Organization's History

1979 - The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation was founded as a nonprofit corporation to guide investment dollars into historic renovation projects through tax and other financial incentives, including façade easement donations. Cuthbert Row, built in 1710, becomes the first property in Philadelphia to be protected in perpetuity via a preservation easement.

1982 - The Rittenhouse Preservation Coalition forms to oppose the demolition the Yarnall and Harrison houses, two historic rowhomes near Rittenhouse Square threatened by a proposed high rise. The group, led by Rhoda Richards, succeeds in passing new zoning laws that block the new tower and save the buildings.

1983 - The Rittenhouse Preservation Coalition grows to become the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, Philadelphia's first citizen-based preservation advocacy organization. Its first chairman in James Biddle, former president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

1984 - The Preservation Coalition and others successfully lobby Mayor Wilson Goode and City Council to approve a major overhaul of the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance, which was first established in 1955. For the first time, the Philadelphia Historical Commission was granted the authority to prevent the demolition of historic buildings and to designate historic districts.

1986 - The Foundation for Architecture establishes its popular walking tour series.

1994 - The 1st Annual Preservation Achievement Awards are hosted by the Preservation Coalition.

1996 - The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia merge to become the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

2002 - John Andrew Gallery begins ten-year tenure as executive director of the Preservation Alliance.

2003 - The Preservation Alliance releases its 1st Annual Endangered Properties List and the first issue of its Preservation Matters newsletter.

2008 - The Preservation Alliance inherits the Foundation for Architecture's walking tour program and continues its ambitious roster of over 60 unique tours to this day.

2009 - The Alliance leads a campaign to protect significant public interior spaces by amending the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance to allow interior designations.

2009 - The Preservation Alliance is cosponsor of the first Hidden City Festival, a citywide celebration of under-appreciated historic spaces.

2012 - Sixteen years of persistent advocacy efforts by the Alliance and others were rewarded when Pennsylvania becomes the 30th state to establish a state-level historic preservation tax credit.

2012 - John Andrew Gallery retires and is succeeded as executive director by Caroline E. Boyce, former executive vice president of AIA Pennsylvania, founding director of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, and former executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania.

2013 - Board adopts charter to officially establish the Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance.

2014 – The first annual Architectural Dinner is held at the Ardrossan Estate in Villanova, PA.

2015 - The Alliance publishes the debut issue of *Extant*, a new magazine to promote historic preservation efforts in the Philadelphia region.

2016 - Caroline Boyce steps down after three years as Executive Director. She is replaced by Paul R. Steinke, founding Preservation Alliance board member and Board Chair from 2002–05.

2018 – The 25th annual Preservation Achievement Awards takes place on June 6th

2021 – The Preservation Alliance celebrates the 25th anniversary of its founding at a virtual Preservation Achievement Awards ceremony in June and the Architectural Dinner at Bartram's Garden in September honoring filmmaker and civic leader Sam Katz.

2022 – The inaugural Mary Werner DeNadai Award is given to Ken Weinstein at the Architectural Dinner at Glen Foerd on the Delaware.