



Stewardship of the Frederick Kennedy Jr. Farm,
Hanover Township, and the Hugh Richard House,
Jackson

John and Nancy Hand

Dr. John Hand and his late wife, Nancy, have been outstanding stewards of two properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980 the Hands purchased the Frederick Kennedy Jr. Farm: 80 acres with a deteriorating Greek Revival house and outbuildings. The house had vegetation growing out of the roof, and it had been used as a garage—complete with an oil pit and machine shop. According to Dr. Hand, his wife fell in love with the house at first sight.

The Hands rehabilitated the farm complex as their home, doing much of the work themselves. They located historic brick and roofing slate, cutting both to fit their needs. Every feature of the house needed to be rebuilt or repaired, including the columned porch.

In addition to the Kennedy Farm, beginning in 1988 the Hands rehabilitated the Queen Anne-style Hugh Richard House in Jackson and converted it to office space for Dr. Hand's psychology practice. This major rehabilitation project included replication of the ornate trim and the curved porch.

Thinking of the future, the Hands put legal protections in place for the Kennedy Farm. Dr. John Hand's hope is that future owners of both buildings will continue the stewardship he and Nancy provided over the years.