

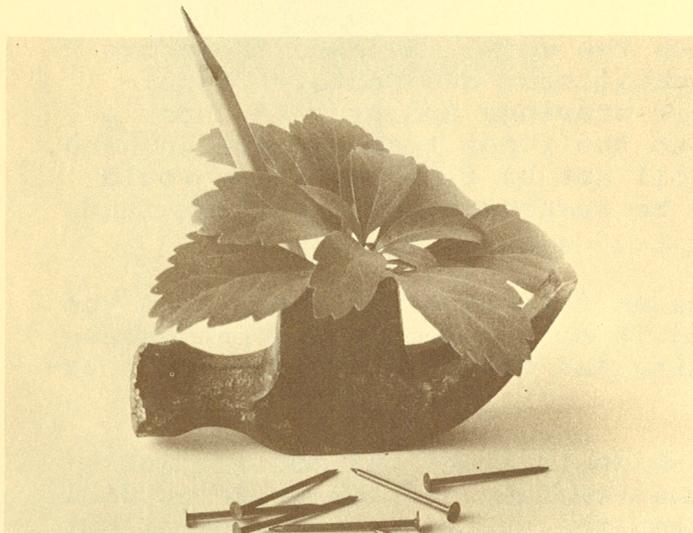
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

NUMBER 21 - JULY AUGUST 1970

PHLF TO HOST NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

"Practical Preservation in Urban Areas" will be the theme of a conference for professionals, planners, and all other persons interested in historic preservation in urban areas. It is scheduled for the William Penn Hotel on September 10 and 11, 1970. This conference was originally recommended by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the President's National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation because of the unusual programs being implemented by PHLF in Allegheny, South Side, and Manchester.



During the last two years written inquiries and inquirers themselves have been coming in increasing numbers to our offices wanting to know about the Birmingham program, the Mexican War Streets program, the Manchester Urban Renewal program, the Boyle Street program, and the Hill District Neighborhood Development program. Of particular interest is our effort to use the restoration of good residential and commercial Victorian architecture as a catalyst to renewing civic pride in these various neighborhoods as well as our use of leased housing programs and our studies of FHA programs.

Details of the conference will be mailed to members later in the summer and you will have an option of attending any or all sessions or attending the Thursday evening banquet to meet the people from other cities. We hope we will have a good turnout of PHLF members at the banquet.

Recently the Foundation received as a gift from Mrs. Kenneth Hewett an extremely interesting painting of the third Sixth Street bridge, which was built in 1891-92 after the designs of Theodore Cooper (1839-1919), the famous American bridge engineer. The artist is Otto Kuhler (1894-), who was born in Germany the son of an iron master, but who came to this country in 1923 after a varied career as engineer, designer, soldier, and artist. From 1923 to 1928 he lived in Pittsburgh, where he continued his artistic career; a number of paintings and etchings--particularly of the city's industrial aspects--attest to his absorbing interest in the local scene. In later life he became a cattle rancher in Colorado, but he now lives in Sante Fe, New Mexico. Since the third Sixth Street bridge was moved to Coraopolis in 1926 to make way for the present structure, the Foundation's picture must have been painted about 1924-25. Done in a loosely-brushed, impressionistic style, our canvas has considerable vigor, and its tenebrous, almost brumous atmosphere will remind old-time Pittsburghers of the city's once "smokey" reputation.

KUHLER
PAINTING
ACQUIRED

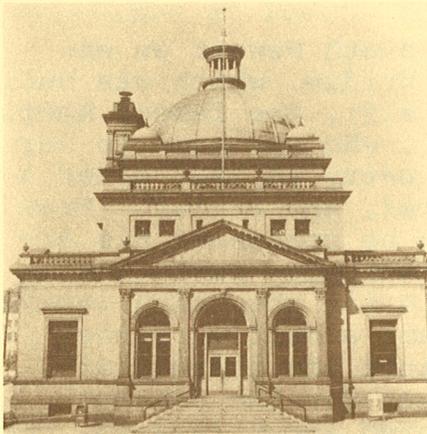
LANDMARKS MUSEUM GOING AHEAD
BUT WITHOUT HELP FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has eliminated the restoration of historic properties from the Project 500 Act. Together with many other preservation organizations and municipalities we have protested this interpretation which we believe contradicts the intent of the legislature; a large number of legislators have been helping us but there is no appeal from the ruling. Because we had a verbal commitment under the Project 500 Act of \$375,000 for our campaign to restore the North Side Post Office as the Landmarks Museum, this action compelled us to restudy the entire project. Ironically, we had raised the entire \$700,000 that we needed from private foundations, corporations, unions, and individuals in Allegheny County and had thereby more than fulfilled the state requirements.

After considerable analysis, our Board of Directors has determined that we should reduce our budget and proceed with the work. We have therefore asked Williams/Trebilcock/Whitehead, our architects, and Deeter-Ritchey-Sippel, Inc., our engineers, to revise their drawings and proceed under a construction budget that will be tailored to the funds that we have in hand. That means that portions of the building will not be finished as we would prefer and that certain plans will have to be suspended until further funds can be found.

But it seems prudent to us to continue on this important work when the citizens of Allegheny County have supported it so completely and enthusiastically and that we should save this building and start the museum and tourist center in it.

