



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 14, Number 1

February 2011

## Learning To Cut Through The Red Tape

Think that a Federal Section 106 Review doesn't apply to your municipality? Well, think again.

Chester County is being inundated with activity that **REQUIRES Municipalities ATTENTION, REVIEW, AND COMMENTS.**

WHY? because the proposed projects receive federal funds, need a federal permit or must have a federal license. Here are examples – including some you may not have known:

- Is there a bridge rehabilitation or replacement proposal in your neighborhood?
- Do you have a subdivision plan on your agenda that contains both wetlands and historic resources?
- Does the local bank want to install an ATM machine or demolish a building for a parking lot?
- Has a company filed an application to build a cell tower or place new antennae on a transmission tower?
- Is there a road widening/improvement project with or without traffic signals in your community?
- Does the project involve extensive storm water management?

- Have you received a letter about a gas line expansion traversing your municipality?
- Are you replacing municipal water and sewer lines or constructing new ones?
- Is your township or borough participating in the housing rehabilitation program using federal funding from HUD?



*A new wave of cell towers are going up across the county. What will the impacts be to historic resources, contexts, and views?*

Right now there are over three dozen active or proposed bridge projects, several major gas lines, many cell tower applications, and numerous other examples in Chester County – more than at almost any other time!

So, If you answered yes to even one of these project types or think you may be facing them in the future, it is important that you take advantage of

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network is an affiliation of local organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving Chester County's historic resources and landscapes through education, facilitation, and public and private advocacy.

Chester County Historic Preservation Network’s annual workshop on Saturday, March 12, 2011.

Do you know who administers the federal Section 106 Reviews? It’s not the Department of Transportation, or Housing, or Interior or the EPA. It’s the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – commonly called the *President’s Advisory Council* handling over 110,000 reviews annually!

- For the **FIRST TIME** the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation staff is presenting a **NEW** introductory workshop at the **GRASSROOTS** level - your level!
- Plus, the Council staff is assembling a **FIFTY-PAGE HANDBOOK** especially for **CHESTER COUNTY**.
- This handout will **ONLY** be given to attendees of the CCHPN Workshop!
- This Workshop is not just for historical commission members but for Supervisors, Borough Council members, Planning Commissions, Engineers and Solicitors!
- The workshop will focus on teaching local elected and appointed officials on **HOW TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE PROJECT’S IMPACT ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, OBJECTS AND SITES**.
- The event will be held at the Chester County Historical Society’s Cultural Center Auditorium, 225 North High Street, West Chester, PA in anticipation of a large audience.
- Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Collectively, we want to extend a warm Chester County welcome to our colleagues from Washington, D. C. For decades, Chester County has been in the forefront of historic preservation initiatives. So once again, we as citizens and volunteers can continue to be leaders interested in the heritage of our respective neighborhoods.

- Jane L. S. Davidson  
CCHPN Board Member

**The Chester County  
Ledger**

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*The Chester County  
Historic Preservation Network*

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CCHPN, P.O.Box 174, West Chester,  
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welcome. There is no guarantee,  
however, that submissions will be  
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necessarily endorse the content of  
advertisements herein.



This workshop is presented by the **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**, an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.



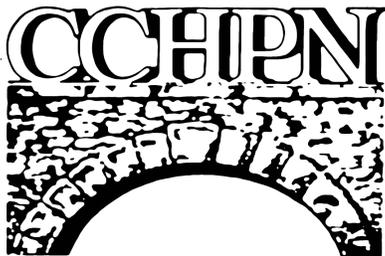
**CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

This workshop is co-sponsored by the **Chester County Historical Society**, a nonprofit educational institution that promotes an understanding of the history of Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania, and its relationship to the region and the nation.



This program is also made possible by a grant from **Exelon Generation**.

Further support was provided by **Bernardon Haber Holloway Architects PC**.



