



# Valley Township

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**1145 West Lincoln Highway**  
**Coatesville, PA 19320**

**(610) 384-5751/FAX (610) 384-2746**

*Board of Supervisors*

*Patrice Proctor, Chairwoman*  
*Kathy O'Doherty, Vice-Chairwoman*  
*Linda Baugher, Member*  
*Casey Max Leidy, Member*  
*Sharon Yates, Member*

**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**VALLEY TOWNSHIP, PA**

Valley Township is pleased to announce that at its public meeting of April 4, 2023 the Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement of sale with the Hayti Historical Society (“HHS”) to convey the former Township municipal building located at 890 West Lincoln Highway. The building’s important history includes its service as the Passtown Elementary School, which provided education for Black students in the Hayti community during the era of segregation. The Passtown School is the last such surviving structure in Chester County. “The Agreement of Sale is particularly well timed, as this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Passtown School,” said Board Chair Patrice Proctor.

Given the age, size, and condition of the building, the Township has determined that future viable municipal uses are limited, having completed the modern Township facilities at 1145 West Lincoln Highway. HHS approached the Township and presented proposals, cooperatively refined over time, to restore and preserve the Passtown School for future use as a community center and museum.

Formed in 2019, HHS is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created for the purpose of preservation of historical sites. With this status now in place, the Township is able to legally transfer the building to HHS pursuant to the Second Class Township Code.

Under the Agreement of Sale, HHS will have three years to obtain subdivision approval, as well as conditional use approval, for the proposed acquisition and use. Once the approvals are properly obtained, ownership of the portion of the property containing the Passtown School will transfer to HHS for one dollar. HHS then will embark on its building renovations and adaptive reuse.

The Township will continue to own Hayti Park and significant related parking. “The Township is excited for HHS to embark on this project. When completed, the HHS community center and museum will serve as a complementary use to Hayti Park, and allow for preservation of this unique historic asset here in Valley Township, and of significance to the broader western Chester County community,” stated Township Manager Janis Rambo.

**History of the Passtown School**

The Passtown School was built in 1923 in the Hayti neighborhood, a Black community that emerged after the Civil War. Originally a two-room school house, it was enlarged in 1950 with an addition that doubled the size of the building.

The Passtown School directly served the Hayti community for 34 years. In addition to its educational use, the school functioned as a community center, where civic meetings, social activities and Hayti community celebrations took place.

When public schools in Chester County were reorganized, the Passtown School was ultimately assigned to Coatesville Area School District. First integrated in 1957, the Passtown School was later transferred to Valley Township in 1967, where it was used as a municipal building from 1967 to 2020.

In 2017, the Passtown School was made eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, recognizing its association with the Hayti community, and as a symbol of the often slow path to dismantle segregated education in Pennsylvania.

####