



# SS1 Preservation Myths

PA APA  
Elizabeth Rairigh / PA SHPO  
October 14 2025

SS2



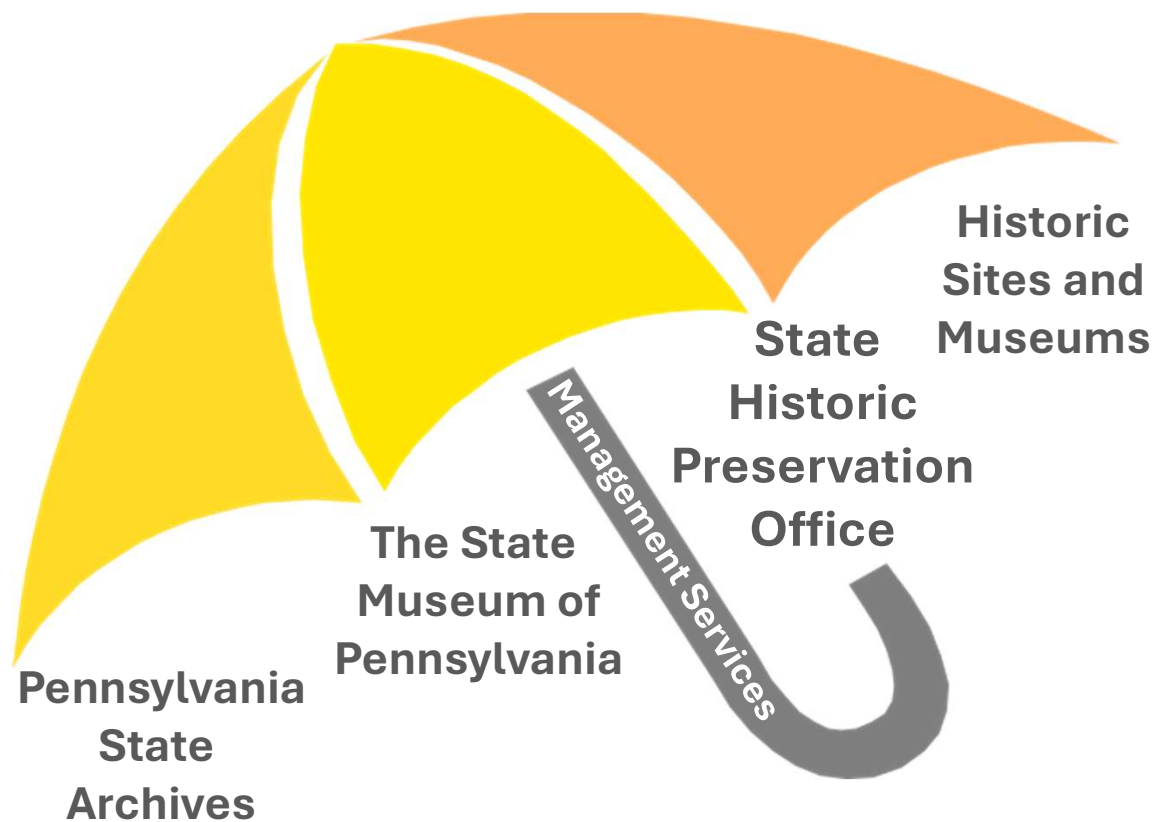
## Slide 1

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# Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission



## Slide 2

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# PA State Historic Preservation Office:

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
OFFICE (PA SHPO) IS THE  
OFFICIAL HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION AGENCY FOR  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA.

Managing federal & state historic preservation programs in PA:

- Statewide & Community Planning
- National Register of Historic Places
- Keystone Historic Preservation Grants
- Historic Tax Credits
- Certified Local Government (CLG)
- Historical Markers
- Section 106/State History Code Consultation
- Special initiatives & projects



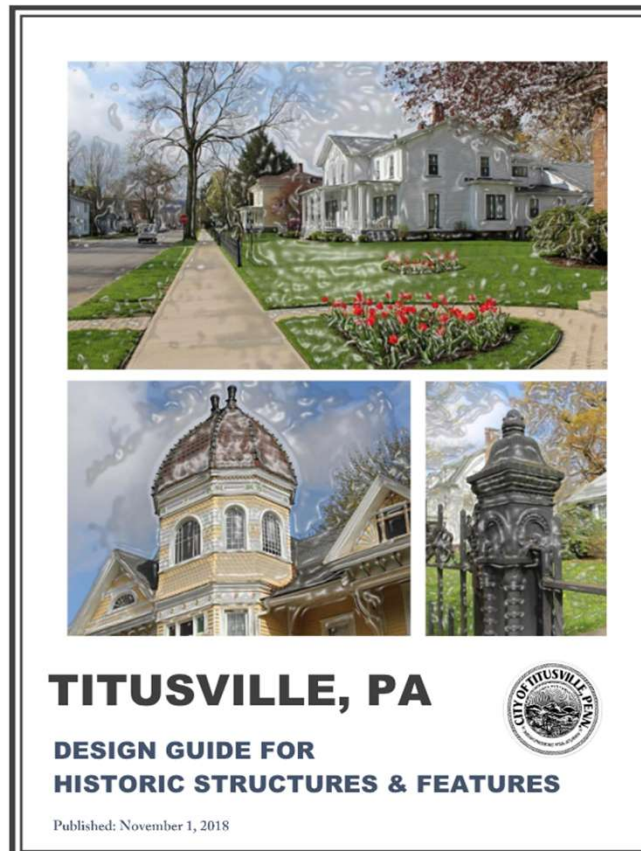
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# Historic Preservation: What

Preservation is a **management tool** - a way to promote **economic vitality** and protect **community identity** by implementing traditional design principles and managing change.