# Spring 2011 Workshop Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process

*New Venue!*

**Chester County  
Historical Society  
Cultural Center**  
225 North High Street  
West Chester, PA

**March 12, 2011, Saturday - Rain or Shine!**

- 8:00a Registration
- 8:45 Greetings
- 9:00 Introductions and workshop objectives
- 9:15 How does the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 apply to federal project planning?
- 9:30 When are federal historic preservation reviews required?
- 9:45 Who participates in a review?
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:25 What is a historic property?
- 10:45 How is a Section 106 review conducted?
- 11:45 What are the possible outcomes of a Section 106 review?
- 12:30 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:15 Open Panel Discussion
- 2:00 Adjournment

### Fees

**Member: \$25.00** - either dues-paid individual or municipality/organization  
**Non-member: \$30.00**

Fees include workshop registration, food, and refreshments. Register early to ensure your spot! No refunds can be given. For more information, call: 1-877-44-CCHPN (1-877-442-2476)

Location and Parking information is on the next page.

The workshop will include small (5-8 people) group exercises and discussions.



## Registration Form

**RSVP by March 4, 2009**

Municipality/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to include your membership dues with your registration, please check below:  
 Individual (\$20.00)  
 Municipality/Organization (\$85.00)

**Make checks payable to CCHPN**

Names of Registrants - Municipality/Organization  
*May include Supervisors, board and commission members, staff, etc.  
 Up to four at membership fee, others at non-member fee*

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00

Total amount of check for registration fee and/or membership dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Registrants - Individual Members

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00

Names of Registrants - Non-Members and additional registrants from Municipality/Organization

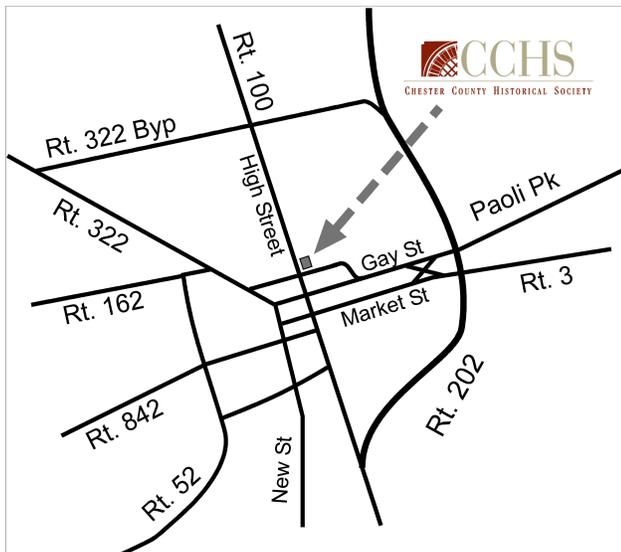
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00

**Mail form and check to: CCHPN, PO Box 174, West Chester, PA 19381. Thanks!**

## Our Workshop Presenters

**Charlene Dwin Vaughn, AICP**, serves as Assistant Director, Federal Permitting, Licensing, and Assistance, in the ACHP's Office of Federal Agency Programs. Charlene has been with the ACHP for 30 years and has extensive experience working with a variety of federal agencies on all aspects of Section 106.

**Blythe Semmer** has assisted transportation, telecommunications, housing, and banking agencies with their preservation review requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act during five years with the ACHP. She now coordinates the agency's efforts to train federal, state, and local officials, consultants, preservation advocates, and others to use the Section 106 historic preservation regulations.



### Location:

The CCHS Cultural Center is located in the northeast corner of the intersection of North High Street and Chestnut Street, one block north of Gay Street.

### Parking:

In addition to street parking (by meter) you can park in the new garage at Chestnut and Walnut Streets, a half-block to the east from the Cultural Center. Located one block west of the Cultural Center is a metered parking lot at Chestnut and North Church Streets.

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All are welcome to the 2011 Spring Workshop!

Please pass along this information to anyone you know who may be interested. This newsletter with this registration form is available on our website, <http://www.cchpn.org/newsletters.htm>

We look forward to seeing you!

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## Community Involvement in Federal Historic Preservation Planning through the Section 106 Review Process

Did you know that local preservation advocates have a voice in the protection of historic properties important to them even when a federal agency is carrying out a project in their community? At the Chester County Historic Preservation Network's spring workshop on March 12, you will have an opportunity to learn how to use Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as a preservation tool to protect historic properties affected by federal projects. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the federal agency charged with issuing the regulations that implement the Section 106 review process, is pleased offer a four-hour workshop about how Section 106 reviews work and how preservation advocates can make their voices heard in this important planning forum.

Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of projects carried out by them or subject to their assistance or approval, on historic properties and to provide the ACHP an opportunity to comment on these projects prior to reaching a final decision. Projects may range from construction or rehabilitation to demolition. Properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are considered historic. Section 106 encourages, but does not mandate, preservation. The process provides for the consideration of alternatives that promote preservation and offers the public and stakeholders the opportunity to influence federal decisions. The federal agency providing assistance or approvals for a proposed project is responsible for completing Section 106 prior to making a final decision.

Consultation is the cornerstone of the Section 106 process. Agencies initiate Section 106 reviews in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and, when historic properties of significance to federally recognized Indian tribes are involved, with tribal officials. Federal agencies are also required to include local governments and applicants for federal assistance, permits, licenses, and other approvals in the process. Other consulting parties may include a wide range of individuals or groups interested in historic preservation.



*The rehabilitation of Cope's Bridge by PennDOT involved extensive participation by Consulting Parties in the Section 106 Review process to ensure its historic character was retained.*

To successfully complete a Section 106 review, federal agencies must follow these four steps:

- INITIATE Section 106 and determine if it applies to a given project;
- IDENTIFY historic properties in the project area;
- ASSESS the effect of the project on historic properties; and
- RESOLVE adverse effects by exploring alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the effects.

Each year thousands of federal actions undergo Section 106 review. The vast majority of cases are routine and are resolved at the state or tribal level, without the ACHP's involvement. However, some cases present issues or challenges that warrant the ACHP's involvement.

Join ACHP staff for the CCHPN Spring 2011 Workshop: *Introduction to Section 106 Process* on March 12 from for more information about how the Section 106 process enables community and local government participation in federal agency planning and how these reviews provide for balancing preservation values with other project needs.

- Blythe Semmer, Training Specialist  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

## An Historic Alignment!

It may seem obvious, perhaps even a *no-brainer*, that two of the County's prominent historical organizations should collaborate to highlight and preserve the many cultural treasures and educational resources found in Chester County. But like many things in life, it took the right time, the right place and the right challenges to make it happen.

Most non-profits have been hurt by the economic crisis and loss of funding; however, the same economics have slowed the residential and commercial developments which may pose a threat to our heritage sites. Identifying cooperative programs for educational and preservation initiatives have the potential to reduce costs as well as increase the number of the people served.

So, the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) and the Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) have decided to work together to maximize public awareness. Kimberly Hall, CCHS President, has joined the board of CCHPN and CCHPN's Education and Programing Committee will be working closely with the CCHS staff to put on larger Preservation workshops and lectures at the Historical Society.

Both CCHPN and CCHS have a long record of interaction with the Chester County government. CCHS maintains the County Archives as well as having its own extensive library and photograph and newspaper archives. CCHPN has been providing support and training for the many volunteers who form the municipal Historic Commissions, championed by the County Parks and Recreation Department's Cultural Heritage and the Historical Atlas programs. The vast majority of townships and boroughs in the county now have a historical

commission to help guide elected officials in protecting their communities' historic resources. The CCHPN hosts Annual Awards recognizing the preservation efforts of the County's municipalities. Both the Historical Society and the Network are founding sponsors of the nationally acclaimed *Town Tours and Village Walks* summer program.

We see many opportunities to promote a better understanding of the value of our historic and cultural heritage and welcome this new alignment between our groups.

- Bruce Knapp  
President, CCHPN

### Letter to CCHPN



Thank you for your vote of confidence in recently electing me to the board of directors. It is through my affiliation with the Chester County Historical Society that this partnership can thrive. Even if the economy wasn't prompting belt tightening, collaborative opportunities that bring enhanced value to constituents and expanded resources

to the community just make sense. Our organizations share audiences and a deep commitment to the preservation of Chester County history. Through supporting each other programmatically, we can promote our programs to broader audiences, share resources, avoid duplication of effort, and further both organizations' missions. In the end, everyone wins – CCHPN, CCHS and Chester County.

