

EAST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT TO MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES DURING 2018

1 November 2018

Historic Sites (architecture and preservation)

EFHS contributed valuable research sources and photographs (some from collections identified at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) and shared ideas with Laura DiPasquale of the Philadelphia Historical Commission as she wrote a successful nomination to place the 1868 Odd Fellows/Palestine Hall on the Philadelphia Register for Historic Places. It is now protected from demolition. EFHS board members David Breiner and Steven Peitzman collaborated on a nomination for the 1907 Timmons House (or Henry W. Brown House), 3850 The Oak Road, which was endorsed by the PHC designation committee and will be voted on by the Commission November 9. EFHS presented a “Preservation Primer” on May 7, 2018 at Drexel’s Queen Lane Medical Campus to inform and raise interest in historic preservation. David Breiner is guiding his students at Jefferson University-Philadelphia University as they begin a survey of dwellings in the area of East Falls east of Henry Avenue. EFHS board members advocated vigorously, but without success, for saving the Wilson Eyre house “Lycoming” from demolition by William Penn Charter School. EFHS members concerned about a particular building or historic preservation in general in East Falls can email Steven Peitzman at peitzmansj@gmail.com.

Programs

During 2018 we presented a “Preservation Primer” as noted in the report from Historic Sites committee. Walking tours included the Parkway, led by board member and architectural tour guide Ken Hinde on April 29; The Oak Road led by board members David Breiner and Steven Peitzman on September 15; and Venice Island, October 13, by Ken Hinde. An evening program of historic East Falls photographs will be held at the Falls of Schuylkill Library November 28. Future program ideas under consideration include an evening of readings from the works of playwright George Kelly, a lecture on Arlen Spector and the Arlen Spector Center of Jefferson University, and a reprise of the walk along Wissahickon Avenue from Queen Lane Station to Oaks Cloister. Members interested working on programs can contact Patty Cheek at pcheek2002@yahoo.com or Steven Peitzman at peitzmansj@gmail.com.

Oral Histories

Oral History Committee – We now have 38 of our interviews available for you to experience on our website – interviews of Fallsers from the turn-of-the-twentieth century to the present – mill workers, factory owners, professors, neighbors born and raised in Falls. You can listen to the actual interview as well as read the transcript of the oral history <http://eastfallshistoricalsociety.org/oral-histories/> If you know someone, including yourself, who has stories of East Falls to tell, please contact Wendy Moody at 215-848-5131 or

wmoodyw@aol.com. Interested in conducting oral histories? We will arrange a training session for you.

Membership

As of 31 October there are 125 active members of EFHS. We are eager to increase that number. For this year we have instituted a new policy whereby non-members who participate in an event for which there is a fee will automatically become members of the Society for the year. The membership year begins in May.

(Other committees and activities will report in subsequent mailings. Other ongoing activities include responding to research requests, acquiring and accessioning archival materials and objects.)

Compiled by Steven J. Peitzman (peitzmansj@gmail.com)