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America250 Category for programs/projects/events related to America250 in 2025-2027.

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www.america250padelco.org/get-involved



SAVE THE DATE

Nominations for 2026 Awards open in November
2025



Forty-seventh ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

Sunday

May 4th, 2025

Presented by
Delaware County Council
and the
Heritage Commission of Delaware County



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Heritage Commission of Delaware County

What We Do

- The Delaware County Heritage is made up of 11 historically minded residents who are appointed by Delaware County Council to make recommendations to the Council on preservation issues in the County.
- Have a seminar annually on some aspect of historic preservation, we present awards to groups and individuals for their preservation efforts each May at a Council meeting.
- Oversee and make recommendations on County owned historic properties.
- Make recommendations to County Council on applications from historic sites for Community Development Block Grants.
- Act as a liaison between County Council and historic organizations in the County.

Information on seminars and awards are available at:

Delcopa.gov/Heritage

To get in touch with a member of the Heritage Commission,
contact the Planning Department at:

610-891-5200 or

DelawareCountyHeritage@co.delaware.pa.us

The Heritage Commission is a volunteer body appointed by County Council with a mission to encourage historical and cultural awareness and preservation within the County. It has been recognizing worthy preservation projects and individuals throughout Delaware County for over forty-seven years.

A. RICHARD PAUL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Clarissa Dillon

Clarissa F. Dillon has educated residents of Delaware County for more than 50 years through her living history demonstrations and classes, talks, newsletters, books, and webseries. While she celebrated her 91st birthday last summer in a special party at the Massey House, she looks forward to continuing her work of interpreting and exploring 18th century foodways and domestic life at the Massey House and other locations.

For the last 22 years, Clarissa has used the Thomas Massey House in Broomall as a base for some of her activities. She has conducted 18th century cooking classes in the house's kitchen and maintains (almost entirely by herself) the house's kitchen garden on a volunteer basis. Clarissa has also given cooking lessons and presentations at sites across the county and the wider Philadelphia area, including the Thompson-Neely House in Washington Crossing, Rockingham in Rocky Hill, NJ, Cedar Grove in Fairmount Park, Historic Rittenhouse Town in Philadelphia, Waynesborough in Paoli, and the William Trent House in Trenton.

Clarissa is not only well versed in colonial foodways from personal experience: she's studied the era in academic settings. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a Ph.D. in History in 1986 and has taught college classes at that institution. Her dissertation is still cited by archaeologists in the Mid-Atlantic as an important scholarly work for identifying foodway remnants. In addition to articles and newsletters, Clarissa has authored or co-authored several books, most notably the cookbook, *So Serve It Up: Eighteenth-Century English Foodways in Eastern Pennsylvania*, and *A. Cook's Perspective: A Fascinating Insight into 18th-century Recipes by Two Historic Cooks*. She has regularly presented at conferences for the Association for Living History, Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) and the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS). Clarissa was also a founding member of the no-longer-active Past Masters in Early American Domestic Arts group. From 2020-2022, Clarissa partnered with Pam Sedor of Radnor Memorial Library to produce 28 episodes of a short web series called "One Cool Colonial." inwinsr.wordpress.com/category/one-cool-colonial



47th ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Heritage Commission has been presenting these awards with County Council since 1978 to highlight National Preservation Month in May.

The Commission selects the award recipients from nominations submitted by residents and organizations throughout the County. They are selected for outstanding contributions to the preservation of our County's heritage in the following categories: Site Preservation, Publications, Special Programs/Projects, Individual or Group Achievement, Historic Preservation Planning, Youth, Leedom B. Morrison Heritage Award, Legacy Business, Veterans' Legacy, Indigenous Heritage, and Lifetime Achievement.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY AWARD

300th Anniversary of 1724 Chester Courthouse

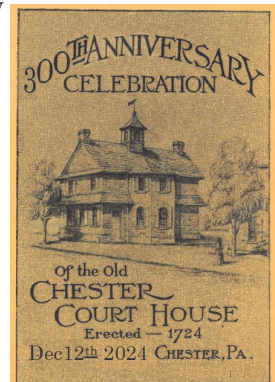
The 1724 Chester Courthouse is one of the oldest public buildings in continuous use in the United States. It was built in 1724 as the 5th courthouse for Chester County which at that time included modern day Chester, Delaware and Lancaster Counties. It served as a meeting place for the courts of Chester County and for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, when it was on circuit, until 1786 when West Chester became the County Seat of Chester County.

