

Address Correction Requested

PH LF NEWS

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 129

May 1993

- Revisiting Burtner House
- Hands-on History Festival
- Straightening Out East Liberty
- Pittsburgh Architecture:
New Ways of Seeing

National Trust President Visits Landmarks

“Leadership seems to be the key factor.” Midway through his day-long visit to Pittsburgh on March 8, National Trust for Historic Preservation president Richard Moe offered that answer to a question he had himself raised a moment before: “Why is there more successful historic-preservation activity in Pittsburgh than anywhere else in this country?”

Richard Moe — lawyer, Civil War preservationist, and former White House official — became National Trust president in January of this year. Accompanied by vice-president Peter Brink and joined by the Trust’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Office director Patricia Wilson from Philadelphia, Mr. Moe left Washington, D.C. to visit Pittsburgh for the first “field trip” of his tenure. “I was right,” he noted several times during the course of his visit, “to come to Pittsburgh first.”

During the morning, Landmarks’ president Arthur Ziegler and former Preservation Fund director Stanley Lowe led a tour of projects and programs sponsored by Landmarks. The Trust officials were joined by members of the New York Landmarks Conservancy and Landmarks Harlem, whose independent visit to study Landmarks’ programs and policies happily coincided with Mr. Moe’s visit. The itinerary reviewed past projects — inner-city neighborhood housing restoration on Manchester’s Liverpool Street, Allegheny West, and the Mexican War Streets, and commercial developments such as the Brewery and the Priory in the Troy Hill and Allegheny East sections of the city.

Of particular interest to the Washington officials were the current activities receiving funding and technical assistance from Landmarks’ Preservation Fund. Rhonda Brandon and Betty Jane

Continued on page 12



National Trust president Richard Moe talks with Landmarks’ trustee Evelyn Hirtle during the morning bus tour of Pittsburgh’s historic Northside neighborhoods and commercial restoration projects.

On March 9, National Trust president Richard Moe wrote the following letter to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation:

I can’t tell you how much I appreciate the day you put together for me yesterday. It was a truly exhilarating experience. Now I know why the entire preservation community looks to you with such admiration and awe. I found in the schedule you put together exactly the experience I was looking for. There really is more going on in those neighborhoods in Pittsburgh than anywhere else in the nation. This is a direct result of the decades of work that you’ve put in to practical preservation. I came away truly inspired and energized and determined to take the word far and wide of what you are doing in Pittsburgh. This is preservation as it should be practiced and I am committed to furthering it in every way that I can.

Many thanks again, Arthur. I am most grateful and I hope you will let me know whenever I can be of assistance to you.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Richard Moe



Far left: Richard Moe and Peter Brink of the National Trust and Arthur Ziegler of Landmarks talk with Stanley Lowe on Liverpool Street in Manchester. Left: Once scheduled for demolition, the nine identical double houses on Liverpool Street now form the most impressive house row in Pittsburgh.

Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

PH NEWS

Welcome New Members

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation welcomes the following new members who recently joined Landmarks. We look forward to their participation in our work and special events.

Bloomfield Preservation & Heritage Society, Inc.
 Daniel L. Bonk
 Mrs. Fred C. Brady
 Todd D. Brant
 Joel T. Camp
 Mrs. Edward W. Campbell
 Ms. Charlotte Cohen
 Robert L. Critchlow
 Phillip Daquila
 Matthew J. DeJuliis
 Ms. Joanne Devereaux
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold J. Dom & Family
 Ms. Constance M. Dougherty
 Lauren & John Durain
 Robert M. Eppinger
 Mrs. Elda Eureka
 Andy J. Fortna
 Mark & Ida Gleeson
 Roland R. Graham, Jr.
 Ms. Evelyn Granieri
 Robert L. Harland & Family
 Ms. Jennifer C. Haugen
 Ms. Eileen M. Hilko
 Holiday Park School
 William & Janet Holtz
 Robert S. Johnston
 Ms. Cheryl Johovich

Mrs. Alina Lao Keebler
 Mr. & Mrs. William M. Kelly
 William Keyes
 Ms. Kathryn Leahy
 Richard J. Lutz
 Miss Evalyne L. Miller
 Ms. Marie R. Miller
 Ms. Deborah L. Myers
 Ms. Esther S. Persky
 Stephen A. Pfouts & Family
 Real Estate Enterprises
 Veronica M. Rocks, Esq.
 Bernd P. Rose
 Charles L. Rosenblum
 Ms. Alison Rushford
 Stephen J. Salmon
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul W. Schaugency
 Ms. LuAnn Sokolowski
 Jay F. Steele
 John E. Stevenson, Jr.
 Ted & Beth Stevenson
 Greg Turner
 Robert Washington
 Gregory A. Weimerskirch
 George Whitmer
 Ms. Nancy L. Zagorac
 Valeriano C. Zarro, Ph.D., RA
 Dr. & Mrs. David Zontine

