

2018 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony

The West Whiteland Board of Supervisors and Historical Commission Members recognized two recipients of the 2018 Historic Preservation Awards. The awards were presented, and property owners recognized for their efforts at the ceremony on December 10th at Ball & Ball.

Ball & Ball Antique Hardware Reproductions - This original stucco clad farm house and stone tenant house was built c. 1832 by William Hall. In 1877, John D. Baltz, a resident of Philadelphia seeking a healthful country retreat, bought the property and transformed it into his image of a stylish rural dwelling. Sold in 1911 the property passed through 11 owners and served a brief life as the White House Inn in the 1920s. The appearance that we see today, preserved by the Ball family since their purchase in 1943, embodies popular mid-19th century notions of stylized rural architecture.

The Ball family can make just about any hardware repair or reproduction. The legacy has been passed along from fathers to sons. Whitman Ball, son of Arthur and Bernice Ball (founder of the Chester County Day tradition) and his wife Lynne live on the property. Sons Bill, with wife JoAnn, and Bob, with wife Pam, and grandson Garrett continue the family tradition in management and the shop.



West Whiteland Inn and Stable - The house was built in the late 18th century as a stone tenant house on Jehu Roberts 540 acre farm. The original core of the tenant house is the white section on the left and contains the old winding staircase, original cooking fireplace and full cellar. A summer kitchen extends off the rear and features a cooking fireplace, bake oven, brick floor, and exposed beaded joists. The tenant house was enlarged about 1826 and served as a tavern from 1826 – 1837 along the c. 1794 Lancaster Turnpike, now Business Route 30. The major addition, now in exposed stone, shows an interior elegance with a wide hall, open stairway, paneled reveals, fluted trim work and tall ceilings. Being situated about midway between the Ship Inn on East Lincoln Highway and Downingtown, it made a good stopping point for refined travelers.

The structure had been vacant for several years and was in the process of being reclaimed by nature when Sherry McVickar restored the Inn to be her residence and the adjacent stable as a rental property. Ms. McVickar is an artist with a great appreciation for old Chester County houses, outbuildings and barns is given great praise for her preservation effort to this property.

