



# THE LANDMARK

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July/August, 2010

Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville  
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

## New Construction in Historic Districts

Annville's National Historic District is recognized for its largely intact streetscape, showing a linear development from the log and limestone buildings of the late 1700's at the West end of town to the larger brick homes of the early 1900's at the East end. Much of Annville's historic value lies in its remaining unbroken stretches of period buildings. As much as we may wish that we had not lost valuable buildings within our National Historic District, such losses can and do happen, leaving "historic holes" in our overall streetscape. Often, new construction is used to infill these holes, providing valuable space for homes and businesses.



I came upon an excellent publication, *Sense of Place: Design Guidelines for New Construction in Historic Districts*, published in 2007 by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia (you can Google this publication). *Sense of Place* seeks to define how new construction might appropriately support and enhance, rather than detract from historic buildings under regulatory protection. In doing so, the Alliance provides more latitude than I might have first expected, citing four approaches to historically-sympathetic infilling. These strategies include 1) literal replication, 2) invention within the same style [variations on a theme], 3) abstract referencing [echoing key architectural themes, albeit abstractly], and 4) intentional opposition [I'm not too excited about this one].

Literal replication, used post-war in European cities, is getting more difficult as the materials and craftsmen needed are no longer readily available and, if so, at high expense. Additionally, many preservationists today oppose replication as they believe that new construction must bear a contemporary stamp. Strategies 2 and 3, which allow for more modern materials and styles, but look for some level of compatibility, seem to be most frequently used today.

Independent of the strategy used, *Sense of Place* lists key factors in making new construction of any type compatible with an existing historic district: all new construction should be **compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character** of the property and the neighborhood.

- Building **height** is one of the strongest design guidelines for new construction. The height of adjacent buildings will help dictate the height of new construction.
- A uniform **setback** of buildings as they line the street creates the "street wall" and is essential to preserving the character of the district.
- The **cornice line** should remain consistent with adjacent buildings.

- Windows and doors establish a **rhythm** for the street and any new construction should be harmonious with this established rhythm. Windows should be of similar size and overall placement as adjacent buildings.
- New construction should employ **roof profiles** similar to those in the neighborhood.

These design elements, when followed, can introduce into a historic neighborhood new construction that will blend almost seamlessly with nearby historic buildings. The photo on the front page shows a section of streetscape on West Main Street in Annville. One building in the photo is newly constructed following several of the above guidelines – can you tell which one? (*It is just beyond the 422 sign.*)

As Annville is granted opportunities to infill holes or to replace non-compatible intrusions in our historic district, we would ask the Historic Area Review Board (HARB) and the Township Commissioners to be aware of and to advocate these simple guidelines for making new construction compatible with Annville’s existing historic streetscape. ■

*President’s Message by Owen Moe*

## **From the Quittapahilla Audobon Society: “GHOST BIRD”**



Sunday, September 26, 2010 1:30 PM

To celebrate International Biodiversity Year the Quittapahilla Audubon Society will screen Ghost Bird, the film, a feature length documentary about an extinct giant woodpecker, a small town in Arkansas hoping to reverse its misfortunes, and the tireless odyssey of the bird-watchers and scientists searching for the Holy Grail of birds, the elusive Ivory Billed Woodpecker.

We hope to increase awareness of global species loss and to raise funds for local conservation projects.

Admission: \$10-Adult; Students-\$5. Advance tickets will be sold at MJ’s Coffeehouse or by calling 717 - 964 - 3412. For additional information: [www.qasaudubon.org](http://www.qasaudubon.org)

## **From the Annville Free Library**

**Library Hours:** Mon. thru Thurs., 10 AM – 8 PM, Fri. & Sat., 10 AM - 5PM

**Library Closed:** September 6 & Closed Sundays

Call 867-1802 for program offerings & details!



**FAMILY PROGRAMS CONTINUE, Mondays, 2:00 pm: “Make a Splash @ Your Library!”**

July 26 - Bruce Fite, Musician– “Make a Splash!”

Aug. 2 - CELEBRATION SENSATION - for children who complete activity folders.

## HISTORIC OLD ANNVILLE DAY 2010

Historic Old Annsville Day in 2010 was different in a number of ways. First, it had to be held this year on the third Saturday in June instead of on the second Saturday, its usual spot. Secondly, the time changed, and it ran from 10 AM to 3 PM. Third, Main Street on the entire west end of Annsville was closed, allowing people to wander freely up and down the street from stand to stand; and fourth, it was the biggest Old Annsville Day event we have ever held with 74 vendors (up from 48 last year) stretching from the Free Library on the east end almost to the Batdorf Restaurant on the west end.



