

# Historic Preservation Initiative

## Local Heritage Management Action Plan as a part of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region

The focus of this strategy is to seek recognition of Northern York County's heritage as a significant resource to the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. The Lancaster-York Heritage Region Management Action Plan was adopted in June 2001. The region has resources that fit with many of the elements of the action plan; therefore, a review of the action plan would help the community organize a local-level heritage program and position itself to obtain financial, technical and promotional support from the larger, multi-county effort.

### Key Components:

- Understand the relationship between the Lancaster-York Heritage Program and the local-level effort (information below taken from *Lancaster-York Heritage Region Executive Summary* and the *Lancaster-York Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, prepared for the Lancaster-York Heritage Region Steering Committee by Mary Means & Associated, inc., June 2001).
  - Lancaster-York Heritage Program is part to the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks program. The program focuses on conserving and celebrating heritage resources; developing a sense of "community pride" in local natural, cultural, and historic assets; ensuring that tourism development efforts are compatible with community interests; and establishing a platform for cooperation among diverse interests.
  - The Lancaster-York Heritage plan has four goals:
    - Building understanding and identity – telling the essential stories of the Lancaster-York region.
    - Enhancing the visitor experience - addressing all facets of the visitor's experience: attractions, recreation, services, and infrastructure.
    - Strengthening place – organizing the effort around revitalizing the borough center and preserving historic resources, enhancing natural and recreational resources, enhancing urban design (gateways and corridors), and celebrating and preserving cultural traditions and folkways.
    - Building strong institutions for partnership – creating collaboration between institutions, promotion agencies, and non-profit organization.
  - Recommended actions and/or priority projects accompany each goal. These recommendations provide direction for the development of local priorities and actions that will fit into the Lancaster-York program.

- ❑ Develop the local-level program based on the goals and recommendations of the Lancaster-York Heritage Program (Mark Platts).
- ❑ Organize the local-level effort.
  - Reach beyond the Northern York County region north to the Cumberland County communities of Lemoyne, Lower Allen and Upper Allen (following the Old Gettysburg Pike) and in Adams County to Gettysburg in the south (following the old Route 15 corridor) to continue the story of the historic Route 15 corridor and the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places, Scenic America – *Journey Through Hallowed Ground*. The project has developed many resources in the Virginia Piedmont area. The telling of the story is proceeding northward through Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, Gettysburg Region. The next portion of the story would be from Gettysburg to Harrisburg (National Civil War Museum). The collaboration between the communities will help to strengthen the overall program. These stories also may have a connection to similar stories flowing along the US Route 30 corridor from York.
  - Identify key players and the lead agency to guide and steer the effort. The recommended list of stakeholders includes:
    - Board members from the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society
    - Organizers of existing community events Heritage Fair, Farmer's Fair, Pickle Drop, Pickle Chase, Turn and Burn Barrel Classic, and area horse shows
    - Board members from the Dillsburg Area Business Association, Logan Park Authority, Dillsburg Senior Center, Northern York County Community and Recreational Center Committee
    - Business owners, include businesses of all sizes
    - Social and service organizations
    - Dillsburg Banner
    - Area Volunteer Fire Companies
    - Northern York County School District
    - Parent teacher organization
    - Representatives of the governing bodies, planning commissions
    - Area churches or religious institutions
  - Develop a contacts list for technical assistance from county and state agencies, such as: the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC – Susan Cabot), PA Downtown Center (Bill Fontana), Pennsylvania Main Street Program, Pennsylvania Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources (Alan Chace) and Community and Economic Development (Jerry Spangler), Historic York, Inc., York Heritage Trust (Gayle Petty –Johnson), York County Department of Parks (Thomas Brant) and the York County Planning Commission (Felicia Dell). Identify similar agencies in Cumberland and Adams County. Work with the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places, Scenic America representative.

