



## **PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

*for greater philadelphia*

*EDITORS: Full project descriptions and high-resolution images are available upon request.*

For Immediate Release

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### **2009 Preservation Achievement Awards Honor a Wide Range of Accomplishment Regionwide**

(March 2, 2009) – A historic African American church, a prisoners’ synagogue, a Victorian industrial village in New Jersey, a publication for owners of Philadelphia rowhouses and the Chinatown Friendship Gate are among the diverse winners of the 2009 Preservation Achievement Awards, made annually by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

The Alliance will present its Grand Jury Awards to 20 projects in the region and its Special Recognition Awards to individuals and organizations at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Preservation Achievement Awards luncheon on Monday, May 11 at the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue.

“Selecting this year’s winners was a particular challenge because of the large number and high quality of nominations for recent historic preservation work completed in 2008,” said Alliance Executive Director John Andrew Gallery. “The 2009 awardees exemplify the depth, breadth and range of historic preservation activity throughout the region. The winners, from large multi-million-dollar restorations to small residential projects and even a publication, all demonstrate excellence in the field.”

In addition to the Grand Jury Awards, the Alliance also gives Special Recognition Awards to honor individuals and organizations whose extraordinary accomplishments in preservation contribute to the region’s unique character and sense of place.

The 2009 Special Recognition Award winners are:

- Hyman Myers, FAIA of VITETTA, recipient of the James Biddle Award, recognizing lifetime achievement in historic preservation. Myers’ long career as a preservation architect includes restoration of the much-loved Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.
- Nancy Kolb, president and CEO of the Please Touch Museum, recipient of the Public Service Award in recognition of her indefatigable determination in the restoration and reuse of Memorial Hall as the new home of the museum.

(MORE)

## Preservation Awards/222

- Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Inc., recipient of the Board of Directors Award, for its exceptional stewardship of the National Historic Landmark prison.
- George Hoessel, a longtime and dedicated Alliance volunteer, recipient of the Rhoda and Permar Richards Award for service to the Preservation Alliance.
- The Historical Society of Frankford's Center for Northeast Philadelphia History, Historic Germantown and the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, recipients of Community Action Awards for achievement by community organizations.

The 2009 Grand Jury Awards, determined by a panel of historic preservation experts, are:

- 832 Lombard St., Philadelphia (Masada Custom Builders) for the restoration and adaptive reuse of an abandoned Philadelphia church into a private residence.
- Arcadia University, Glenside, PA, for the restoration of an architecturally distinctive tower and roof.
- Bryn Mawr Film Institute for the rehabilitation and restoration of a 1926 movie theater and a return to its original use.
- Chinatown Friendship Gate, Philadelphia (City of Philadelphia Department of Public Property) for restoration using traditional techniques.
- Crane Stable, Philadelphia (Crane Arts LLC) for restoration and adaptive reuse of a long-vacant 1905 stable.
- Eastern State Penitentiary Synagogue, Philadelphia (Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Inc.) for conservation of a small synagogue used by Jewish inmates from the early decades of the 20th century until the prison's closing in 1971.
- Hargroves House, Philadelphia (Greene Street Friends School) for restoration of an 1833 frame house, now used for school offices.
- Hatboro Lofts, Hatboro, PA (Plumridge LP) for restoration and adaptive reuse of unused 1920s factory buildings into residential.
- Historic Smithville, Mt. Holly, NJ (Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders) for ongoing preservation of an intact Victorian-era industrial village.
- Hoffman Studio, Wayne, PA (David Hoffman) for rehabilitation of a 1905 electrical substation into a "green" live/work space.

(MORE)

## Preservation Awards/333

- The Lippincott, Wilmington, DE (Market-Preservation Associates LLC) for rehabilitation of a rundown, 19<sup>th</sup>-century block in the downtown.
- Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia for restoration and rehabilitation of the National Historic Landmark church, one of the most significant in African American history.
- Nemours Mansion and Gardens, Wilmington, DE (The Nemours Foundation) for the extensive restoration of the 1910 Alfred I. DuPont estate.
- The Newport, Philadelphia (Spruce 1520 LLC) for the restoration and renovation of the 1897 apartment building, one of Philadelphia's earliest high-rises.
- Philadelphia City Hall (City of Philadelphia Department of Public Property) for the restoration of the massive masonry exterior.
- Philadelphia Museum of Art for restoration of the exterior walls and its vibrant ornamentation.
- Philadelphia Rowhouse Manual (Philadelphia City Planning Commission) a 48-page publication on how owners can adapt their rowhouse for modern living without compromising basic form and architecture.
- Please Touch Museum Memorial Hall, Philadelphia for restoration of the National Historic Landmark and its adaptive reuse as the new home of the children's museum.
- Spreter Studio, Gladwyne (Michael and Karen Sprewak) for restoration of a small International Style structure and construction of a sympathetic new addition.
- Van Amringe Building, Delaware City, DE (The City of Delaware City, DE) for stabilization and exterior restoration of a decrepit 1830 building.

Information about the luncheon, including sponsorship opportunities and online ticket sales, are available at [www.PreservationAlliance.com](http://www.PreservationAlliance.com).

*The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia actively promotes the appreciation, protection, and revitalization of the Philadelphia region's historic buildings, communities, and landscapes. A 501c3 non-profit membership organization, the Alliance leads in setting the agenda for preservation issues of regional importance and advocates strong public preservation policies. For more information on the Alliance:*

*[www.preservationalliance.com](http://www.preservationalliance.com)*

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