## Slide 4

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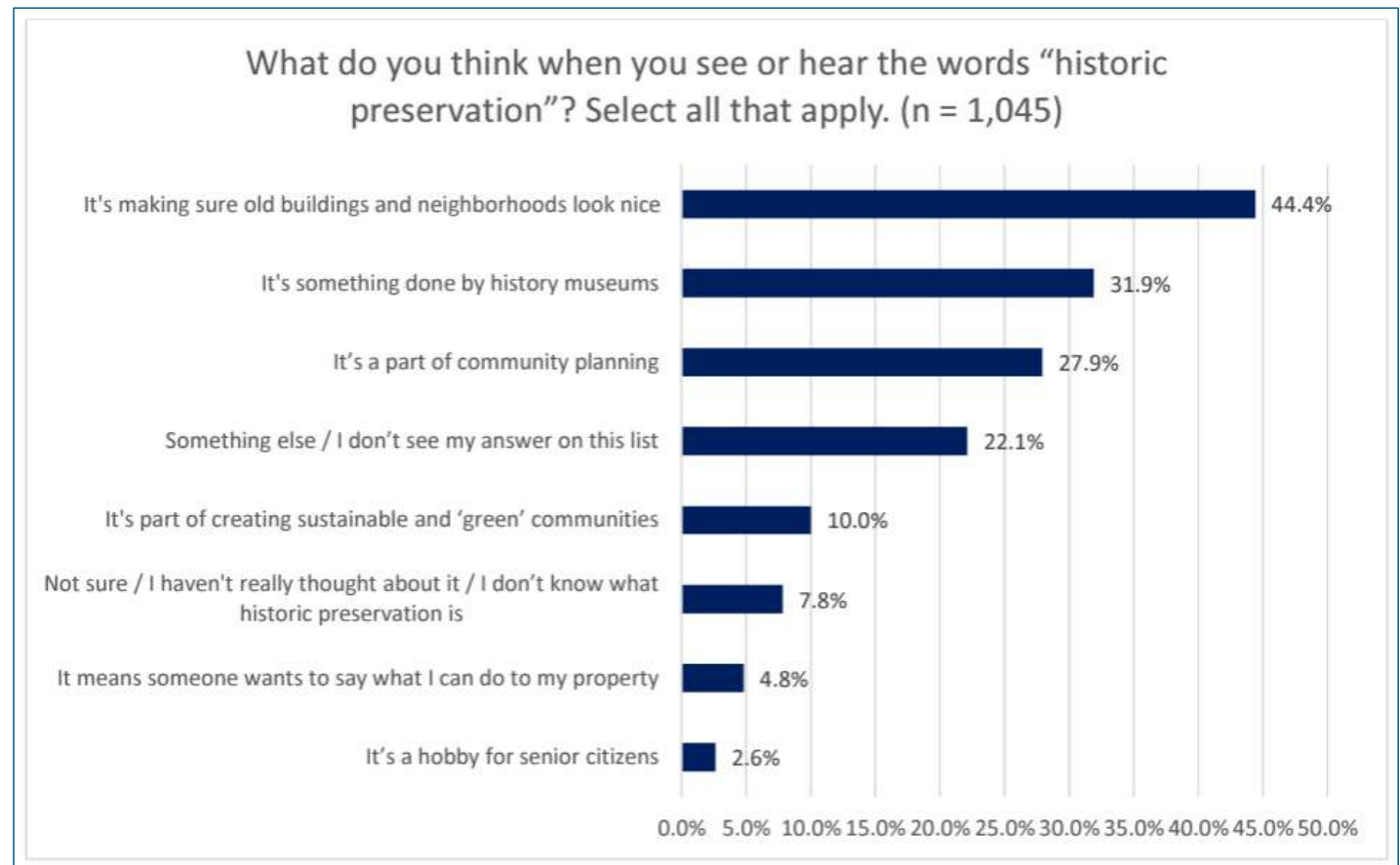