When Delaware County was created out of Chester County in 1789, Chester again became a county seat, and this building was the court house for Delaware County until 1850 when Media became the county seat and a new court house was built there. From 1851 until 1917, when this building served as the hall for the borough and then the city of Chester, it was altered substantially. In 1917 the City of Chester began to restore the building for the use of the Delaware County Historical Society and a Daughters of the American Revolution chapter.

By 1969, it needed extensive work and was restored to its 1800 appearance, which is when the bay was added on the north wall. At this time, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took over its operation to be administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It is now leased by Delaware County and is currently undergoing renovations by the State and the County in anticipation of the America250 celebration in 2026.

On December 12, 2024, in addition to a Lafayette Trail Marker dedication, a brief celebration of the 300th anniversary was held in the Courthouse with commendations from Governor Shapiro, Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, Delaware County Council, and Chester City.

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya-YljUjjD8



SITE PRESERVATION

Nominations can include exterior and interior restoration, preservation, or rehabilitation of an historical structure and/or landscape in a manner that preserves the building or site's historical, cultural, and/or architectural significance. Projects are divided into the following sub-categories:

Adaptive Reuse

This includes preservation efforts that have adapted a structure designed for one use into an appropriate alternative use, thus reinventing the use of a space while preserving the architectural integrity.

Restoration

This recognizes efforts to accurately depict the form, features, and character of a property or object as it appeared at a particular period of time.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications may include books, articles, magazines, videos, calendars, websites, etc. that present the heritage of Delaware County.

SPECIAL PROGRAM/PROJECT

Examples may be in education, research, archival activities, or any other creative process used to preserve Delaware County's heritage. These submissions can be ongoing or on a one-time basis.

VETERANS' LEGACY

Rockdale Memorial Day Parade Est. 1881

Rockdale Memorial Day Parade Board

The Rockdale Memorial Day Parade was established to pay tribute to those who have served and sacrificed from the Civil War to the present day. Celebrating its 142nd year, early newspapers report that the parade began in 1881 as a Decoration Day procession through the streets of Rockdale to Calvary Episcopal Cemetery.

Historically, on Memorial Day, citizens, post members, drum corps, and bands proceed to Calvary Episcopal Church Cemetery (now Resurrection Episcopal) and decorate the graves of Civil War casualties and other veterans buried there.

The members have completed monument restoration in Aston with some more on the books, including Norwood and Middletown. They are actively involved at Calvary Cemetery, identifying cleaning and restoring approximately 74 Civil War veteran graves.

This project will continue into neighboring cemeteries, including Chester Rural Cemetery, and further as it grows.

www.rockdaleparade.com



SITE PRESERVATION

Adaptive Reuse

St. Joseph Place Collingdale Borough

**Catholic Housing and Community Services, KMA, Domus,
T and M Associates, Powers Associates, Raymond James,
TD Bank, County of Delaware, Connelly Foundation,
FHLB of Pittsburgh**

The Saint Joseph Place development involved substantial rehabilitation of the 1916/1928 St. Joseph Parish School and its 1959 annex building, as well as the construction of a new connecting addition with elevators to unify the buildings. The buildings are on the National Historical Register (the only one in Collingdale).

The original building, built in 1916, had the church on the first floor and classrooms on the second floor. It was enlarged in 1928 to accommodate the growing population in Collingdale and part of Darby Township. In 1956, the current church was built on the parish grounds and the church area in the school was made into classrooms. In 1959, the annex was built, adding eight classrooms and a ground floor cafeteria.

The school closed in 2010. The 19.8-million-dollar project started in August of 2021 and was developed by the Catholic Housing and Community Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The conjoined 1916/1928 building was connected to the 1959 annex during this project with the construction of a connecting structure in a previous breezeway between the buildings. This structure houses two elevators, the main entrance with secure admission, a lobby seating area, and offices for the administration staff.

The unified structure consists of 50 one-bedroom apartments for income eligible seniors aged 62 and older. It was completed in June of 2023.



