



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

NORTHEAST PRESERVATION NEWS

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Statewide Partners

Connecticut Trust, Preservation Delaware,
Preservation MASS, Maine Preservation,
NH Preservation Alliance, Preservation New
Jersey, Preservation League of New York,
Preservation Pennsylvania, Preserve Rhode
Island, Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Statewide Main Street Programs

CT: Connecticut Main Street Center
DE: Delaware Main Street Program
MA (Boston): Boston Main Streets
ME: Maine Downtown Center
NH: New Hampshire Main Street Center
NJ: Main Street New Jersey
PA: Office of Community Development,
Pennsylvania Downtown Center
VT: Vermont Downtown Program

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Trust Responds to Philadelphia's Plan

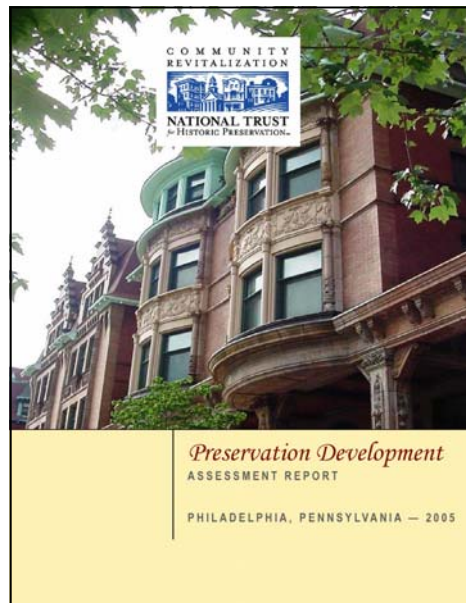
National Trust President Richard Moe has said, "Abandoned buildings can break a neighborhood's heart. Demolished buildings can destroy its soul." Philadelphia, PA, the fourth largest city in the U.S., has the country's highest number of abandoned properties.

In April 2001, Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, recognizing abandoned properties as a formidable obstacle to stabilizing neighborhoods and stimulating their renewal, launched the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI), which began a demolition program that initially sought to remove 14,000 of the city's 26,000 vacant buildings. NTI's goals were eventually revised downward because costs were higher, preservationists objected and the neighborhood participation process took longer than anticipated.

In May 2003, Philadelphia was one of eight cities chosen to participate in a pilot Preservation Development Initiative (PDI) program of the Trust's Community Revitalization department. Funded through a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the initia-

tive provides technical assistance and loan funds to selected "Knight Communities" across the

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Jane's Trust Awards Grant for Shared Field Reps

The [New Hampshire Preservation Alliance](#) and the [National Trust for Historic Preservation's Northeast Office](#) in Boston will launch a major new preservation field services program this spring to help communities advance historic preservation projects. Thanks to a two-year grant of \$230,000 from Jane's Trust, these two leading preservation organizations will make two seasoned preservation experts available to provide historic preservation help to communities throughout the Granite State.

"Through generous funding from Jane's Trust, we are delighted to bring to New Hampshire a program which has made such a difference to community preservation efforts in Vermont and Connecticut. The addition of New Hampshire to our network of field service professionals – preservation 'circuit riders' – brings us closer to our goal of making preservation assistance more accessible in all states in the Northeast region," said Wendy Nicholas, director of the Northeast Office of the National Trust.

"This grant from Jane's Trust serves as a major catalyst to expand our services to com-

munities, in partnership with the National Trust," said Jennifer Goodman, executive director of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. "It will enable us to meet the growing demand for help to guide development and save irreplaceable landmarks, such as the farms, religious landmarks, grange halls, old mills, and waterfront properties which are such treasured aspects of our state's special character and vitality."

The field services partnership between the National Trust and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is modeled after similar partnerships between the Trust and Statewide Partners in Vermont, Connecticut, Indiana, and Michigan. The Field Services Program will build on current, successful New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and National Trust programs and resources to support and encourage preservation of New Hampshire's many historic places. New preservation "circuit riders" will traverse the state, providing information, advice and small grants, offering workshops, and establishing new networks of citizen/advocates for historic preservation. Stay tuned.

Trust Responds, cont.

U.S. In Philadelphia, the Trust is working in partnership with the City of Philadelphia and in coordination with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

To address the effect of NTP's demolition program on historic buildings, a PDI multi-disciplinary team, which included the Trust's Northeast Field Office, was assembled to evaluate Philadelphia neighborhoods where NTP was the most active. In its final assessment report, the team recommended ways to make better demolition decisions in the future, particularly with regard to historic buildings, and also offered a collection of pragmatic changes for various city departments that will promote coordinated and informed decision making. Long-term, proactive strategies were identified which encompass marketing approaches and incentives for developers and homeowners to invest in historic neighborhoods were enumerated.