## HISTORIC PRESERVATION: THE KEYSTONE OF COMMUNITY

Pennsylvania's Statewide  
Historic Preservation Plan  
2025-2035

 Commonwealth  
of Pennsylvania

# Historic Preservation: Why



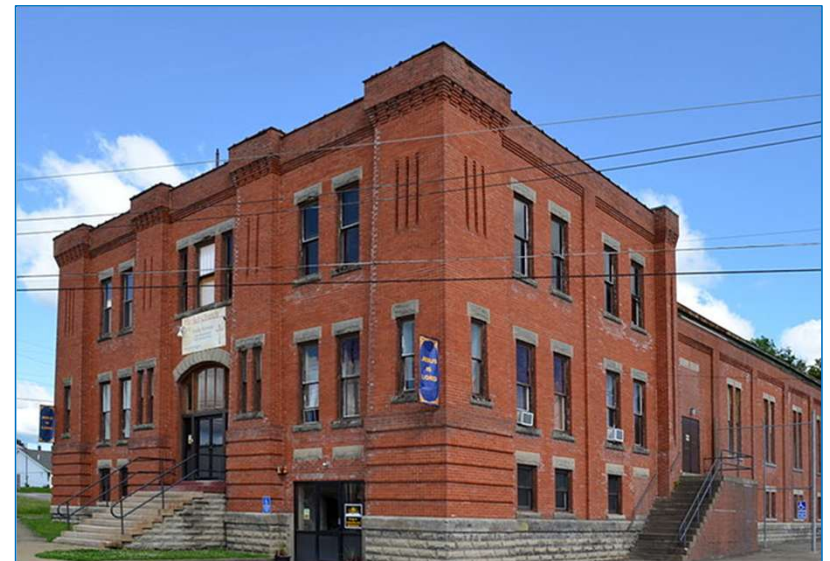
# Historic Preservation: Why

## Economic Development

- *Restore tax base*
- *Create local jobs*
- *Stimulate local investment*
- *Promote sustainable growth*

## Community Development

- *Tangible link to a community's memory and history*
- *Enhance community spirit and participation*
- *Acknowledge a sense of place*



Corry Amory

*The upside [of historic preservation] is so much better than any downside, and I don't think people realize that.*

Chad Wheatley, Millcraft Investments  
*Historic Preservation: Part of the DNA of Pittsburgh*  
PlaceEconomics

**Slide 7**

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# Historic Preservation: How



**Slide 8**

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# Historic Preservation: CLG



Allentown	Lehigh
Ambridge	Beaver
Bath	Northampton
Bellefonte	Centre
Bethlehem	Northampton/Lehigh
Birmingham	Chester
Bloomsburg	Columbia
Bradford	McKean
Bristol	Bucks
Buckingham Township	Bucks
Carlisle	Cumberland
Chadds Ford	Delaware
Chalfont	Bucks
Cheltenham	Montgomery
Columbia	Lancaster
East Bradford	Chester
East Marlborough	Chester
East Pikeland	Chester
Easton	Northampton
Erie	Erie
Gettysburg	Adams
Harrisburg	Dauphin
Haverford	Delaware
Hollidaysburg	Blair
Kennett Square	Chester

Lancaster City	Lancaster
Lancaster Township	Lancaster
Lower Makefield Township	Bucks
Lower Merion Township	Montgomery
Mercersburg	Franklin
Milford	Pike
Moon Township	Allegheny
Newtown	Bucks
Norristown	Montgomery
North Wales Borough	Montgomery
Oley Township	Berks
Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Pottstown	Montgomery
Reading	Berks
Ridley Park Borough	Delaware
Sewickley	Allegheny
Sewickley Heights	Allegheny
South Coventry Township	Chester
Strasburg Borough	Lancaster
Tredyffrin Township	Chester
Upper Makefield Township	Bucks
West Chester	Chester
Williamsport	Lycoming
York	York

## Slide 9

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**SS1**

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**SS3**

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SS3

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# Historic Preservation: How

National Register of Historic Places in a nutshell:

- At least 50 years old
- Must be *significant*, and fit into architectural and/or historic criteria
- High degree of physical integrity
- ***Does not impose restrictions on private property***



Highland Park National Register Historic District  
Pittsburgh



Warner Theater  
Erie



Union City  
Historic District



## Slide 10

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**SS1**

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**SS3**

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TIP:

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# Historic Preservation: How

National Register designation does not protect privately-owned historic properties.

National Register designation does not trigger federal/state reviews.

National Register designation does not trigger local design review.

Isn't always the best definition of historic, depending on a community's needs.



## Slide 11

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# Historic Preservation: Local

## Local Designation & Protection

*Historic District Act (Act 167)* - Allows municipalities to manage change in certified districts.

*Municipalities Planning Code* - Municipalities may zone specifically for historic properties:



Sewickley Historic District  
Locally administered through Historic District Act Ordinance



Allegheny Commons Park  
National Register-listed *and* City Landmark



Water Street Historic District, Lock Haven Clinton County  
Zoning overlay historic district

## Slide 12

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**SS1**

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**SS3**

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Thank you from the

**PASHPO**

 **Phone:** 717-783-8946

 **Web:** [pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html](http://pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation.html)

 **Blog:** [pahistoricpreservation.com](http://pahistoricpreservation.com)

 **Facebook:** PATrailsofHistory

 **X:** @PHMC

 **Instagram:** @patrailsofhistory

 **Youtube:** PaTrailsofHistory

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## Slide 13

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