The weather was beautifully sunny, but it turned quite warm in the afternoon. The crowds were exceptionally large nonetheless, as can be seen in the view looking west on Main (picture on right). We featured music at two venues, at Kettering Corner and at the Allen Theater. We had activities for kids (a free bouncy at the Library, balloon art, Splat Studio art, sidewalk drawing) and a show by Annsville artists at MJ's Coffeehouse.



We awarded the Property Pride Award to **Christopher and Ellen Cooper** of 132 West Main Street (Cooper family at left), and we held the raffle drawing with prizes going to **Tony Mattassa** of Birdsboro, PA (\$500), **Jim Walker** of Annsville (\$250), and **Art Ford** of Annsville (\$100). All in all, it was a great day in downtown historic Annsville. Next year, we will celebrate Historic Old Annsville Day on **Saturday, June 11, 2011**.

### The Old Stories, Red Peppers – Nellie Bernardo

In this issue of the *Landmark* and the two issues to follow we are republishing, in part, the poem *The Old Stories, Red Peppers* from “Porches” written by Phil Billings and with sketches by Dan Massad. Based on interviews with Annsville resident Nellie Bernardo, Phil Billings has recounted her life story, a story that tells us much about an individual woman and, indirectly, about other Italian immigrant families who came to our area looking for work in the nearby stone quarries.

Nella Bernardo was brought from Italy to Pennsylvania as an infant in 1905 by her mother where she was raised in Cornwall and Annsville. She had to quit school in the early grades to help at home. She raised eight children, including her son John who remembers growing up in the stone mill house just north of the Brandt's Mill in west Annsville. John remembers his mother's huge garden that stretched along the Quittie from the stone house all the way to route 422. He remembers her canning all that garden produce, storing potatoes and apples in big bins in the basement cold cellar, and the many wooden barrels of homemade Italian wine in the cellar. John also remembers playing, swimming, and floating down the Quittie.



In addition to raising eight children and much of her family's food, Nellie Bernardo also worked cleaning houses and at the shoulder strap factory in Annville. In 1951, the family moved to a newly-built home at the corner of Queen and Mill where Nellie lived out her days. Nellie died in 1987. Printed below is her story.

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*My parents came across when I was three months old.  
They was from a town in the north of Italy. Castalli.  
It was just nothing there for you.*

*"Not even dead," my dad used to say, "do I want to go back!"*

*My dad worked in the ore mines in Cornwall five, six years, then we moved to Annville in 1911 so he could work in the quarries.*

*We lived in one of them one-board shacks that the company built across 422 there, where the trailer homes is now, only back in further, until we bought the old Dos Becker farmhouse that still sets down here beside the mill.*

*I started first grade up on Manheim Street.*

*Miss Walter was my teacher and she was really wonderful!*

*I didn't have any friends to play with at all, it wasn't that kind a story.*

*I couldn't talk any English.*

*I wouldn't a known what the other kids said nohow, whether they were making fun of me or not.*

*So when recess came Miss Walters said,*

*"Why don't you just stay in here with me?"*

*I'll teach you how to embroider and crochet like I do."*

*She said, "Someday you'll appreciate you know how to do this."*

*And she was right.*

*The pot-holders, all these things around here, I did.*

*On Sundays when I was in second grade up on King, she would come and get me, her and her aunt and take me to the Lutheran church with them.*

*Around Christmas she asked me, "Do yous have a fireplace?"*

*"We got two of them," I said.*

*"Well, you be sure to hang your stocking up," she said, "so that Santy Claus can leave something for you."*

*Well who ever heard of Santy Claus where my father come from?*

*I wasn't even dare to cut a little tree and put it up.*

*After Christmas Miss Walters asked,*

*"Did Santy bring you anything?"*

*"No, I didn't get nothin'."*

*"Well, I don't believe he could find your house," she says, "because your house lives way down below the hill there.*

*But I think he left a little present here for you."*

*And she took me to her house and gave me a little box of something.*

*Yep. She was a wonderful lady.*

*In school I loved it when I started to understand things.*

*I had big ideas, because when I'd see all these other kids, different things you could do.*

*But my parents wouldn't let me go on to third grade, I had to help them around the house.*

*Work is all I know since I was eight.*

*I remember my mother having to stand me on a chair so I could reach the table top and mix the flour to make the noodles.*

*My mother was always sickly, never able to work much, I don't know just why.*

*In them days you didn't go to the hospital to check up on things like they do today.*

*I suppose anybody'd be sickly if they got pounded on as much as she did.*

*My dad was pretty well on the drinkin' side.*

*Once he gave her money to go pay a bill at Shope's store.*

*She had four pennies left, so she decided to buy four pieces of chocolate candy for herself, that kind that has an almond on top.*

