

scape of the property continued this past year with the removal of an invasive vine next to the Doctor's Office and reseeding of areas where trees and shrubs were removed. A new flower garden was created in front of the summer kitchen in an area bounded by 19th century stone edging. The forsythia bushes were significantly pruned and shaped.

Intersection improvements for Long Lane and Route 222 triggered a Section 106 review that included the main Hottenstein Farm houses on 222. As a result I have worked closely with Russ Stevenson from A. D. Marble and Company in Conshohocken. He and I met and shared a lot of data. Russ will be completing survey cards for several properties and he will seek designation of a Hottenstein Family Historic District. This work is being completed now and it will provide the documentation needed to initiate an application for National Historic Landmark status for the mansion.

Gordon Gruber passed away this winter. He and his wife own the farm next to the Hottenstein mansion. My wife and daughter called on Mrs. Gruber and learned that she will likely sell the farm sometime in the future. The fate of this property will dramatically affect the mansion. I intend to work with the Hottenstein family and some contacts in the old order Mennonite community to see if it will be possible to keep this

farm in agriculture and preserve the historic buildings.

Proposed 2011 Work

The top half of the primary façade of the Doctor's Office is decayed beyond repair. The false front was made by extending siding above the gable roof line and backing the siding with plywood. Primitive flashing was installed between the plywood and the slate roof. To cover the joints where the plywood and siding join on the sides and top of the parapet a two inch piece of wood molding was installed. That molding has largely rotted away. A contractor has been selected to rebuild the false front and he expects to get to the job later this spring.

Our strategy for the rebuild is to take down the false front, rebuild it with matching siding; use copper as flashing that will go up the back of the parapet and possibly over the top of the moldings on the top to protect them from the weather. A rotted out four light window that lights the attic will be replaced with a similar window glazed in wavy glass. The door bottom is squirrel chewed. The door will be repaired and made to fit the opening, new door trim installed and new front corner boards will be milled with the correct corner bead detail as evidenced on the rear corner boards. Once the carpentry work is

completed the façade of the Doctor's office shall be primed and painted and the steps rebuilt.

The replaced period sash will need to be pulled from the frames, restored by scraping, sanding, reglazing, priming, and painting. It is expected that the exterior repairs to the Doctor's Office will be completed this spring. Down the road electricity and a safe space heater will be installed to enhance the building's use as a three season office.

Four+ Year Projection

The main objective over the next four+ years is to complete all exterior work needed to bring the mansion, historic outbuildings, garage and landscape back to excellent condition. Once all of the exterior work is done we will need to convene a committee to begin the process of evaluation the house interior and the treatment of some outbuilding interiors. Over a dozen projects have been identified to complete.

Eastern Star Dinner Held at White Horse Inn

The White Horse Inn was the candle-lit setting for a spring dinner held by two local chapters of the Eastern Star. Following a guided tour of Morlatton Village, members of the Bird Chapter OES #460, based in Birdsboro, and the Golden Rule Chapter #390 OES, based in Reading, enjoyed a catered dinner served by Trust volunteers in period costume.

The Trust is grateful for the generous donations made to our organization by each of these Chapters.



George Douglass House Masonry Restoration

At its May, 2011 meeting, the Trust's Board of Directors resolved to restore the three components of the George Douglass mansion to its "period of significance." Based on extensive research into public documents and Douglass store records, the period of significance was determined to be 1763 to c.1840. During this period George Douglass, his son George II, and their successors built the three structures and developed diverse mercantile activities within this complex, which later included butchering and a general store. The enterprise flourished into the first half of the 20th century.



The earliest building, George Douglass' impressive five-bay Georgian house, was built in 1763. The three-bay "store" addition, an extension of the early house, is not perfectly aligned structurally with the 1763 house. Although a federal-period structure probably built between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, the extension is not "federal" in architectural composition, structural technique, or classical-revival detail.

The second addition, a one-and-a-half story structure, was apparently used for the butchering operation—probably providing space for storage, sale of goods, and curing meats in the "smoke-chamber" above the vegetable cellar. It was most likely constructed prior to the Civil War (perhaps as early as 1830) and has been serially altered during the past century.

Sometime in the 20th century the owners enclosed the "porch" area between the three interdependent buildings by constructing a frame wall sheathed with inexpensive material, roofing the entire space, and flooring the resulting "patio" with modern concrete. These "improvements" protected five separate doorways from the elements, facilitating communication and movement. However, they also introduced modern materials into the structures and obscured the architectural and functional demarcations between the three buildings.

The preliminary phase of the restoration campaign required removal of the "porch" enclosure and the concrete flooring. Restoration masons removed six tons of concrete, uncovering early brick paving in the porch area. The brickwork will be restored and preserved.

The balance of work on the rear elevations included:

- Excavation and stabilization of sub-grade foundation masonry; resetting displaced stone, re-pointing joints, filling voids, and underpinning the overhanging stones with base-blocks.
- Restructuring the stone steps at the raised entry to the smoke-chamber. The "pedestal" had become detached from the masonry supporting the smoke-chamber entry and was noticeably out-of-plumb.
- Consolidating and re-pointing the east bay of the south gable wall of the 1763 house up to the cove-cornice including: 1) filling the open joint at the interior corner between the house and the -period extension 2) stabilizing the "quoin" corner pier 3) filling the voids around the gable doorway near the southeast corner.
- Raising the top step of the stairs to the vegetable cellar and re-grading for positive drainage away from the building.
- Resetting the stone sill under the center doorway in the 1763 Georgian mansion and stabilizing the foundation supporting the doorway.
- Resetting a large dislodged sub-grade stone in the southeast corner of the small addition and consolidating the corner pier it supports.

"The earliest building, George Douglass' impressive five-bay Georgian house, was built in 1763."



Douglass Masonry Restoration Photographs



Fractured stone sill at east doorway of 1763 house



Both sill pieces (and foundation below) restored and in place before final mortaring



The three Douglass buildings before dismantling of frame wall



Frame wall and most of roof removed

Trust to Receive Construction Award for Restoration

The Trust received a letter from Preservation Pennsylvania informing the board that the Johan DeTurk House was selected to receive a Construction Award for Restoration of a Special Historic Property at the 2011 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards in Gettysburg.

Kudos to Larry Ward, Phil Pendleton, and Sue Speros -who collaborated to write the award application. Also, the property committee deserves a big round of applause for their effort as well. Thanks also go to the project's many donors and supporters including the Shelley Pennsylvania German Heritage Fund, the Oley Valley Heritage Association, the Gotwals family, Ortega Consulting, Oley Township, and countless individuals. We apologize if some group or person has been omitted.

The awards luncheon will be held on Friday, September 30, 2011 between 11:00am and 3:00 pm at the Gettysburg Hotel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. If you would like to join the Trust representatives at the luncheon, your reservation (and payment) must be received by Preservation Pennsylvania before August 31, 2011. Seats cost \$60 per person or \$500 for a table seating 8 people. Tickets will be held at the door. To purchase tickets, visit www.preservationpa.org.

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The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County was organized on April 30, 1964 by a group of public spirited individuals under the leadership of Dr. Arthur D. Graeff, a well know teacher, newspaper columnist, and local historian.

As an active member of the National Trust of Historic Preservation, the Berks County Trust initiated a survey of 180 local structures in order to identify, investigate, and evaluate their historical importance in relation to our larger American Heritage.

Today the all-volunteer membership of The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County continues this important work. The Trust currently owns and maintains eight historically significant properties in Berks County.

www.historicpreservationtrust.org