Specifically, the team made six recommendations:

- Make the development of a comprehensive inventory of Philadelphia's historic and significant buildings a priority, and embark on developing a systematic program to accomplish this task.
- Implement the Unified Land Records System (ULRS) as quickly as possible which will help to increase the communication and coordination between various city departments, and link the ULRS to the University of Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Information System.
- Investigate a Historic Philadelphia Row House Initiative modeled after the successful Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative.
- Expand the pool of resources and incentives available to homeowners and developers to promote preventive maintenance, structural repairs and larger-scale rehabilitation and development projects.
- Bolster the capacity, including staff, tools and funding, of the Philadelphia Historical Commission so that its internal resources are sufficient to manage the historic resources it is charged with overseeing.
- Recognize that creating vacant lots – even landscaped lots – is not a sustainable or desirable neighborhood revitalization strategy; developing a plan for redevelopment and reuse of vacant lots must be elevated to a greater level of importance.

Each recommendation is elaborated on in the report, a full copy of which is available by clicking [here](#), or on the image of the report's cover on the front page.

Award for Orchard House

Louisa May Alcott's *Orchard House*, in Concord, MA, has won the [Sustainable Tourism Preservation Award](#) sponsored by *Smithsonian Magazine* and *Tourism Cares for Tomorrow*. The award is given annually to a person, company, or institution that supports the preservation of historic or culturally significant sites.

Winners must demonstrate a clear connection between their endeavors and responsible tourism. The prize carries an award of \$20,000, which will help with ongoing preservation efforts at Orchard House, the National Historic Landmark home where Alcott wrote and set her classic novel *Little Women*.

Dates, Deadlines and Announcements

March 1—Deadline for nominations for the **National Trust's Trustees' Award for Organizational Excellence**, the **John H. Chafee Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Policy**, the **Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites**, the **National Trust/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation**, and the **National Trust/ACHP Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation**, which will be announced at the National Preservation Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, in October. For a copy of the application, which includes details on all of the awards, visit www.nationaltrust.org.

March 6—Deadline for early registration for a two-day **Recent Past Workshop**, April 22-23, at **Drew University** in Madison, NJ. Using the Wildwoods, NJ, as a case study and laboratory, the workshop introduces participants to the Recent Past resource: what it is, what's significant, how to assess integrity and deciding what to preserve. Class is held in a classroom setting with an outdoor tour and field work. For more information, click [here](#).

March 18-19—The **Greater Portland Landmarks Old House Trade Show** in Portland, ME. Gather resources for home improvement projects. Learn about restoration techniques, services and products from the experts. Share information and help build awareness about historic preservation. For more information contact Greater Portland Landmarks by calling (207) 774-5561, x102 or writing to landmark@maine.rr.com.

State Tax Credit Report Now Available Online

A recent National Trust Public Policy Department report, *State Tax Credits for Historic Preservation*, originally published in *Forum News*, is now available online. Written by Harry K. Schwartz, former Vice President of Public Policy at the National Trust, the report lists the components of a good rehabilitation tax credit, including a section entitled "Why Some State Credits Work Better Than Others."

If you would like assistance with a state rehabilitation tax credit, please e-mail the Trust's State and Local Policy department at policy@nthp.org, or call (202) 588-6234.

March 31—Deadline for applications to **Preservation Leadership Training** in Nebraska City, NE, from June 10-17. Presented by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** in partnership with the **Nebraska Lied Main Street** program, this intensive one-week program, intended for board members, staff of preservation organizations and others who are in a position to influence preservation efforts in their communities, provides participatory learning experiences in leadership and organizational development, stimulating education sessions and up-to-the-minute information on current preservation practices, issues and action strategies. For more information, call (202) 588-6067 or visit www.nationaltrust.org/plt.

Join the National Trust and Keep Up with News of the Northeast

When you join the National Trust you'll join thousands of others in preserving more than just bricks and mortar. You'll help preserve the memories that live on in special places where Americans from all walks of life have lived and worked. And in doing so, you'll help share the spirit of our diverse cultural and architectural heritage with generations to come.

To learn about the latest developments in preservation and how you can become a member of the National Trust, send an e-mail to nero@nthp.org to join our mailing list or to request membership information, or please visit the National Trust's Web site, www.nationaltrust.org.