

Coatesville's Huston Family Purchases Brandywine Mansion

COATESVILLE, PA - The Huston Family has acquired historic Brandywine Mansion, the former home of Rebecca Lukens, and has donated the property to the Graystone Society.

The Huston family, which also oversees the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust, acquired Brandywine Mansion from Mittal Steel, the operators of the former Lukens Steel Mill. The Huston family has a long commitment to the Lukens National Historic District and the City of Coatesville. The purchase price was not disclosed.

"Brandywine Mansion is a very important part of the history of Lukens Steel and Coatesville" said Scott Huston, executive director of the trust. "Our family is pleased to be able to pave the way for the ultimate restoration of a key piece of American history."

Brandywine Mansion is the oldest structure in the Lukens Historic District. Early portions of the house date to the mid-1700s. The Graystone Society plans to restore Brandywine Mansion to its 1830 appearance, the period when Rebecca Lukens occupied the home and was actively managing the Brandywine Iron Works and Nail Factory, the 1800s' predecessor to Lukens Steel Company.



Born in 1794 to Quakers Isaac and Martha Webb Pennock, Rebecca took an interest in her father's business, the Brandywine Iron Works and Nail Company. Married in 1813 to Dr. Charles Lukens, who later became her father's partner in the Brandywine Iron Works, Rebecca took over the running of the mill when her husband passed away in 1825. Rebecca Lukens became the nation's first female industrialist and is largely responsible for the company's growth into the oldest, continuously operating steel mill in North America.

She supplied steel to feed the Industrial Revolution, namely plate steel for use in locomotive train boilers and steamship bows from New Orleans, St. Louis, Boston and New York. Rebecca ran the company out of this house until she passed away in 1854. The Brandywine Iron and Nail Company was reorganized in 1890 as the Lukens Iron and Steel Company to reflect her contributions.

About The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust

The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust was created in 1989 under the will of Stewart Huston, former vice president and secretary of the board of Lukens Steel Company. The Trust's mission is to support non-profit organizations engaged in religious, charitable, and educational work, and to assist organizations that are creating opportunities for deserving, needy persons. This is done through collaborative efforts, technical assistance, and awarding grants. Additional information about the Trust is available at www.stewarthurston.org.

Created in 1984, the Graystone Society works to improve economic development in Coatesville through historic preservation. The Graystone Society has been instrumental in the acquisition and preservation/restoration of the other two ironmasters' homes in Coatesville: Terracina, the home of Isabella Pennock Lukens (Rebecca's daughter) and her husband, Dr. Charles Huston. The Graystone Society is also restoring and maintaining Graystone Mansion, the home of Abram F. Huston.