SITE PRESERVATION

Restoration

Newlin Grist Mill Water System and Spillway Reconstruction - Concord Township

Tony Shahan and Newlin Grist Mill Staff

The Newlin Grist Mill is a public park and historic site that spans 160 acres in Concord Township. It features a working grist mill, several historic buildings, and eight miles of public nature trails alongside Concord and Chester Creeks. The Mill was constructed in 1704 by Nathaniel Newlin and operated until 1941. Throughout its history, it was owned by the Newlin, Trimble, Sharpless, and Hill families. It served as a vital industrial and commercial asset for the surrounding agrarian community by grinding locally grown grains. Today, the Mill is maintained by the Nicholas Newlin Foundation, which was established after E. Mortimer and Elizabeth Newlin purchased the mill in 1965 and founded the organization in 1960.

In 2024, water again flowed down the millrace, bringing Newlin Grist Mill to life for the first time since the millrace was dewatered in 2019 due to siltation from Route 322 roadwork. This milestone marked the culmination of ten years of study and restoration. Efforts aimed at keeping this complex machine operational. The work included an engineering assessment of the 210-foot-long tailrace tunnel, repairs to the main dam following a breach in the center section due to flooding, and detailed mapping of the millrace. Recent achievements included silt remediation throughout the water system and the restoration of the spillway gate.

The Newlin Grist Mill Water System and Spillway Reconstruction project is significant for reconstructing the lifeline that powers the National Register-listed 18th-century grist mill. The reconstructed spillway gate, in conjunction with the millrace silt removal, allows the water system to flow



correctly and efficiently after a lengthy research and reconstruction period. The working system creates a unique experiential learning opportunity for the public to learn about water-powered mills and conveys the history of the mechanics behind the Newlin Grist Mill.

VETERANS' LEGACY

Concord's U.S. Colored Troops Heroes: A Black History Month Presentation

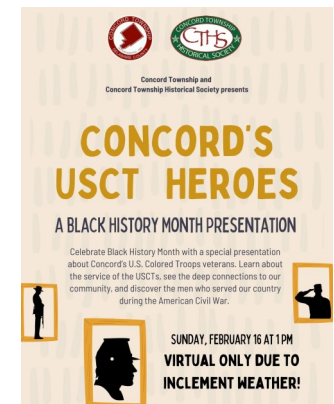
Pam Cawood Rizzo

Pam Cawood Rizzo, board member of the Concord Township Historical Society and an independent researcher, researched and compiled information regarding twelve United States Colored Troops veterans who lived in Concord Township for a free public lecture held via Zoom on February 16th, 2025. Mrs. Rizzo collected information about the veteran's service records, post-Civil War jobs, residential records, and family records from various primary sources, including federal census records, Civil War casualty sheets, U.S. Colored Troops descriptive lists, volunteer enlistment lists, and Delaware County titles and deeds. Mrs. Rizzo's work represents the first compilation of Concord Township USCT veterans and their related information and is now held in the Concord Township Historical Society archives. Mrs. Rizzo's public lecture was held to share and celebrate the legacy of these men with Concord Township, connect the veteran's legacy to Spring Valley and Thornbury A.M.E. churches, and highlight the existing structures in which these veterans lived- one of which is at risk for demolition.

Her research and free Zoom presentation underscored these men's sacrifice and connection to Concord Township, contributing to a greater public understanding of Black veterans in Delaware County.

The presentation is available on the CTHS website:

concordhist.org/concords-heroes-the-u-s-colored-troops-veterans-of-concord-township



PUBLICATION

A Day Spent Around Concord

Emma Leuschner

“A Day Spent Around Concord” is a photography tour by Dr. Joshua Eyre Hannum, created in 1924. It consists of 56 photographs of locations throughout Concord, Chester Heights, and Aston Townships and four slides of handwritten text detailing Hannum’s day spent traveling around his hometown with his family.

During calendar year 2023-2024 Emma Durband Luschnier (Board member of Concord Township Historical Society) traveled to the same locations and using the 1924 album as reference, took the same photos Dr. Hannum would have taken to compare the site to today. The link to the publication is located on the Concord Township Historical Society website. This project took many hours of study and field work in order to offer a beautiful comparison of the same locations 100 years apart.

The photo tour can be found both at the concordhist.org website and at www.adayspentaroundconcord.com/.

