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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIC LOWER SAUCON BRIDGE LISTED ON 2020 PENNSYLVANIA AT RISK

Community wants the old bridge preserved instead of replaced

Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, PA – The **Meadows Road Bridge** over the Saucon Creek has been named to Preservation Pennsylvania’s annual list of endangered historic properties. Since 1992, Preservation Pennsylvania has published the *Pennsylvania At Risk* list to draw statewide attention to the plight of Pennsylvania’s historic resources; promote and support local action to protect historic properties; and encourage funding and legislation that supports preservation activities.

The picturesque four-arched Meadows Road Bridge was built in 1858 and is the oldest bridge in Lower Saucon Township. In Northampton County, it is one of the oldest surviving bridges and is one of only two examples of a four-span stone arch bridge.

County records for 1860 show Levi S. Moyer to be the wealthy owner of a nearby gristmill (built 1829) that still stands today. The bridge connected farmers to the mill, just as today it connects local citizens to offices and retail from one side of Lower Saucon Township to the other.

In 1976, when the County announced plans to replace the bridge, several local citizen groups wrote letters requesting that the bridge be saved. The public outcry and support for preservation of the existing bridge led the County to withdraw its plans for replacement.

After a county inspection in April 2018, the bridge was closed and is currently in line for planned rehabilitation or replacement by Northampton County (determination pending).

“The community really cares about this bridge,” said Julia Chain, Associate Director of Preservation Pennsylvania, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources. “We’ve seen communities elsewhere in Pennsylvania successfully work to find a compromise and preserve bridge crossings. Preservation Pennsylvania will submit a historic resource survey form (HRSF) to the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) requesting evaluation of the bridge for National Register eligibility and support local advocacy efforts.”

2020 Pennsylvania At Risk

Preservation Pennsylvania has listed the following places to the 2020 Pennsylvania At Risk and will offer free preservation assistance throughout the year.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Croatian Fraternal Union, 3441 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh

Local preservationists urge the University of Pittsburgh to incorporate the former Croation Fraternal Union building into its plans for a new innovation center, rather than demolishing the ornate Flemish Gothic-style building.

Firstside Historic District, 100-102 Market 104 and 106-108 Market Street, 209 First Avenue, Pittsburgh

A National Register Historic District that represents Pittsburgh's wharf trade history with architecturally significant buildings is threatened with the potential demolition of a block of buildings for which the owner has provided no indication of a redevelopment plan or financing.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Lock Ridge Furnace, 525 Franklin Street, Alburtis

A local park and its buildings tell the story of the region's industrial history and a town's founding, yet repairs to secure and reopen the buildings will be a budget strain.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Meadows Road Bridge, Meadows Road at Saucon Creek , Lower Saucon Township

A beloved and historic stone bridge provides an important connection to the past — and to two sides of a township. Locals want to see it repaired instead of replaced.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

John Coltrane House, 1511 N. 33rd Street, Philadelphia

National Historic Landmark designation can't save this jazz great's home from slow decline, but if the owners are willing to work with a caring community, it may be possible.

YORK COUNTY

Strickler Farmhouse, 1205 Williams Road, Springettsbury Township

National Register-listed farmhouse located on the county prison property needs to be moved or it may be demolished.

About Pennsylvania At Risk

Since 1992, Preservation Pennsylvania has published the *Pennsylvania At Risk* list to draw statewide attention to the plight of Pennsylvania's historic resources; promote and support local action to protect historic properties; and encourage funding and legislation that supports preservation activities.

Helping people to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's endangered historic properties is a top priority for Preservation Pennsylvania. The organization is committed to engaging with people interested in working to preserve and rehabilitate these significant historic places.

This year's list was chosen from nominations submitted by groups and individuals. Submissions are evaluated by several criteria, including historic significance, the extent of the threat and the community's commitment to preserving the resource.

Founded in 1982, Preservation Pennsylvania is the commonwealth's only statewide, private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant resources. For more information, visit the website at www.preservationpa.org or contact Preservation Pennsylvania at 717-234-2310.

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