Kimberly A. Hall  
President, Chester County Historical Society

## Chester County Historic Resources on Preservation Pennsylvania's 2010 List of the Eleven Most Endangered Resources

Preservation Pennsylvania (PPA) is a leader in historic preservation, providing a Commonwealth-wide view of the preservation issues, being an advocate across the state and particularly in Harrisburg, providing technical and financial support to preservation projects, hosting conferences and workshops, and recognizing outstanding preservation efforts through their awards. One of the most high-profile activities is compiling their annual list of the eleven most endangered historic resources. Unfortunately for us, two of the 2010 listings are for resources in Chester County.

On December 16, 2010, PPA announced its listing, which is published in the "Pennsylvania At Risk" edition of their newsletter *Preserving Pennsylvania*. This publication is available online at: <http://www.preservationpa.org/> Readers of *The Chester County Ledger* will be familiar with one resource: the Schuylkill School, and readers of the newspapers will be familiar with the others: the houses at 122-124 and 126 West Miner Street in West Chester. The following information is excerpted from "Pennsylvania At Risk".

### *Schuylkill School, Schuylkill Township*

Schuylkill School was built in 1930 and opened that year. It contained a gym and eight classrooms, with one classroom for each grade, first through eighth. This relatively large, modern stone building reflected a national trend toward school consolidation, bringing children from a number of small one- and two-room schoolhouses throughout the area together under one roof, where teaching could be more targeted toward their stage of development. When it opened, the school became a distinctive landmark in the township.

Construction of the school, as well as improvement of the road network that allowed children to travel to the school on busses, was made possible through the philanthropy of Frank B. Foster. Foster helped fund three consolidated schools in Chester County, the other two of which are still in use. Architects Davis and Dunlap of Philadelphia designed the Schuylkill School, which had thick stone walls at Foster's request, since he believed that stone walls were the physical representation of permanence. Foster believed that rural children should have all the opportunities of city children, and so included

auditoriums, gymnasiums, and landscaping that incorporated athletic fields and playgrounds in his schools. He also donated book cases and musical instruments for use in the schools.

In 2002, the Schuylkill School was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places for its reflection of the education history in Schuylkill Township and the trend toward school consolidation, recognizing the important role of Frank B. Foster.

In July 2010 the Phoenixville Area School District, the school's owner, submitted an application for a demolition permit. The Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors waived the ordinance-required review of the application by the historical commission and Zoning Hearing Board and approved the permit.

### *122-124 and 126 West Miner Street*

The National Register listed West Chester Historic District (Boundary Increase) is locally significant as a governmental and commercial center that contains resources that reflect period architectural styles and the urban growth pattern of the community's development. Examples of commercial, institutional, industrial and residential buildings that reflect various types and styles of architecture from various periods are all important to defining the town's unique and important historic character. Residential buildings built circa 1844 and 1837, respectively, the buildings at 122-124 and 126 West Miner Street in West Chester are both contributing elements to the West Chester Historic District. Buildings such as these were designed to house the expanded population of the borough, and reflect the architectural forms and styles common in the periods in which they were built and updated. As such, they are an important part of the historic fabric of the larger community

First Presbyterian Church, which sits adjacent to and owns these houses, intends to demolish them to allow for the expansion of its facility.

The CCHPN thanks PPA for spotlighting the risks these resources face and for all of their work across the Commonwealth.

- Matthew E. Roberson  
CCHPN Board Member



Chester County Historic Preservation Network

P.O. Box 174

West Chester, PA 19381

www.cchpn.org 877-442-2476

PLEASE FORWARD

Please come and  
join us for our

**Spring 2011 Workshop**

**The Section 106  
Review Process**

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Chester County  
Historical Society  
Cultural Center  
West Chester, PA

**March 12, 8am - 2pm**

Details Inside!

## Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

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For help with your preservation efforts or with your historic  
house, and for information on events , please visit:

[www.CCHPN.org](http://www.CCHPN.org)

## Matthew E. Roberson Restoration Carpentry

610-620-4656 [meroberson@gmail.com](mailto:meroberson@gmail.com)

[www.meroberson.com](http://www.meroberson.com)

Board Member: CCHPN & Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

The CCHPN requests your organization's events  
for posting on our website. Please send your list to  
Matthew Roberson, editor of *The Ledger*, at  
[meroberson@gmail.com](mailto:meroberson@gmail.com) and I will put it on

[www.cchpn.org](http://www.cchpn.org)

*Thanks!*