VETERANS’ LEGACY

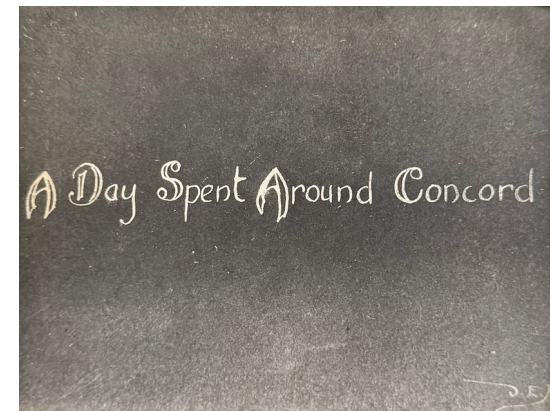
The Veterans award recognizes an individual or group whose efforts are to memorialize veteran’s history, sites, cemeteries, monuments, or objects.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

This recognizes a building or organization celebrating a substantial anniversary. It is only nominated by Heritage Commission members.

A. RICHARD PAUL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Named after longtime Heritage Commission chair and historian, this recognizes an individual that has spent many years contributing their time to the heritage of Delaware County. It is only nominated by Heritage Commission members.



PUBLICATION

Philadelphia: A Narrative History

Paul Kahan

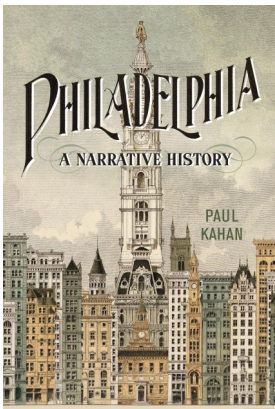
Historian Dr. Paul Kahan researched and authored a comprehensive historical narrative of Philadelphia spanning from pre-history through the 21st century. "Philadelphia: A Narrative History" was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2024. While Dr. Kahan's book concerns the history of Philadelphia, his first chapter, "Chapter 1: Philadelphia Before 1681" covers the history of the Delaware Valley region including present-day Delaware County that provides the foundation for the rest of his book.

"Philadelphia: A Narrative History" is the culmination of seven years of research and writing that contributes a comprehensive take on Philadelphia's history and perhaps its future, too. Philadelphia's origins are directly tied to the history of Delaware County, and Dr. Kahan covers this in the first chapter of his book. Philadelphia's origin is staunchly rooted in the early settlements – both Native American and European – along the Delaware River and in what is present-day Delaware County. This book should be recognized for its published contributions to our understanding of early settlements in Delaware County and the Delaware Valley region.

It is important to note that copies of "Philadelphia: A Narrative History" are available for free through the Delaware County Library system.

Dr. Kahan also offered several free library talks in Delaware County public libraries to promote his book. During November and December 2024, Dr. Kahan hosted public presentations at the Springfield Township

Public Library (November 4), Radnor Memorial Public Library (November 6), Tincum Memorial Public Library (November 9), Aston Public Library (November 12), and Ridley Park Borough Public Library (December 5). A recording of his talk at Phoenixville Library is at <https://youtu.be/gxbTP2qKcAo>



LEEDOM B. MORRISON HERITAGE AWARD

Lafayette in Chester

To celebrate General Lafayette's return to Chester during his bicentennial tour, Delaware County hosted two events at the 1724 Chester Courthouse and the Avenue of the States.

On October 5, 2024, the Delaware County Planning Department, in partnership with other County departments, the City of Chester, American Friends of Lafayette, America250PA Delco, and historical organizations, held an event to commemorate Lafayette's return to Chester. He was greeted by visitors holding large 'candles', like they did in 1824, and several speeches were held in the Courthouse in his honor. Historical groups and vendors were along the street for the visitors to learn more about them or to purchase Lafayette-related memorabilia. County Councilmember Richard Womack, Chester City Mayor Stefan Roots, and other special guests were in attendance.

On December 12, 2024, a Lafayette Trail Marker Dedication was held at the park on the Avenue of the States prior to the 300th Anniversary of the Courthouse celebration (separate nomination).

Both events attracted elected officials, students, families, and local historians and raised awareness of General Lafayette and his contributions to Chester City, Delaware County, and the nation.

www.delcopa.gov/planning/currentprojects/LafayetteDay.html

Marker dedication photos and video:

www.facebook.com/share/p/1DsYpMWyaY/

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya-YljUjjD8



LEEDOM B. MORRISON HERITAGE AWARD

Chester Black History Tour

Twyla Simpkins (YES Center); Adina Shane (Swarthmore College); Christopher Mele (University at Buffalo)

The YES Center, along with assistance from Swarthmore College, developed the Chester Black History Tour website, available at chesterdigital.domains.swarthmore.edu/thetour/.

