

I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL FOR THIS RECOGNITION - FOR ONLY DOING WHAT I ENJOY THE MOST, MESSING WITH OLD BUILDINGS.

AS I LOOK AROUND THE ROOM I FEEL AS IF MY CUP MOST CERTAINLY RUNNETH OVER. IT IS SO VERY GRATIFYING TO BE IN A ROOM FULL OF FRIENDS COLLEAGUES WHO SHARE MY LOVE OF HERITAGE AND ARE CONCERNED WITH SAFEGUARDING IT FOR NOT ONLY THE PRESENT BUT THE FUTURE.

TO ME, THE ACT OF PRESERVATION IS ONE NOT ONLY OF MATERIAL SUSTAINABILITY, BUT OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY. PRESERVATION IS AT ITS FOUNDATION A PROFUNDLY HUMANISTIC ENDEAVOR, AND AT SOME POINT, IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN SAFEGUARDING THE HERITAGE OF ALL OF US IN THIS WORLD, OUR COMMON HERITAGE WILL BRING US ALL GREAT COMFORT. I DO HOPE THAT CAN HAPPEN.

LET'S KEEP UP THE FIGHT AGAINST SHORT-TERM THINKING AND DOLLAR DRIVEN PLANNING. IT'S UP TO US. DID I MENTION THE HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA?

I'M FOREVER GRATEFUL TO MY MENTOR JAN POKORNY...THERE ARE SO MANY FOLKS HERE THAT I GREATLY NEED TO THANK, BUT THERE'S LITTLE TIME FOR THAT. HOWEVER, I CAN'T STEP AWAY WITHOUT GIVING THANKS FOR MY GREAT FORTUNE OF HAVING FOUND MY WIFE, LISA, IN NEW YORK CITY, WHO IS MY INSPIRATION, AND LONG-SUFFERING SOUNDING-BOARD AND THE BRAVEST PERSON I KNOW. AND, ALSO MY DAUGHTER LIBBY, WHO HAS SHOWN SO MUCH PATIENCE - WHEN I'D PULL THE CAR OVER TO GO EXPLORE SOME ABANDONED PILE – ALTHOUGH THE TWO OF THEM DID ONCE DRIVE AWAY ONCE LEAVING ME ON A DIRT ROAD IN THE MIDDLE OF FRANCE. AND I'D LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU AS WELL TO KURT HIRSCHBERG, MY BUSINESS PARTNER, WHO DOES SO MUCH TO GUIDE OUR JHPA SHIP. THANK YOU ALL, AND AS JOAN OF ARC SAID, "ONWARD BOLDLY!"