



NEWTOWN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 303 - CENTRE AVENUE & COURT STREET - NEWTOWN, PA. 18940

NEWSLETTER
Spring 1988

AN IMPORTANT SURVEY

During the period of January 13, 14, and 15 a Resource Team of The National Trust for Historic Preservation made a study of the Newtown Historic Association, entitled "Comprehensive Historic Assistance Program for Historic House Museums." The study will establish a basis for guidance and assistance to us in all facets of our organization. After approval by our Board, Helen Randle prepared the application, which was approved by the National Trust. All expenses are met by a grant from the William Penn Foundation. The Resource Team Coordinator was Janet S. Klein, and included Dennis L. Fruitt; Patricia A Hurdle; Peter S. O'Connell; Catherine Keene and Paul J. Taylor. All are outstanding professionals in the field of historic preservation.

On the afternoon of the 15th, a meeting was held with our officials and the Team Members. Ms. Klein presented a preliminary report. We were advised to tighten up our management procedures, establish budgets, have regular committee reports, set short and long term goals, and provide for a continuous flow of information throughout the organization. A written report will be forthcoming. The Resource Team will furnish consultation and follow up through the year 1988-89.

ANNUAL BANQUET

On Monday, February 15th, the ANNUAL BANQUET was held at the Temperance House. The original purpose of this event was to give recognition to those who opened their homes for the annual Open House tour. Last year and again this year we included awards for the best architectural restoration to a commercial building and to a residence; it was also decided to present a special award to the person who has done the most to preserve our Newtown heritage.

Awards were as follows:

Commercial Award - Allan Smith for restoration of the Brick Hotel.

Residential Award - Roger Cook for restoration of the Leedom house.

Special Award - Edward R. Barnsley for his lifelong interest and love for our community; for his preservation and restoration of The Bird In Hand, the Justice's house, and for preserving many of the documents and materials that define our history, most of which are now in our archives

Toll House

Final agreement has been achieved for the restoration of the old Toll House which once stood at the site of Goodnoe's Restaurant, and was moved to a location several hundred feet west many years ago. The Newtown Joint Historic Commission, which is an entity of local government, has done the research, the Township Supervisors have given approval, and Mr William Meritz, the developer of "The Village of Newtown", will return the building to its original condition, including the toll gate. The building was constructed in the early 1870's. Tolls were collected for vehicles traveling the old Durham Road. There has been no provision for furnishing the place. Tom Mayer seeks donations of period furniture.

MARKET DAY

It has been announced that 1988 Newtown Market Day will be Saturday, September 17th. Since this will be the tenth anniversary of Market Day, plans are being developed for a special observance. Chairpersons are Elizabeth Mayer, Lorraine Pentz, and Dave Callahan. Approximately 65 craftpeople are expected. They will demonstrate and sell many authentic period crafts. This has always been an outstanding success.

EDWARD HICKS SIGN.

Edna Pullinger, a member of our association has written an article on the history and significance of the Edward Hicks Tavern Sign. It will appear in the spring edition of "Mercer Mosaics", the publication of the Bucks County Historical Society.

The sign is owned by our association and is on exhibition in the COURT INN. Displays of related documents and artifacts arranged by Elizabeth Mayer add interest. Members are encouraged to see this very important acquisition.

Tall Case Clock

We now own a rare and beautiful Tall case clock made in Bucks County during the 1790's by Benj. Solliday of Rock Hill. Roberta Taylor and Kathy Fink acquired it at a Delaware County auction. Dave Callahan assisted with the transportation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by

Fran Smith

Roof

A badly needed new roof has been completed on the north side of the Court Inn. Funds for this project came from a Federal block grant to Newtown Township.

Sign

the Edward Hicks Sign is now almost paid for. Of the \$40,000.00 bank loan only \$6445.00 remains. The acquisition cost was \$50,000.00. In addition, a grant of \$10,000.00 was made by the First National Bank of Newtown for restoration and permanent mounting for display.

I would like to personally thank the many devoted members who supported this project. Among others were Sid Yates and Pete Farmer. Their committee raised \$17,000.00 with a breakfast at the Temperance House. Also, the sweat shirt and "T" shirt project, a creation of Mary Jane Crumlish assisted by Margaret Danese has gone to reordering. Shirts are available at Newtown Hardware.

PAVEMENT

Specifications have been prepared for repairs to the curb and sidewalk in front of the Court Inn. The project will soon go to bid.

Change

I regret to announce that Bob Brooks, who recently had a knee operation, has had to relinquish his duties as a director and newsletter editor. Bob has our kindest wishes for a prompt and complete recovery. Lorraine Pentz has been appointed to the Board. Harold Lewis will manage the newsletter.

Security

Our fire and burglar alarm system has been installed and is now operational.

Museum

The "Barnsley Room of Newtown History" is open for research every Tuesday from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. The following volunteers are engaged every Tuesday in performing the tasks that are required to prepare and preserve our many

documents and artifacts: Frances Cronin; Dolly Gish; Elizabeth Mayer; Helen MacCorkle; Alice Bennett and Bert Lewis. Thursday evenings Tom Mayer, Dolly Gish, Dave Callahan and others are usually busy.

House Tour

Our "Christmas in Colonial Newtown" open house tour was a resounding success. About 1300 people attended. All accounts have not yet been cleared, but it appears we made nearly \$14,000.00. We owe our sincere thanks to Eleanor Janney, our treasurer who was on duty the entire time. Our thanks also to the homeowners for their kind generosity and to the hostesses and all others who contributed to this great affair.

Meetings

Attendance at meetings had been good. Our thanks to Norman Kitchin, Bob Knipe and Mary Jane Crumlish for giving us a nostalgic glimpse into a Newtown of a time long past by way of old photographs. Thanks also to Elizabeth Mayer who, in addition to her many other contributions to our Association prepares our post-meeting repasts.

Dates to remember:

March 21 Regular meeting. Vintage fashion show arranged by Patty Pugh

March 24 Dedication of a plaque in appreciation of the donation of the First National Bank of Newtown for the restoration and mounting of the Edward Hicks sign. 7:00P.M.

April 8th to 11th Four day Charleston trip. For information call Fran Smith - 968-3519.

April 16th Margaret Thornton cocktail party at the Inn.

April 18th- Annual meeting; reports of committees; nomination and election of officers.

May 22nd - Newtown Borough 150 years old! walking tour.

June 18 - Steak fry at the Court Inn

Editor: Harold P. Lewis

note-the editor set type for this newsletter on a TRS-80 computer which is a new animal to him. Future editions should show some improvement.