- Focus the action plan effort on the following activities:
  - Goal 1: Build understanding and identity. The Lancaster-York Heritage program embraces five themes: foodways, from farm to table; quest for freedom; innovation – invention and tradition; natural ways - the Susquehanna River and beyond; and town & country – forging communities, cultivating the land.
    - Work with Historic York and the PHMC to ensure that the history is complete for the region. Determine what aspects of this history contribute to the five themes. Write the history as it relates to each. This piece of work may include the use of a Technical Assistance Grant to help organize the planning effort, Historic Preservation Grant (contact Carol Lee, Historic Preservation Grant Manager, 783-9918), or Local History Grants (Kenneth Wolensky – 772-0921).
    - Organize the communities from Gettysburg to Harrisburg to continue the story of the “Hallowed Ground” (Old Gettysburg Pike) focusing on the objectives of existing work on the “Hallowed Ground” in Maryland and Adams County. These objectives include:
      - ✓ Promote efficient use of resources
      - ✓ Form partnerships
      - ✓ Promote aesthetics, the environment, and quality of life issues
      - ✓ Preserve farming
      - ✓ Cultivate grassroots, community involvement
      - ✓ Foster regional cooperation
      - ✓ Create awareness of the corridor’s quality
      - ✓ Provide technical assistance and access to funding for land preservation
      - ✓ Promote the concept of the *Journey Through Hallowed Ground*
      - ✓ Pursue State/National Scenic Byway/All American Road designation
      - ✓ Promote sustainable tourism and economic development
      - ✓ Advocate for public/private land stewardship
      - ✓ Protect Civil War resources/parks
      - ✓ Undertake public outreach and education
      - ✓ Advocate at the state and national levels.

Recognize the work completed through the region’s comprehensive plan addresses many of these objectives and builds on this work to address the remaining objectives, and work with communities of the greater Harrisburg area.
    - Work with the community to get a clear sense of “how much” tourism will be accepted. Two considerations to be discussed include:
      - ✓ Tourism’s value in promoting economic development.
      - ✓ The type of tourism, “heritage tourism” – focuses on the interpretive framework of the region, generally attracts tourists who are more sensitive to their impact on communities and spend more.

The results of this discussion will help to determine the level of activity that is undertaken for all four goals.
    - Work with the property owners or organizations that manage contributing historic or cultural resources to the region’s heritage story. Determine their interest and desired level of involvement in heritage activities.
    - Seek to connect the Northern York County story to the following Lancaster-York Heritage Program activities:

- ✓ Collect and record anecdotes about the region for the “Voices on the Landscape” – interactive audio system. Consider recording activities at the Farmer’s Fair for inclusion. This project may be a potential high school projects for a student interested in the history of the community.
  - ✓ Determine locations where an interactive exhibit of the story of the region’s history may be appropriate – contact York Heritage Trust (Gayle Petty Johnson), who is actively pursuing similar activities.
  - ✓ Support the “living history” project and develop a story line for the Northern Region – support the presentation of the heritage story at community events.
  - ✓ Determine locations in the region for outdoor interpretative waysides at key locations (e.g., the Yellow Breeches).
  - ✓ Develop a strategic plan for the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society, which will position the Society for participation in a “Local Initiative Grant Program” when it is established – a grant program to museums, historic sites and environmental education center to develop an interpretive framework.
- Goal 2: Enhancing the Visitor Experience
- Participate in the proposed Lancaster-York Heritage Wayfinding Signage Program by identifying resources that should be components of the system.
  - Develop a local directory of heritage tourist resources (based on adopted authenticity guidelines): heritage attractions; shopping – artisans, specialty shops, locally-produced goods or grown crops; lodging; and eating establishments. Seek inclusion of these resources in the Lancaster-York Heritage marketing strategy and the region websites.
- Goal 3: Strengthening the Sense of Place. The activities of the third goal fit with the downtown revitalization, historic preservation, agriculture preservation, and recreation strategies.
- Understand and support the Downtown Revitalization Strategy as a component of the local heritage action plan and the Lancaster-York Heritage Action Plan recommendation for a main street circuit rider (the circuit rider could have regional responsibilities working with Dillsburg, Franklintown, and Monaghan (village area specific plan to grow the village commercial area)).
  - Understand and support the Historic Preservation Strategy as a component of the local heritage action plan.
  - Recognize the relationship of greenway and trail development (see Regional Recreation Program and Crafting a Watershed Management Plan) to heritage sites if new trails should be planned to link heritage and natural areas. Coordinate with the Lancaster-York Heritage Program to tap into existing sources of technical and financial assistance.
  - Continue to include the region’s agriculture heritage as an important component of heritage celebrations – Heritage Fair and Farmer’s Fair, Pickle Drop, Pickle Chase, Turn and Burn Barrel Classic, and area horse shows.
  - Explore the extension for the “Hallowed Grounds Project”.

