League of Williamsport. She and her husband Owen reside in a turn of the century home in Lewisburg, where Owen is the proprietor of Open Door Restoration and the Open Door Gallery. Grace works at the Mellon Bank office in Lewisburg.



*"In this and like communities,
public sentiment is everything.
With public sentiment,
nothing can fail: without it
nothing can succeed.
Consequently, he who molds
public sentiment goes deeper
than he who enacts statutes
or pronounces decisions."*

— Abraham Lincoln



Historic Sign Project

On May 16th Preservation Williamsport kicked off its Historic Sign Project with a ceremony and reception at Williamsport's City Hall, the recipient of the first historic structure plaque. The plaque will be hung on the outside of City Hall when current renovations are completed.

The Historic Sign Project was made possible by a generous grant from Williamsport National Bank. The plaque itself is a burnished bronze oval with a dark brown background measuring nine-by-seven inches. Raised bronze lettering at the center top says



"Preservation Williamsport." The raised center of the plaque features our logo, a condensed sketch of the historic district, also in bronze on the brown

background. Bronze numerals at the center bottom of the plaque will feature the "circa" date of the structure being registered.

The plaques will be sold to qualified local historic property owners for \$90 each. Applications can be requested in writing from Judy Olinsky, at 150 Selkirk Road, Williamsport, PA 17701 or by calling her at 323-9898.

All properties must be 50 years or older and retain most of their architectural integrity. U.S. Department of Interior Standards for Historic Rehabilitation will be used to determine which properties will be eligible to receive plaques.

Preservation Williamsport hopes to use the information from the applications to create a catalogue of historic structures in the city that will be available for research and educational purposes.



Preservation Williamsport extends a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the wonderful Period Home Owners and Volunteers who helped make 1997's Promenade such a success. We are very grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm.

If you still have a costume from the PW collection, please contact Wendy Fenstamaker to make arrangements for its return.



Coming events:

A "Summit" Meeting, of sorts, is in the process of being planned. Representatives from **Preservation Williamsport**, the **Main Street Committee**, the **Williamsport Recreation Commission**, the **Lycoming County Historical Society**, the **Tourist Promotion Agency**, the **City Bus Transit Authority**, **Williamsport Parking Authority** and the **Williamsport/Lycoming Arts Council** (just to name a few) will be meeting with representatives of the city of Williamsport to coordinate projects in progress. The meeting date and site have not yet been determined, but if you'd like to participate, please contact Deborah Keller, 322-7001 or Judy Olinsky, 323-9898.



HOUSE PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

If you have driven past 830 West Third Street lately, undoubtedly you noticed the changes for the better. Board member Allen Brush has been busy organizing exterior renovations.

In October ten volunteers from Lycoming College spent half a day scraping and priming the windows and a professional was hired to finish priming and painting. Sherwin Williams discounted the paint and Allen generously picked up the tab.

Lattice was installed under the back porch and broken windows were replaced. Unfortunately, cold weather set in and outside work was suspended until Spring.

Much progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go. The House Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with interior renovations. If you are interested in helping, please contact Allen at 323-8080.

Tax Advantaged Rehabilitation Guide:

Preservation Williamsport has recently acquired the National Trust for Historic Preservation publication "A Guide to Tax-Advantaged Rehabilitation." If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Chuck Luppert at (717) 326-2431.



Historic District Highlights

Penn Square Apartments at 960 W. Third Street gets a face lift and a very attractive sign welcoming people to the Historic District of Williamsport, thanks to owner Allen Brush.



Congratulations to the 1996 Preservation Award Winners

SINGLE RESIDENCE REHABILITATION
935 Hepburn Street – Scott and Patty Palmer

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL ADAPTIVE REUSE
Watertower Square – (former C.A. Reed Building)
Keith Eck, Centura Builders
The Bullfrog Brewery – Steve Koch, President

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PRESERVATION
Fire Station No. 3, – Campbell & Second Streets
G. William Bishop

PUBLIC/INSTITUTIONAL REHABILITATION
Annunciation Church – Walnut & West Fourth Streets
Original Little League Complex – West Fourth Street

PUBLIC/INSTITUTIONAL RESTORATION
Williamsport Scottish Rite – 348 Market Street

PRESERVATION PUBLICATION
Samuel J. Dornsife and the late Eleanor Wolfson

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Judy Olinsky

ANNUAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
Samuel J. Dornsife



915 Vine Avenue, formerly the New Covenant Gospel Church, is now housing apartments and has a completely renovated interior and exterior.

We are now accepting nominations for Preservation Williamsport's 1997 Preservation Awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting this spring. Any project completed during 1997 is eligible for consideration. Projects are judged on appropriate use of conservation practices and maintenance of the structure's character.

To nominate a structure for consideration, please drop us a note briefly describing the projects, along with the address of the structure and the owner's names to: Preservation Williamsport, P.O. Box 1044, Williamsport, PA 17701, or contact any of the board members listed on the last page of this newsletter.



Carolyn Bullock, Samuel Dornsife and Allen Brush are shown in front of the Weightman Building during Promenade. As some of you may already know, Allen was the recipient of a special 1997 HARB award.



1997 Promenade volunteers Tina and Tony Sutsko, with their daughters Julie and Sara, are showing off some of the recent additions to PW's Costume Collection in front of the Park Home.

1998 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We have not asked you to renew your membership in a while. Please do so today if you haven't already!

Do you know someone who believes in the mission of Preservation Williamsport and would like to become involved in keeping our community vibrant and healthy? Please make them aware of what PW does and invite them to join us!

Individual	\$25	Patron	\$100
Sustaining	\$50	Corporate	\$200

Members of the following organizations receive a 20% discount on PW membership dues: Lycoming County Historical Society and Museum, Williamsport-Lycoming Arts Council, and North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. Membership entitles you to reduced fees to PW sponsored events, complementary copies of this newsletter and use of our growing reference library.

PW gratefully accepts any donation or gift-in-kind, which would be deductible to the amount permitted by the IRS. We also happily earmark your donation or bequest for any special project we are currently undertaking!

To become a member please send a check made payable to Preservation Williamsport, P.O. Box 1044, Williamsport, PA 17701.

1998 Preservation Williamsport Board of Directors and Officers

Charles Luppert, President

322-2485 (home) • 326-2431 (office)

Deborah Keller, Chairman

327-1542 (home) • 322-7001 (office)

Michelle Webb, Secretary

322-6731 (home) • 327-5038 (office)

Allen Brush

323-6622 (home) • 323-8080 (office)

Wendy Fenstamaker

322-7063 (home) • 322-7828 (office)

Grace Mahon

523-3854 (home) • 523-1148 (office)

Robert Kane

322-0838 (home) • 321-2185 (office)

Upcoming State Preservation Conference Will Be Held In Williamsport

Preservation Pennsylvania's annual state-wide conference will be held in Williamsport May 3rd, 4th and 5th. The theme of this year's conference is "Back to Basics" and will feature three days of workshops as well as several opportunities for us to show off Williamsport's many architectural treasures. Approximately 200 Preservationists from across the state are expected to attend. Preservation Williamsport will be hosting the opening reception on May 3rd at the Community Arts Center. Any individual or business interested in making a donation to help fund this event please contact Wendy Fenstamaker at 322-7828 or Deborah Keller at 327-7001. Contributors will be recognized in the conference program book.

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