Corporate Members

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation welcomes the following corporate members:

Benefactors

PNC Bank
 TCI Cable of Pennsylvania

Patrons

Armstrong Group of Companies
 Integra Bank

Partners

Allegheny Valley Bank
 Bobby Rubino's Place for Ribs
 Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
 Community Savings
 CTR Systems

Partners (Continued)

Dynamet Foundation
 Elkem Metals
 Gateway Engineers
 L.B. Foster Company
 West Penn Hospital

Associates

Delta International Machinery Corporation

Alexander Kanuth



Alexander Kanuth is just completing a six-month internship with Landmarks. Alex came to Landmarks on a year break from Bowdoin, intent on getting a diverse exposure to historic preservation activities and trying to decide on a career. He has been auditing, assisting, and gaining skill with a good many of us, always willingly and energetically, and feels that he has learned a lot. Alex has worked particularly closely with our Preservation Fund and neighborhood programs supported by local lending institutions. He is going to be looking forward to real estate development and/or finance for his life's work.

Alex is 21 years old. He was born in Asker, near Oslo in Norway, but moved as a small child to Australia, and at the age of nine to the United States. Home, at present, is Palm Beach.

Gifts to Landmarks

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation gratefully acknowledges donations by:

- Genevieve Hachmeister McCain, of the South Hills, for several survey maps of c. 1930 for the Boulevard of the Allies, and for rough specifications c. 1914 for an industrial building.
- Margaret Berry, of Conway, Massachusetts, for a book of Pittsburgh views from 1895.

PHLF News is published five times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. It is supported through membership dollars, proceeds from Station Square, and advertising revenue.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. President
 Louise Sturgess Editor/Executive Director
 Cathy Broucek Director of Marketing, Station Square
 Mary Lu Denny Director of Membership Services
 Eric F. Dickerson Advertising Sales Manager
 Mary Ann Eubanks Education Coordinator
 Alex Kanuth Preservation Fund Administrator
 Walter C. Kidney Architectural Historian
 Albert M. Tannler Archivist
 Greg Pytlik Designer



Bookstore and Library Open House

On April 18, Landmarks' members and friends visited The Landmarks Store in The Shops at Station Square, and the James D. Van Trump Library, on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building, at an Open House held between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m.

Attendees at The Landmarks Store browsed through the expanded stock of architecture and design books, looked over new and unusual gift items, and gladly took advantage of a special 20% discount in honor of the occasion.

At The Landmarks Building, guests toured the library and staff offices, and chatted with staff members. Visitors were able to examine some of the more interesting and unusual books in the Library before moving on to explore offices and work areas. The final full-color rendered plans of Oehme, Van Sweden & Associates' design for the Station Square Riverpark were laid out in the Arensberg Conference Room and drew particular interest.

At 3:00 p.m., archivist Al Tannler spoke briefly about Jamie Van Trump, who was present at the Open House. The Library was dedicated in Jamie's honor. Al noted that Jamie was Pittsburgh's preeminent architectural historian who had written first about myriad aspects of the city's character and environment, and had done so "with elegance, passion, and a breadth unlikely to be matched." He further observed that Landmarks, as an organization, has been characterized from its founding by two equally important endeavors: thoughtful exploration of the Pittsburgh area's resources and heri-



Two illustrations from our Library's books: an exterior of "Lyndhurst," the Thaw house on Beechwood Boulevard, and a construction shot from the Larimer Avenue Bridge project, August 21, 1911.

tage, and a strong, activist involvement in the preservation of these resources, from the neighborhoods to the national level. Al characterized the Library as "not a full-service public or academic library, in the usual sense, but a private, even, one might say, a 'family' library which serves as a resource for members and staff." He noted that the Open House represented a "commencement," not a completion, and that much remained to be done in our job to organize and arrange books and archival materials.

Delectable refreshments from the Grand Concourse were served in the main hallway. Many who attended were overheard to say that this was their first visit to Landmarks' offices and library. We look forward to future such events and repeated visits by our members.

