



Old buildings part of 'green' discussion

Construction is bad for the environment, an official said.

By TERESA MCMINN

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Old buildings often can provide more than just a lesson in history. In many cases, they can be pretty energy efficient.

And it's almost always more "green" to reuse an existing building than to start from scratch, a local expert said.

These and other ideas were discussed at the Historic York Inc. 2008 Preservation Awards and 32nd annual meeting on Thursday.

About 75 people attended the event, which included a self-guided tour of the Johannes & Cristina Schultz House on Locust Grove Road in Springettsbury Township. The house, which has a date stone that reads 1734, is thought to be the county's oldest two-story dwelling, although its exact age is in debate.

The most recent owner of the property, Beatrice Rowe, donated 5 acres of the farm including the house and outbuildings to the organization.

Historic York & Architectural Warehouse

Executive Director Karen Arnold said the organization plans to list the property with the National Register of Historic Places.

Nearby in the farm's barn, Scott Butcher, director of business development, Nutec Group, gave a presentation titled, "Historic Properties, The Ultimate Green Buildings."

Butcher talked of the importance of reusing existing buildings.

"Construction is bad for the environment," he said, adding that buildings constructed before about 1920 can be relatively energy efficient.

Back then, people took advantage of local materials and positioned buildings for natural ventilation, he said.

He talked of the benefits of reusing old buildings, including the former York County Courthouse that is now the York County Administrative Center.

"(This was) renovated and adaptively reused," he said. "And it preserved much of the historic fabric . . . and added new green features."

Woody Witczak, a member of Historic York's board of directors, said the annual event provides an opportunity to recognize restoration projects across the county.

"In York . . . the rich history of architecture, we've got to protect it," he said.

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**WINNERS**

Winners of the Historic York Inc. 2008 Preservation Awards:

--- Christ Lutheran Church, 29 S. George St. in York -- for structure repairs including restoration of the cupola roof.

--- Dover Area Historical Society's Dover Blacksmith Shop, which collapsed in a 2003 snowstorm and was relocated to Alda Ketterman Park. The project, primarily completed by volunteers, is now open for demonstrations by a volunteer blacksmith.

--- The Peter Wolf House, 4415 W. Market St. in West Manchester Township -- representative of Georgian domestic architecture, restored by Tom and Anne Brown.

--- Billmeyer House, restoration of the belvedere -- owned by First Presbyterian Church. This Italianate-style building, one of few belvederes in York, received several repairs.

--- Dorgan and Zuck, Princess Street Project -- the 200 and 300 blocks of East Prospect Street are in the midst of a renaissance project spearheaded by the YWCA in partnership with Dorgan and Zuck for the rehabilitation of seven new homes.

--- Lady Linden, 505 Linden Ave. -- In 2006, this pair of nearly identical frame high-style Eastlake residences was on a list of York's most endangered historic places. Today, the property

is owned by Jim and Jean Leaman, who restored it.

--- Inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award -- Don MacEslin.

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