The Tour website can be used for both guided and self-guided tours of Chester's black history, providing background and historical information and relevant photographs and links to additional information to users. The site includes a map and the sequence of sites to visit reflect easy navigation route from start to finish.

The site continues to be developed, including adding additional sites relevant to Chester's black history and a recorded voice-over of a short narrative for each site by Ms. Twyla Simpkins.



SPECIAL PROGRAM/PROJECT

Rescue and Restore 18th Century Pennell Mantels

**Susan Mescanti, Middletown Township Historical Society,
Kevin McLaughlin**

The Joseph Pennell House was located on the south side of Baltimore Pike at the present site of the Franklin Station development. The Pennell House had been in the same family for generations. When it became inevitable that the Pennell House was going to be demolished, Middletown Township Historical Society President Susan Mescanti contacted the construction company, McKee Group, requesting a tour of the house and the opportunity to salvage anything that would preserve the history of the 1785/1798 house.

The house had been boarded up for several years and the interior had deteriorated. In March 2019 MTHS board members met at the Pennell House with Kevin McLaughlin of the McKee Group. Remaining in the house were two full sized 18th century mantels and one 18th century corner shelf mantel. At the historical society's request, Kevin McLaughlin arranged to have the mantels removed and delivered to the historical society museum at Roosevelt Community Center. Remarkably, the mantels were removed intact with no damage.

The original square cut nails and wooden anchor pieces were saved. The paint history of the pieces was saved on the corner mantel showing three periods of paint history; different periods were chosen for each mantel. The mantels are on display at the Middletown Township Historical Society Museum at Roosevelt Community Center where special walls had been built to mount the mantels.



SPECIAL PROGRAM/PROJECT

Viscose Memorial Sign

Prologis & Marcus Hook Borough

As part of the review process for the redevelopment of the former FMC/Viscose site, Borough Council asked the developer to come up with a plan to salvage the two sign markings on the middle of the three buildings that fronted on 10th Street. The developer, Duke Realty, now Prologis, agreed to salvage these unique identifying elements of the building to commemorate the previous use of the site. A plan was prepared that repurposed the two signs as part of a V-shaped memorial that would be located within the Robert E. Raebel Plaza (a Marcus Hook Borough park).

The two signs were delicately extracted from the front of the building during the demolition process. One sign was the panel above the door with the "V" and medallion, and the other the "VISCLOSE" panel at the base of the 3rd floor.

It was determined that the commemoration of the American Viscose Company should stand alone and placed at a location that is accessible and easily viewed. The location in the park and adjacent to 10th Street was deemed preferable due to the direct connection to the former industrial site and Viscose Village. Viscose Village was constructed in 1912-15 to house the workers at the first artificial fiber manufacturing facility in North America, the American Viscose Company Artificial Silk (Rayon) Mill. The Viscose memorial can be seen by motorists driving west into town and is also the entrance into Viscose Village. The medallion panel faces west. The existing historical sign in the park was relocated to the front of the new memorial pulling everything together by providing the history of the "Factory and the Village."



YOUTH

Diversity Lending Library

Virginia Hayes

Virginia Hayes, a Garnet Valley High School student and a Girl Scout in Troop #5952, completed a Girl Scout Gold Award project that involved creating a Diversity Lending Library in front of the Spring Valley A.M.E. Church. A lending library is a small cupboard in a public space dedicated to housing free books. The idea is for people in the community to take books to read and return them to the cupboard when they are done. Ms. Hayes began the project in November 2023 and finished it in November 2024, dedicating 101 work hours. She received guidance from Concord Township Co-Vice President John Gillespie, Heaven Dada, Dage Newkirk, Keith Layman, and Lily Mellinger from Garnet Valley High School.

The Diversity Lending Library project aimed to highlight Black history and stories at the newly restored Spring Valley A.M.E. Church. Since Concord Township primarily consists of Caucasian residents, Ms. Hayes recognized an opportunity to share diverse narratives about Black history and culture at this historic Black church, now used as a museum and community space. She aimed to feature Black authors and books to educate the public about a community that once comprised 20% of Concord Township's population in the early 20th century, but now only represents 7% of Concord's population.