*When she got home he beat her up something terrible for that.*

*Yeah. She was a poor soul.*

*I didn't get to do any of the things I wanted.*

*I had eight healthy kids, and I never kept them at home to help to work.*

*I don't care how much work there is, it'd get done.*

*Sooner or later it'd get done.*

*I wanted to see them all get an education, because I know how hard I missed it.*

*Three of them got certificates for never missing a day.*

*All but two graduated from high school. No.*

*Bonnie quit too, when she was sixteen.*

She came home one day and said she didn't want to go back, the other kids teased her so bad about her patched clothes.  
 Now the kids wear them for fun, but it was no laughing matter back then.  
 I told Bonnie, I said, "Well then stay home. I can't help it.  
 I don't have the money, I can't buy it, what can I do?"  
 So she stayed home with the younger ones then

and I went to work in Joe Viozzi's shoulder strap factory at their house on Main Street. It was so crowded they had to stick me out back by myself in a shanty. I'd a liked to have been a nurse.  
 Yep. I've had a rough, rough life.

(to be continued)

## Membership Renewal

Please remember that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found on the mailing label of this issue of The Landmark. Please send your dues and address change to: Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA, 17003-8856. Have questions? Call: (717) 867-2137.

Individual & Student \$ 5.00      ♦      Family (2+ persons) \$ 10.00      ♦      Business \$25.00  
 Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00      Benefactor \$100.00

### RENEWALS

M/M John E. Albright  
 Iris Berliner Alster  
 Stan & Joanne Anspach  
 Georgette Bordine  
 M/M Vincent Boyer  
 Marty & Patti Brandt  
 Mr. Donald R. Brown  
 M/M Dwayne Brown & Family  
 Constance Bryant  
 Rose Marie Caswell  
 Ms. Nicole A. Emrich  
 M/M Philip Feather  
 Dr/M Dana Felty & Family  
 M/M Dennis Flake •  
 Dr/M Arthur Ford  
 Gene & Janice Fortna  
 Fred & Carole Frattaroli  
 Mr. Carl S. Fry  
 Paul & Becky Fullmer •  
 Darby Galebach, Kettering  
 Corner  
 Miss Pamela Galehouse  
 Tom & Vicki Gingrich  
 Sue Hammer

Maryann Hanley  
 Mr. Luther P. Harner  
 Dick & Sukey Harris  
 M/M William Heeter  
 Dr/M David Heeter &  
 Family  
 M/M Ernest W. Heisey  
 David & Joan Henise •  
 Alverta V. Herr  
 Richard & Rachel Hoffman  
 Bill Hopple  
 Mrs. Christine Hopple  
 M/M Gordon C. Kirkessner  
 M/M David H. Kling  
 Verna Ziegler Kwiatkowski  
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 Larry & Barbara Miller  
 M/M Charles W. Miller II  
 Jim & Claire Moyer  
 Mike & Janice Orehek •  
 M/M Allen Rhine  
 Dave & Joy Riegert  
 Linda L. Rohland  
 M/M Richard Rotunda

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 Mrs. Bernice J. Weaber  
 John & Corinne Weaber  
 M/M David Wentling  
 John H. Willey  
 M/M John Witmer  
 M/M Glenn Woods

### NEW MEMBERS

Betty Evans  
 Dr/M Stephen MacDonald

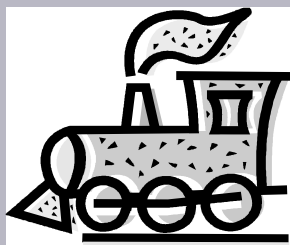
★ Denotes Friend of FOOA  
 §§ Denotes Benefactor

**(Please remember to send any address changes)**

## Some Reminders:

Won't you please think of FOOA when you prepare or update your will. Your legacy perpetuates your values, and it will serve to assure that the Friends of Old Annville will be there as a strong influence for preservation in years ahead.

Your attorney can help you design an estate plan that provides for your loved ones and also supports the future of The Friends of Old Annville. You can bequeath a percentage of your estate, a dollar amount, real estate, stocks, specific property, or the remainder of your estate. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated and serve to maintain our Old Annville heritage in years ahead.



*The Friends of Old Annville Train Station is open to visitors Tuesday, 7-9 PM, and Saturdays, 9 AM-12 noon, or upon request.*

*The Station is also available for parties and meetings. Please write Friends of Old Annville, P.O. Box 99, Annville 17003, or call (717) 867-0770 for information.*

### **ANY SNIPPETS TO SHARE ?**

Please remember, we're always looking for **YOUR** views & memories of Old Annville.



Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

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