

Through the nomination, subsequent oral history project and ongoing local recognition of many proud members of the community, Carver Court was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 31, 2016.



State Representative
HARRY LEWIS, JR.
74th Legislative District

DISTRICT OFFICES

131 Wallace Ave., Unit No. 14
Downtown, PA 19335
Phone: (610) 269-1289
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parkesburg Borough Hall
315 W. First Avenue, Building 1
Parkesburg, PA 19365
Phone: (610) 857-2145
Hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Coatesville Senior Center
250 Harmony Street
Coatesville, PA 19320
Phone: (610) 383-6900, x100
Hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every
first and third Monday

CAPITOL OFFICE

Room 153A, East Wing, PO Box 202074
Harrisburg PA 17120-2074
Phone: (717) 787-1806
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

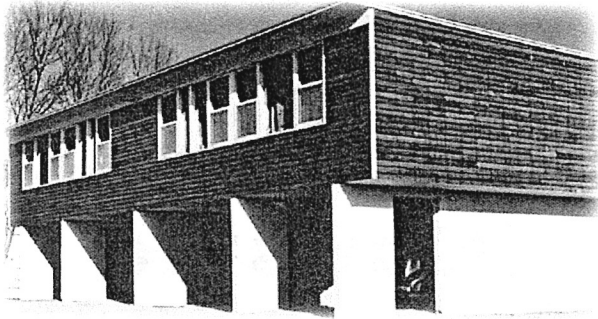
E-MAIL: HLEWIS@PAHOUSEGOP.COM
REPLEWIS.COM
FACEBOOK. 1/REPHARRYLEWIS

CARVER COURT: CHESTER COUNTY'S HISTORICAL HOUSING PROJECT



*Joe Bradford Jr.
designed and collected
material for the
Carver Court sign.*

Three giants of modern architecture in Philadelphia, George Howe, Louis Kahn and Oskar Stonorov, collaborated to design Carver Court in 1944. A former race track was converted into a landscaped cul-de-sac encircling a common green space, lined with 100 units of one- and two-story homes. The public housing project was built for



African-American workers of Lukens Steel factory and their families. Despite the wishes of housing activist Kahn, Carver Court was built in response to ethnic tensions; it segregated the white and black factory workers.

The community is one of only five housing projects designed by Kahn, Stonorov and Howe, and it the single specimen of their African-American architecture. Still, it had been largely disregarded by preservationists and historians as a result of its lack of typical modern design.

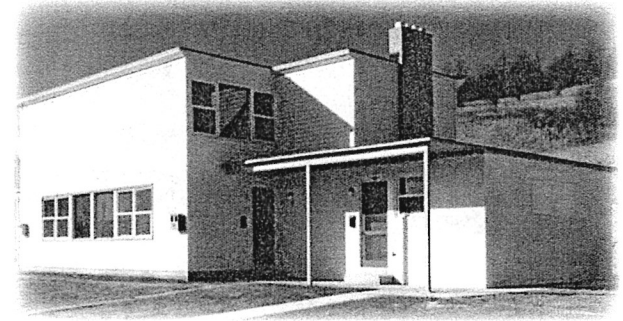
It wasn't until Jane Kennedy, a Carver Court resident, saw the housing project listed on the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's endangered properties list and contacted the alliance that it was assessed for National Register eligibility.

Although some of the original modernist design elements have been altered, Carver Court retains significant integrity as a model federal housing development.

Louis Kahn's design of Carver Court reinterpreted the traditional row house. The second floor was compromised of living quarters while the first floor was left at the owner's discretion. To provide occupants the opportunity to customize their housing unit – by turning the first floor into a garage, workshop or added living space – Kahn chose not to dictate the design of the ground floor. This approach afforded residents both a sense of ownership and design engagement.

After the alliance determined that the place had significance and was eligible for a listing, Kennedy worked to prepare a National Register nomination. As a former resident of Carver Court, Rep. Harry Lewis organized oral history interviews with other people who also lived in

the community, including his family members. Their personal memories and perspectives were recorded by a local community television service and are intended to be available for future researchers.



While the majority of Carver Court homes were duplexes or row homes, three buildings are four-plexes, with two units up and two units down.

