

The Graystone Society brings you the newsletter of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in the Lukens National Historic District.

Collections

Sonarsphere Returns to Coatesville

What's red, round and can hear shrimp feeding in the ocean, but doesn't fit under most highway overpasses?

A Sonarsphere of course.

It was a beautiful Autumn day when the sonarsphere rolled into town. The Graystone Society has been working for over a year to make this a reality, and on November 1st it was escorted into Coatesville.



Photo courtesy of The Williams Group

The Sonarsphere rolling down Main Street into town from the west.

The sonarsphere is the first product to return to what was formerly known as Lukens Steel, and will be a part of the permanent collection of the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville.

Lukens Steel manufactured 101 sonarspheres for the US Navy in from 1959 to 1984. They were used in nuclear submarines as part of their sophisticated sonar

listening systems. This artifact weighs 27 tons, and is almost 15 feet in diameter. In order to transport the sonarsphere down from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, one of the original specially designed Low-Boy trailers was refurbished. A complex route had to be mapped out to avoid certain bridges, tunnels and overpasses.

The Graystone Society wishes to thank Government Liquidation of Scottsdale, Arizona, who generously donated the sonarsphere, and to William. F. Gaebel Trucking Company who refurbished and donated the trailer, and handled the transportation issues. Transport fees have been generously donated by The Huston Foundation and other donors.



Scott G. Huston, George Artelean, William F. Gaebel, Sharon Tandarich and Eugene L. DiOrio in front of the Sonarsphere, next to the Lukens Executive Office Building.

The Graystone Society is a 501(c)3 corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

Events

Holiday Open House Coming in December

We will be decorating the buildings in the Historic District for the Holiday season, and we will have an Open House on Saturday, December 8 from 4 to 7 pm. Admission for all three buildings: Graystone Mansion, Terracina and the Lukens Executive Office Building, is \$8. However, if you bring in a can for the Coatesville food Cupboard, admission is just \$3.

Parking will be at the Executive Building, which is also the first stop on the tour. (Canned goods will be collected at the Executive Building as well). Santa will be greeting visitors at Terracina. There will be refreshments offered at Graystone, and kids will be able to make their own ornaments and help decorate one of the trees.

So come see the Historic buildings at their finest, and help your less-fortunate neighbors at the same time. If you would like more information, please call us at 610-384-9282 or email graystone@lukensnhd.org.



The main stairway in Graystone Mansion decorated for the Holidays.

Be a part of the Graystone Society!

It's easy — go to www.lukensnhd.org and click on the **Donate, Join** or **Sponsorship** tabs or call today 610-384-9282.



The Graystone Society
 in the Lukens National Historic District
 The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum
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Programs

Upcoming Events in the Lukens National Historic District

Saturday, December 8, 4 to 7 pm — Holiday Open House
 All the historic buildings will be decorated for the Holidays.
 There will also be a Food Drive at the Lukens Executive Office Building to benefit the Coatesville Food Co-op.

Note: Not all of our 2008 Event dates have been finalized. Watch for your Graystone Society Membership Packet in January for a full listing of 2008 Event dates.

Mid-March 13 — Rebecca Lukens Award
 and celebration at Graystone Mansion will include the presentation of the Second Annual Rebecca Lukens Award. For details call 610-384-9282 or email to graystone@lukensnhd.org.

Spring Concert at Graystone — April, 2008

Spring Lecture Series resumes in May of 2008

Saturday, July 12 — Victorian Ice Cream Festival

Events

Fine Dining at Graystone

The Society hosted a Gala Victorian Dinner on October 19th at Graystone Mansion. On arrival, guests enjoyed fresh berries with Brie en Croute and sherry, accompanied by live music, which was provided by the Downingtown High School String Ensemble.

Diners were then treated to a nine course formal meal in the Great Room at Graystone. The special menu included Wild Mushroom Consommé, Pan-Seared Salmon Filet, Herb-Roasted Pheasant, Beef Tenderloin Medallions over Mushroom Ragout and more.

Guests all agreed that the gracious interior of Graystone Mansion was an appropriate setting for the Victorian Dinner, and it was most worthy of repeating as an annual event.



A few words with . . .

Graystone Society Executive Director

Eugene L. DiOrio, on Graystone Mansion

Eugene L. DiOrio was one of the founding members of the Graystone Society, and is currently Vice-President and Executive Director. Mr. DiOrio is also a lifelong resident of Coatesville, and well remembers when Graystone Mansion was occupied by the City of Coatesville and used as City Hall.

Graystone Mansion, built in 1889, was the estate of the Abram F. Huston family until the 1930s, when it was sold to the City. The building was occupied by the City for 53 years, during which time it was used for offices and as a setting for City Council and other public agency meetings.

Despite its long use as municipal offices, Graystone remained remarkably intact. The only major change made by the City was the replacement of a two story porch on the side of the building with a concrete and stone vault for record storage. Other changes made by the City were minimal, as was, unfortunately maintenance.

The City moved out of Graystone in 1982, and in 1985 gave the property to the Graystone Society for the purpose of preserving this major landmark, and using it for community events and tours. The Society's commitment has been to restoration of the mansion to its original appearance. To this end funds were raised to remove the vault structure and replace the stone and woodwork on the first floor. Plans are under way for full restoration of the porch.

The mansion is currently used for social and community events, meetings, concerts, and tours. Maintenance and operating Graystone Mansion involves a substantial financial obligation. To ease this burden, the Society is currently exploring options that would provide income, while at the same time maintain the architectural integrity of the building and keep it available for public events.

— by John Gutekunst

Properties

Graystone Mansion

One of the best ways to preserve historic buildings is by **repurposing**. This means finding a new use for the property different from its original use, but which maintains it's historic integrity.

Graystone Mansion, the most architecturally significant house in Coatesville, started out as a home, but subsequently became City Hall in 1939. The Graystone Society is currently searching for a tenant to lease this beautiful building once again.

Brandywine Mansion

We are currently in the process of acquiring funding for the restoration of Rebecca Lukens' home. Before any actual physical work is done, we must first put together a Preservation Plan, which will define and chart the course of action to be taken. We hope to begin this process in the near future.

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