

The Draft York County Heritage Preservation Plan

Chapter One lays the ground work for the planning process, including setting a vision and goals:

Vision & Values – The Plan recognizes the value of:

- *Placemaking and the value of a strong sense of place*
- *Using preservation to build better communities*
- *Integrating the past into the present*
- *Locally significant resources, as well as nationally and regionally significant ones*
- *Sustainable development*
- *Education & involvement*

Goals – The Plan sets six goals for the County:

- To identify, protect, and promote York County's unique mix of heritage resources.
- To create a set of evaluation criteria to help decision makers when assessing requests related to heritage resources.
- To promote coordination and consensus in the conservation and preservation of heritage resources.
- To link conservation and preservation to economic opportunity, sustainability, and revitalization.
- To create a catalog of heritage preservation tools and resources.
- To educate citizens about their heritage and its value, and the tools that are available to protect it.

Context for the Plan – Two Chapters explore the County's historical development and related plans, studies, and inventories.

These Chapters provide an important context for the current preservation planning process.

- **Chapter Two** recounts the County's historical development and identifies patterns that are found throughout York County's history. With this information, heritage resources can be viewed in context, or in other words, in relation to the County's history as a whole.
- **Chapter Three** investigates existing preservation planning documents, looks at the existing but dated York County Historic Sites Survey and other sources of information, and identifies heritage resources owned by the County of York.

Evaluation Criteria – Chapter Four sets out evaluation criteria in five areas:

- *Historic Significance*
- *Quality of Life*
- *Economic Considerations*
- *Planning Principles*
- *Project Feasibility*

These criteria create a structured way for decision-makers to weigh difficult choices about heritage resources. The criteria focus not only on historic significance, but on project feasibility and contributions to community well-being.

Preservation Resources - Chapter Five contains:

- A brief history of preservation in the U.S.
- Legal tools for preservation in Pennsylvania
- Preservation organizations active in York County
- Groups with missions related to preservation
- Sources of funding
- Online preservation resources
- Offline preservation resources

This Chapter acts as a reference for individuals, historical groups, and municipalities interested in heritage preservation.

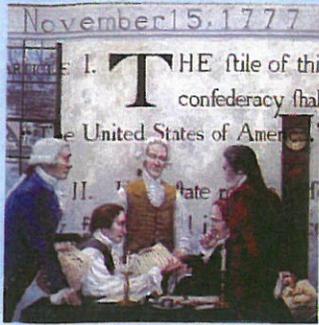
Plan Implementation – Five areas for action are identified in Chapter Six:



Action steps in these areas are designed to fulfill the goals of the Plan and make its vision a reality. Areas include steps for the York County community to take together, and also a number of actions that the York County Planning Commission can take related to County operations, its own mission, and day-to-day operations.

Public Review & Comment

A 45-day period for public review is required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. For this Plan, the period runs through **August 5, 2016**. Comments may be made directly to the York County Planning Commission at 28 E Market St, York, PA, 17401, attention Amy Evans, or by email to aevans@ycpc.org. Public commentary may also be made through OpenComment, an online interactive venue for review and comment accessible at <http://ycpc.civiccomment.org>. The Plan text may be accessed online at at: <http://www.ycpc.org/public-participation-opportunities.html>.



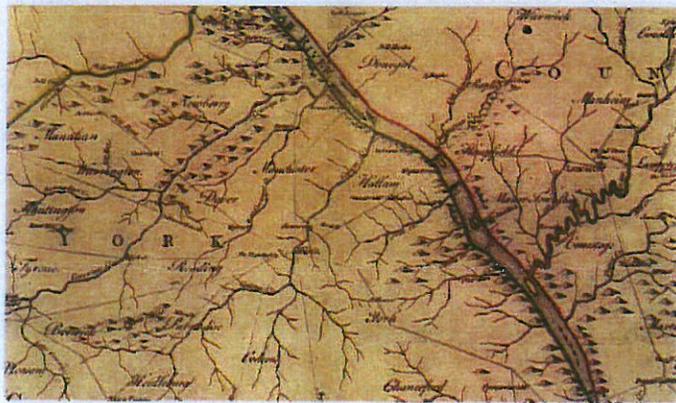
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is going to implement this Plan?

The York County Planning Commission will work on action items that have been identified as pertaining to the County specifically. For other action items, it is hoped that the Steering Committee that guided the creation of this Plan will reform as an Advisory Committee. This Advisory Committee would continue to meet, choose tasks for implementation, and coordinate the “who and how” of Plan implementation. There’s already a lot of collaboration in York County, a fact that should be taken advantage of!

Will there be a new historic sites survey?

A new comprehensive survey would be ideal. However, it would also be costly, and the likelihood of being able to fund one is low. This Plan recognizes the need for a new survey, while being designed to allow for progress without one. The evaluation criteria in Chapter Four are a key part of this approach. The potential for targeted surveys also exist. Ideas that the Plan puts forward include the identification of potential rural historic districts or historic landscapes, surveys of resources located in hazard areas, and the possibility of carefully crowd-sourcing information on historic resources through an online web mapping application.



What about archaeology?

York County is fortunate to have a number of sites with rich archaeological resources. Dill Tavern, Camp Security, and the Byrd and Oscar Leibhart sites are just a few. While archaeological resources can be hard to bring to life in terms of capturing the public’s imagination, this Plan recognizes their value. Archaeological resources are often the only way to gain important information about past people and events, particularly where written records are sparse or nonexistent.

Does a resource need to be eligible for the National Register to be considered historic or significant by this Plan?

Not necessarily. The National Register of Historic Places has fairly strict guidelines that a resource must meet in order to be considered eligible. Guidelines require that, in most cases, a resource be 50 years of age or older, retains its historic integrity, and remains in its original setting. Resources are also classified as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts – in other words, tangible items or their archaeological remains.

In this Plan, the umbrella is intentionally set wider than the National Register’s criteria for historic resources. This Plan believes that traditional events, activities, practices, and oral histories can be important to the County’s heritage, as can recent history. However, these kinds of heritage resources often have difficulty in meeting National Register criteria. This is part of why the York County Heritage Preservation Plan defines and uses the term “heritage resource,” as opposed to “historic resource.” This reasoning also comes to bear in Chapter Four’s evaluation criteria, where historic significance plays an important role, but is not the only factor considered. The evaluation process also allows for determining historic significance outside of the National Register criteria.

How did the public participate in creating this Plan?

First, this Plan was created with the help of a Steering Committee. This Committee is comprised of 17 members of the public, who represent a wide range of expertise in historical research, heritage tourism, business, preservation, and municipal government. The Steering Committee met 7 times over the course of 2 years and reviewed the Plan at every stage.

Second, a public survey was released in April of 2015. This survey asked about peoples’ familiarity with heritage resources, what they saw as threats to the County’s resources, and what actions were appropriate for the County to take. Nearly 800 people took the survey. Results were tabulated and incorporated into the planning process. A summary document can be found in Appendix C of the Plan.

Other forms of outreach included press releases and articles in local newspapers and a presentation to the York/Adams Smart Growth Coalition. The upcoming period for public comment and review marks an excellent opportunity for participation. This period includes a public meeting and an online opportunity to submit review and commentary. Details are on the reverse side of this sheet.