



THE CAMPAIGN FOR
**THE ROSE VALLEY MUSEUM
AT THUNDERBIRD LODGE**

**PRESERVING
THE ART
THAT IS LIFE**

ROSE VALLEY

In 1901, Philadelphia architect William L. Price, influenced by the English Arts & Crafts ideas professed by John Ruskin and William Morris, established the colony of Rose Valley, Pennsylvania.

Amidst the ruins of a vacant mill village, Price built a community where artists and craftsmen would live, work and play in harmony with nature. The intent was to employ architecture and the decorative arts in the service of craftsmanship, artistic harmony and cultural cohesion.

The Arts & Crafts ideology has survived for over a century and needs to be cultivated for generations to come.

Bridge at Lotus Pond, Rose Valley, circa 1905
Price Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Gift of George E. Thomas





COMMUNITY

Rose Valley is a magical place. Homes and buildings are tied together by walking trails that weave their way along the scenic waterways and wooded landscapes. The tiny hamlet sustains long-standing community groups such as The Folk, the Gardeners of Rose Valley, the Valley Voices and the Pool. Both the School in Rose Valley and Hedgerow Theatre are direct descendants of the original Arts & Crafts colony envisioned by Price.

The enchantment of Rose Valley is ephemeral. The magic was created by those who came before us, captivating generations of families, friends and visitors. The challenge is, how do we ensure its future for generations to come? How do we effectively connect the past with the present?

We tell the story.

Life Drawing Class, Thunderbird Lodge Studio

THUNDERBIRD LODGE

Thunderbird Lodge, designed and built by Price in 1904, grew from an existing stone barn into the studio and home of world-renowned illustrator Alice Barber Stephens and her husband, Charles, an early Native American ethnologist. It later became the home of well-known social activists Judge Allen and Mildred Scott Olmsted.

“Thunderbird Lodge is one of ten most important houses in early 20th century US.”

George E. Thomas, PhD

*Author, Historian, Co-director
Critical Conservation, Graduate School
of Fine Arts, Harvard University*

In 2015, the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation took ownership of this historic home, listed on the National Historic Register in 1989. It is the centerpiece of Rose Valley’s National Historic District which contains more than 100 separate structures.

Dining Room, Thunderbird Lodge





COLLABORATION

Rose Valley has a long and rich history of collaboration. In that spirit, The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation in partnership with the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society have created the new **Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge**. A capital campaign is underway with a goal to raise \$1,000,000 over the next three to five years to restore and repurpose this distinguished architectural gem, Thunderbird Lodge.

For decades, the Museum and Historical Society has searched for a permanent home. The property must be improved and adapted to protect the precious treasures and to serve as a fitting venue in the heart of the community – *a place to share important local and national stories and experience the vibrant history of Rose Valley.*

Museum Sign and Entryway, Thunderbird Lodge

CULMINATION

Thunderbird Lodge will house a landmark collection of early Rose Valley art and artifacts. Beyond that, we envision a cultural center interpreting the history of Rose Valley and its living manifestation via interactive, educational programming geared to all ages. The building will function as a connector for the trail network, allowing visitors to experience the historic architecture, public art and natural beauty that surrounds.



The Museum is situated to become a destination for devotees of the Arts & Crafts movement and a local treasure for inhabitants of the Delaware Valley.

Rose Valley Museum Opening





COMMITMENT

We are committed. Thanks to the generosity of a handful of donors (our early supporters) urgent and critical renovations to Thunderbird started in 2015. Soon after, The Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge opened and began holding cultural events, lectures, workshops and a variety of unique activities to engage the public.

The seminal Harrison Collection, recently gifted to the Museum, is on display along with other important period objects bringing history to life as visitors experience the beauty of the art in its rightful surroundings. The Museum is working consciously to create a sense of wonder and excitement for people of all ages.

Doesn't this sound like something you would like to be part of?

Rear Porch Detail, Thunderbird Lodge

GIVING

If all this is happening, then why do you need to get involved?

There is still a long way to go. In order to address the most pressing structural issues with the building, early investors donated a quarter of our goal during the planning phase of the capital campaign. These generous leadership gifts provided the resources to give us a successful start. However, there is still much to do.

Our vision for Thunderbird Lodge and the Museum is ambitious but warranted. When the fundraising campaign is completed, we will have a restored building, a lively and relevant arts and education center and a true community treasure. That's why we need you - please join us!

To make a capital campaign gift, visit rosevalley100.org

Moravian Tile Fireplace, Thunderbird Lodge



Front Elevation, Thunderbird Lodge, circa 1905, showing Stephens home to left and artist studios on right.

Photo courtesy of the Price Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Gift of George E. Thomas





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Preserving the Art That is Life

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