

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



The Bost Building, present-day
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

www.riversofsteel.com

The investment of \$3.53 million in Heritage Partnership Funds has led to an overall investment of \$30.3 million.

The creation of over 1,300 construction and business related jobs is a result of this redevelopment effort.



The Bost Building before



The Bost Building before



Carrie Furnaces Hard Hat Tour

In the heart of the *Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area* in Pennsylvania, the once-shuttered steel mill towns that made up the backbone of U.S. Steel and Andrew Carnegie's industrial empire are experiencing an economic resurrection. The towns of Homestead, Munhall, Swissvale and Rankin - all of which share parts of the former U.S. Steel Homestead Works - are witnessing a rebirth which is due to an economic partnership between Rivers of Steel, the local governments, and the real estate development company responsible for the revitalization of the former steel mill site. In the sprawling 500-plus acre industrial brownfield, new businesses and homes have sprouted. They are all complimented by the National Heritage Area's efforts to convince developers and local governments to save and reuse nationally significant properties as foundations for community revitalization.

Today, these properties which are National Historic Landmarks or on the National Register - the Carrie Furnaces and the Rankin Hot Metal Bridge, along with the Battle of Homestead Site and The Bost Building - are destinations for thousands of visitors from around the world. They are interconnected by the Steel Valley Trail, a hiking and biking trail that is a part of the Great Allegheny Passage, a 350-mile trail soon to connect Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. The investment of Heritage Partnership Funds into these historic properties and the trail has helped spearhead a redevelopment effort that has contributed to the economic development of these towns, created hundreds of construction and business related jobs and generated tax revenues to rescue them from bankruptcy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEELING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



The Stamping Building before

The Stamping Building, present-day
Wheeling National Heritage Area

www.wheelingheritage.org

Wheeling National Heritage Area has provided technical assistance to tax credit projects accounting to \$28.8 million in rehabilitation costs.

Projects now host approximately 560 employees in the central business district.



Paxton-Zinn Building before



Paxton-Zinn Building after

Wheeling National Heritage Area in West Virginia carved a major economic development leadership role when it invested its operational resources to provide technical expertise on federal and state rehabilitation tax credits. This approach has become a valuable tool for saving Wheeling's historic buildings and revitalizing its downtown. Working in partnership with private property owners, WNHA completes the three-part Historic Preservation Certification Application required for acquiring tax credits. Because the property owner is making a substantial investment in a certified historic structure in one of the city's National Register historic districts, WNHA is able to provide its technical assistance at no charge. The often cumbersome phases of a responsible major rehabilitation project are made easier through this innovative approach to partnership.

Since 2002, the WNHA has provided technical assistance to tax credit projects accounting to \$28.8 million in rehabilitation costs. The common denominator to all of the projects receiving WNHA technical assistance is that each had been vacant prior to their purchase and rehabilitation and are now - through innovative and wise investment - viable contributors to the economy of the region. The buildings served through this effort now host approximately 560 employees in or near the central business district of Wheeling.