We have therefore proceeded to accept bids to start the roofing work during the clear weather and the work on the remainder of the building will begin during the fall. We are hoping to open the structure next summer but in the meantime we plan to establish special opening hours during which people can come in and watch the work in progress. We want the Landmarks Museum to be open as often as possible and for people to come and join with us in thinking through how to make this museum a lively and useful place for the citizens of Allegheny County. We want ideas, we want participation, and we want to move ahead.



Old Allegheny Post Office, 1894-1897
Scheduled for demolition as "non functional"
but saved by us as the Landmarks Museum.



New Allegheny Post Office 1967-1968
Functional

"WHEN I DO COUNT THE CLOCK THAT TELLS THE TIME"



In the face of the accompanying photo, it is a sorrowful thing to remember Shakespeare's sonnet, because this landmark clock cannot be counted now. The last of the old standard street clocks--rather like a giant watch on stilts, stood at the corner of Fifth and Liberty Avenues. For as long as we can remember it has been there, but recently it was struck by a runaway car with the results shown. So even the minor grace notes of the Pittsburgh urban landscape disappear. We have hopes that this one might reappear, however, as we have enthusiastically approved a plan whereby the clock could be restored and placed in Market Square.

Second Summer Sunday Afternoon Walking Tour

SHADYSIDE WEST

2:00 P.M. Sunday August 30, 1970

On Sunday afternoon August 30, Mr. Van Trump will lead the Foundation's second summer walking tour of this season. We will traverse the western part of the Shadyside district comprising the area lying between Fifth and Ellsworth Avenues and Devonshire and St. James Streets. This extraordinarily green and pleasant quarter--so appropriate to a summer afternoon stroll--constitutes one of the few remaining enclaves of late Victorian and early 20th century upper class residential amenity still surviving in the local urban context. The development of the district will be discussed and the architecture and history of the houses will be commented on, but no interiors will be visited. The tour will assemble at the parking lot of the Rodef Shalom Synagogue located at 4905 Fifth Avenue.

Admission: Free to members
\$2 each for non-members

Please make _____ reservations for me of which _____ are for members
and _____ are for non-members.

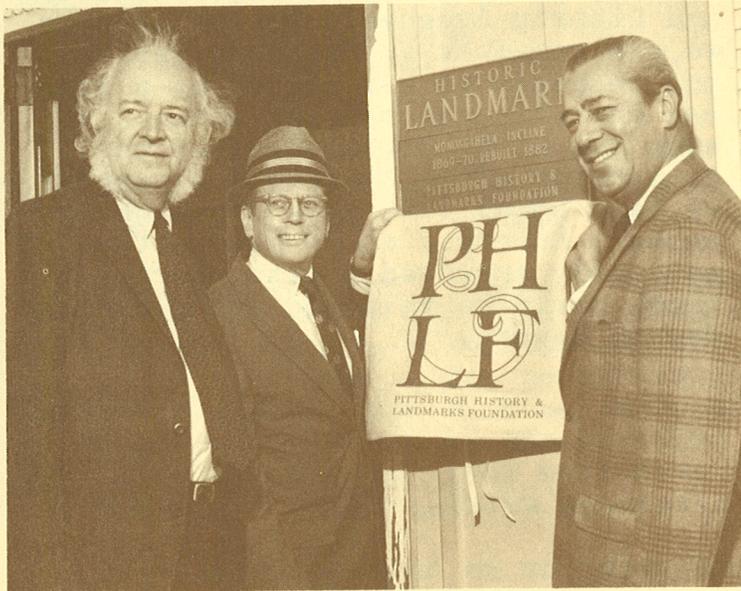
My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed for non-members.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

To save expense, tickets will not be mailed; reservations will be checked at the site.

The Wallace-Nasor House in North Versailles is for sale. This stone house, built about 1790, is listed on page 212 in our book, Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County. A farmhouse to this day, it commands a spectacular view of the Turtle Creek Valley. A house of this type is a rarity in this area and it can make a handsome and unique home for someone interested in acquiring and restoring a historic house. The property includes approximately 50 acres with over a 2,000 foot frontage on Route 48 and is listed for \$75,000. Interested parties should contact Mr. D. J. Calabrese at Ruffolo Realty Company 863-8330 or 864-0085.



In recent weeks the Foundation has awarded its historic structure plaques to Trinity Cathedral (1871-72), Calvary Episcopal Church (1906-07), and the Monongahela Incline (1869). Plaque dedication ceremonies at Trinity Cathedral coincided with the convention of the Pittsburgh Episcopal Diocese. Participants in the ceremony included the Right Reverend Robert B. Appleyard, Bishop; County Commissioner Thomas J. Foerster; City Councilman J. Craig Kuhn; Stuart E. McMurray, President of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce; and Charles Covert Arensberg, President of PHLF. In the Calvary ceremonies at which Bishop Appleyard also officiated, attention was called to the fact that the first live broadcast of church services in the world originated at Calvary over KDKA Radio on January 2, 1921. Dedication of the incline plaque was described at length in an article in the New York Times.

PLAQUE
PROGRAM
PROCEEDS

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Permit No. 598

PITTSBURGH HISTORY &
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
900 BENDUM-TREES BUILDING
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15222