- Continue to hold cultural and heritage events for the community and visitors. Seek connection of these events into the Lancaster-York regional network of experiences.
- Goal 4: Building Strong Institutions for Partnerships
  - Explore what organizations need to move the action plan forward – the logical choice is Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society.
  - Assign action plan implementation to various members of the community – individuals, institutions, government, non-government/non-profit, business.
  - Monitor progress.
  - Coordinate with or seek membership on the board or a committee of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region Organization.

## Historic Preservation Program

The historic preservation program is a vital link to the region’s heritage action plan. The region must take better care of its historic resources if it is to promote and retain aspects of its heritage. This strategy outlines the process needed to preserve and protect these resources.

### Key Components:

- Complete or update the historic survey of the region to identify all historic properties and structures. This activity may be completed as a part of putting together the complete history of the region (see goal 1 of the Local Heritage Management Action Plan). The community should partner with Historic York, Inc. and the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) to receive funding and technical support.
- Develop a Local Historic Preservation Plan to set priorities for historic preservation and funding to meet these priorities.
  - Seek assistance from Historic York, Inc. and the PHMC to develop the Plan. The Plan may be a component of the Heritage Action Plan.
  - Work with the PHMC to identify appropriate grants from the Pennsylvania History and Museum Grant Program and Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program. Grants are available to historical societies, local governments, museums, preservation organizations, conservancies, schools and school districts. Grant programs and contacts include:
    - Pennsylvania History and Museum Grant Program
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Archives and records management – Susan Hartman (787-3913)</li> <li>✓ General operating support grants for museums – Deborah Filipi (783-9923)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Historic preservation grants – Carol Lee (783-9918)</li> <li>✓ Historical marker grants – Marilyn Levin (787-8823)</li> <li>✓ Local history grants – Kenneth Wolensky (772-0921)</li> </ul>
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- ✓ Museum project grants – Deborah Filipi
  - ✓ Technical assistance grants – Carol Lee
- Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program – 50/50 match available for preservation, restoration, and/or rehabilitation of historic resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Applicants are nonprofit organizations and public agencies that own or support a publicly accessible historic property
- Determine if any area of the community would have the concentration of resources to become an historic district (e.g., Dillsburg Downtown).
- Explore the advantages and disadvantages of designation with the PHMC before determining if district designation would be publicly acceptable and a benefit to the community. Making an informed decision will require an understanding of the following elements:
  - The content of an Historic District Ordinance – review the 1997 PHMC *A Model Historic District Ordinance for Local Governments in Pennsylvania*.
    - ✓ Legal authorization and purpose
    - ✓ Definitions
    - ✓ Delineation and interpretation of districts
    - ✓ Historic architectural review board – creation, membership and duties
    - ✓ Design guidelines
    - ✓ Administration – application review
    - ✓ Unreasonable economic hardship
    - ✓ Demolition by neglect
    - ✓ Administration – enforcement, violations, amendment, severability
  - The impact on property owners.
  - Experiences of other communities.
  - The benefit of becoming a Certified Local Government through the PHMC under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This program sets aside a portion of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Fund for distribution to Certified Local Governments.
    - ✓ Work with the PHMC to understand the benefits of participation to the community. Briefly, the program requires a 60/40 match for funding to support local projects, such as historic sites/resource surveys, architectural surveys, thematic surveys, preparation of nomination forms for the National Register, signage guidelines, historic preservation plans, engineering and feasibility studies, plans for adaptive reuse, programs or activities that advance Heritage Park planning, development of brochures or educational materials, guides for walking and driving tours, preparation and installation of exhibits, video projects, staffing and consultant services, and preservation training.
  - ✓ Understand the requirements to become a certified local government:
    - Must have a designated historic district or other protection measures for historic properties.
    - Must have established a historic preservation review commission or HARB.

- Must maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties.
- Must provide for adequate public participation in local historic preservation programs, including the process of recommending properties for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Must meet responsibilities under the Act by the State Historic Preservation Officer (contact Carol Lee).