PRESERVATION PLANNING

Upper Chichester Township Historic Sites Survey

**Upper Chichester Township, Chichester Historic Society,
Delaware County Planning Department,
Seidel Planning & Design**

Upper Chichester Township adopted an updated Historic Sites Survey on December 12, 2024, prepared by a task force comprised of representatives from Upper Chichester Township, Chichester Historic Society, Delaware County Planning Department, and the land planners and landscape architects at Seidel Planning & Design. The purpose of the survey was to inventory historic resources in the Township to support preservation planning efforts, to effectively preserve the Township's historical resources, and to guide future land use recommendations as the community grows and evolves.

The project was funded by Upper Chichester Township with additional support through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's (PHMC) Keystone Historic Preservation (KHP) Grant Program.

The final report was adopted by the Upper Chichester Township Board of Commissioners in December 2024 by Resolution 2024-53. A digital copy of the Upper Chichester Township Historic Sites Survey is available on the Township's website for public viewing at: ecode360.com/UP1263/document/753122046.pdf



SPECIAL PROGRAM/PROJECT

80th Anniversary Building Mural Project

Media Fellowship House, Stephanie Untz, Emmanuel Fitzpatrick, George Rothacker, and Community Volunteers

Media Fellowship House was founded in 1944, a time when racial segregation and injustice were deeply ingrained in society. Its origins trace back to a restaurant on State Street in Media, where a Black woman, her sister, and her infant daughter were denied service. Nearby, a white woman and her friend were paying their bill, and what could have been dismissed as an unfortunate but common injustice instead became a catalyst for change. Driven by her Quaker values and a commitment to equity, the white woman, Dorothy James, approached the Black woman, Marie Whitaker. That conversation sparked a lifelong friendship and the foundation of MFH.

To commemorate our 80th anniversary and reinforce our enduring mission, MFH launched a mural project designed to serve as both a historical landmark and a community engagement initiative. Led by two accomplished local artists, the project invited community members of all ages to participate in the creative process. Historical photographs from our archives—many dating back to our earliest years—were carefully selected and integrated into the mural's design, ensuring an authentic representation of our history and impact.



GROUP ACHIEVEMENT

Ridley Park Historical Society

Ridley Park Historical Society was established in 2000, and Ellie Hays, the current president, has been involved with it from the beginning. She took on the role of artifact keeper, planner, treasurer and was eventually inspired by a local teacher to get the Historic Society up and running again post COVID. With the resurrection of the group "up and running" again, she met Trish Holtzinger (current Vice President and Social Media director), who immediately went to work on the previously defunct social media page sharing rich history, photos of families who previously resided in Ridley Park as well as Ridley Park branded items. Within a few short months and under her leadership, the page had grown to over 900 followers and surpassed 700 likes for the page. Community engagement is at an all-time high.

With this new avenue of collaboration, the Ridley Park Historical Society has been able to advertise events, programs, and host two successful Ridley Park Historical Society exhibits at the town's Victorian Fair.

The Ridley Park Historical Society has never had a physical location, and conversations have been captured through meeting minutes dating back to the 1980s about the need to preserve Ridley Park items centrally as opposed to Board Member basements. During the 2024 4th of July celebrations, the Ridley Park Historical Society held its grand opening at Borough Hall.

Together, the board have spent countless hours and personal funds to maintain the history of Ridley Park. The value adds of their efforts and the efforts of the Historical Society as a whole, to continuously share history specific to Ridley Park and its residents, is priceless to Delaware County History.

www.facebook.com/rphistorical



GROUP ACHIEVEMENT

Group Achievement recognizes a group who has formed for the purpose of history or preservation, such as a 'Friends of' group or Historical Society, and their general contributions to Delaware County, not just for a specific project.

PRESERVATION PLANNING

This category recognizes efforts in planning to preserve Delaware County's heritage, including preserving buildings, complexes, archaeological sites, and community character. Examples include surveys, ordinances, creating historical commissions, design guidelines, National Register nominations, and municipal stewardship.

YOUTH

The Youth Award recognizes a youth who has made outstanding efforts to preserve Delaware County's heritage through various projects undertaken, in school or outside, or through volunteering efforts.

THE LEEDOM B. MORRISON HERITAGE AWARD

This Award recognizes preservation projects in the City of Chester that involve restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of an historical structure or any other type of project that preserves the heritage of Chester City.