PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
Bureau for Historic Preservation ◆ Historical Marker Program

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF HISTORICAL MARKERS REVIEWED IN 2012

	Name of Marker	Municipality & County	Description
1	Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia	Philadelphia Co.	The oldest natural science research institution in the nation, it played a leading role in biological research in North America and around the world. Its collection includes specimens of Lewis & Clark, fossils excavated by Thos. Jefferson, and bird skins used by John James Audubon. It produced an early peer-reviewed journal, the follow-up of which is still published today.
2	Birthplace of Commercial Ice Cream Production	Seven Valleys, York Co.	In 1852, surplus milk and cream from the successful dairy industry in York County, PA was used to produce ice cream that was distributed commercially for the first time in the US. Although the primary market was Baltimore, Jacob Fussell chose to set up his factory in Seven Valleys, PA, closer to the supply of raw materials. Although Fussell's operation was moved closer to the market in 1854, York County farmers continued to manufacture and distribute ice cream to the Baltimore market through the 1930s.
3	Frank Furness	Philadelphia Co.	A prominent Philadelphia architect, Furness had exceptional originality and influence in the field of architecture on a statewide and national level. He was mentor to Louis Sullivan, who in turn mentored Frank Lloyd Wright. He was a founding member of the Am. Inst. of Architects.
4	James "A" Billboard Jackson	Bellefonte, Centre Co.	An editor in the Negro Dept. of Billboard Magazine in the early 20th century, this African American businessman was a major influence in the promotion of black theatricals during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. He was also a well-regarded advisor on African American business activities, advocating the expansion of business and training opportunities for African Americans.
5	John C. Asbury	Philadelphia Co.	African American politician in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Asbury sponsored an early civil rights bill which, although unsuccessful, helped to secure his reputation as the most prominent black Republican in Pennsylvania. He gained national recognition as editor of the Odd Fellow's Journal, the publication of the largest black fraternal society at the turn of the 20th century.
6	John T. Comes	Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co.	A prominent ecclesiastical architect in the early 20th century, he had numerous commissions in the western half of PA, NY, OH, and several other states. He was a prolific writer and lecturer, his work was respected by his peers, and his philosophy regarding Catholic architecture was influential on a statewide and national level.
7	Kelly Family (The)	Philadelphia Co.	Patriarch John B. Kelly, Sr. achieved national and international acclaim in the sport of rowing, and was politically influential promoting Irish American tenets. His son, John, Jr. was also an award-winning rower. Daughter Grace became an Academy Award-winning actress, and gained international recognition as the Princess of Monaco.

8	McAllister's Mill UGRR Station	Gettysburg, Adams Co.	Confirmed Underground Railroad site that is on the National Park Service's Network to Freedom. Abolitionist James McAllister was very active in sheltering freedom seekers at his mill during the 1850s. He also hosted gatherings of like-minded individuals, participated in the publication of anti-slavery principles, and was a founding member of the Adams County Anti-Slavery Society.
9	Pennsylvania Bible Society	Philadelphia Co.	Founded in 1808, it is the first Bible Society in America. Founders included Benjamin Rush, Bishop Wm. White, and Robert Ralston. The forerunner of all US Bible societies, it was influential in others' formation. Its distribution of Bibles advanced the spread of literacy. The society was the first in the US to print Bibles with stereotyped plates.
10	Pennypack Creek Bridge	Philadelphia Co.	Originally built c. 1697, it is the oldest roadway bridge in continuous use in the US. One of the earliest roads in PA, the King's Highway, went across this bridge. It was on the Rochambeau Route, which the Continental Army took on its journey to Yorktown. The only substantial modification to the bridge was in 1893, when it was widened to accommodate streetcars. Other than maintenance measures to extend the life of the bridge, the upstream side remains essentially unchanged from its original state.
11	Rebecca Harding Davis	Washington, Washington Co.	An author recognized for helping to usher in the Realist movement, she focused on the lives of the working poor, immigrants, and women. She published hundreds of essays, stories, and novels during her lifetime and influenced other writers of her era. She was born in and received her formal education in western PA.
12	Revolutionary War Gun Factory	Dauphin Co.	Due to the British occupation of Philadelphia during the American Revolution, the Provincial government's gun manufacturing facility was moved to the interior of the state so that operations to supply the Continental army with muskets and rifles could continue. Hummelstown was chosen due to its remoteness, proximity to Lancaster's armory, and availability of materials and water power.
13	SPHAS (S. Phila. Hebrew Assoc.) Basketball Team	Philadelphia Co.	American Jewish basketball team in the early years of the professional sport. Established in 1918, the SPHAS dominated the American Basketball League in the 1930s. The team was managed by Eddie Gottlieb, a seminal figure in the development of professional basketball. During their later years (1950s), they toured internationally with the Harlem Globetrotters.
14	Valley Forge General Hospital	Phoenixville, Chester Co.	Constructed in 1942 to treat WWII battle casualties, VFGH was the only Military Hospital in PA built for this purpose. Selected for its proximity to Philadelphia and NYC as well as to medical teaching centers, its original mission was extended through the Viet Nam War. The facility was noted for advancements in plastic surgery, prosthetic eyes, and in the field of rehabilitation - orientation and mobility.
15	Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades	Media, Delaware Co.	Due to a decline in apprenticeship training programs in the US in the late 19th century, Isaiah Williamson, a successful dry goods merchant, established this institution to provide a free education to young men in trades including carpentry, masonry, horticulture, and painting. With its beautiful campus of Frank Furness buildings, it continues as the only trade college in the US providing full scholarships to students, and does not accept federal financial aid.