Landmarks Welcomes

•

**PNC BANK AND
TCI CABLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA**

•

as Corporate Member Benefactors
of the Pittsburgh History &
Landmarks Foundation

*Landmarks appreciates the commitment
of PNC Bank and TCI Cable of
Pennsylvania in helping us create a future
for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.*

OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN GARDEN TOUR

Saturday and Sunday, July 10 and 11
1 p.m.-5 p.m., Allegheny West

Over a dozen gardens in this historic district on Pittsburgh's North Side will be on display. Refreshments will be available in a patio cafe, and unusual plants will be for sale.

The tour is sponsored by the Allegheny West Civic Council, which is celebrating its 25th year of support for urban renewal and historic preservation.



For information call:
(412) 323-8884
Tickets:
\$5.00 per person
(may be purchased
on site on tour days)

E P V H E & N L T F S

Call Landmarks, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., at (412) 471-5808, for further information on the events listed below, or to make reservations.

Mon. thru Fri., June 14-18
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Exploring Architecture

Through lectures, slide shows, hands-on activities, and walking tours of Station Square and downtown Pittsburgh, teachers will learn about this region's architectural heritage. Gillian Cannell, an art history instructor at the University of Pittsburgh, will be the course leader for Landmarks. Elementary or secondary teachers may register for this two-credit in-service course by calling the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 394-5761. The course will be held in Landmarks' offices at Station Square.



The Singer house, Wilksburg

Wed., June 23 6-8 p.m.

Wilksburg Walking Tour

Join Leon Haynes of Hosanna House and members of Landmarks' staff for a walk through Wilksburg, a suburb of modest sufficiency, with historic homes and churches. We will visit Covenant Church of Pittsburgh, the Wilksburg business district and school complex, and the Singer House of 1865, a fanciful Romantic Gothic design.

Tour fare: \$2 members; \$5 non-members

Mon., July 12 thru Wed., July 21
9 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Pittsburgh Heritage: a summer workshop for teachers

Landmarks' instructor Sue Neff will conduct *Pittsburgh Heritage*, a three-credit summer workshop for teachers at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Station Square. Teachers will spend eight summer days exploring Pittsburgh's past through its architecture. In addition to attending workshops designed especially for them, teachers will participate in art activities, treasure hunts, incline and Gateway Clipper tours, and walking tours of Station Square, the Mexican War Streets, the Golden Triangle, and the ethnic churches of McKees Rocks. When they return to the classroom in the fall, teachers will be able to enrich traditional classroom curricula with their new-found knowledge. To register call the AIU at (412) 394-5761.

Wed., July 14 6-8 p.m.

Historic Allegheny Arsenal and Grounds

Jim Wudarczyk of the Lawrenceville Historical Society will guide us through the historic Allegheny Arsenal and grounds. Our tour will begin at the corner of 40th Street and Penn Avenue and will explore the entire lower and upper



The former Marine Hospital on the Arsenal grounds

grounds territory, including the Marine Hospital where Doctor Spock did his research, the powder magazine, Arsenal Middle School, the cannon, and sites of famous legends involving the Allegheny Arsenal. Please wear walking shoes and be prepared for the rolling terrain. The tour will end near the Washington Crossing Bridge at the Allegheny River below Butler Street. You can park on the street either near the beginning of the tour or near the end.

Tour fare: \$2 members; \$5 non-members

Sat., July 24 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Highs and Lows of Pittsburgh

Attention grandparents, moms, dads, and kids! Join Landmarks' instructor Sue Neff on an adventure through our city — up the Monongahela Incline, into downtown Pittsburgh via the subway, underground through office building tunnels, to the top of a skyscraper, and to a church graveyard. There will be gargoyles to search for along the way, and lots of Pittsburgh trivia and architectural facts to learn.

Bring a picnic lunch because we all will eat in Mellon Square Park.

Tour fare (including incline and subway fees): members: \$15 per family; \$25 non-members

Wed., September 22 6-8 p.m.

Aspinwall Walking Tour

Join members of the Aspinwall Centennial Committee for an evening stroll through this vibrant neighborhood along the Allegheny River, with its stately, well-kept homes, majestic trees, and flowering gardens. Aspinwall was laid out in 1890 by Henry Warner, superintendent of the Allegheny County Workhouse, on a plot of 155 pastoral acres purchased from Mrs. George (Annie) Aspinwall, who was then living in New York. Aspinwall was incorporated as a borough in 1892. Tour details will be forthcoming.

Tour fare: \$2 members; \$5 non-members

Sun., September 26 9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Historic Johnstown and the South Fork Fishing & Hunting Club

Join local Johnstown historians and Landmarks' staff on this all-day bus trip to Johnstown and the nearby South Fork Fishing & Hunting Club. We will visit the Johnstown Flood Museum, ride the incline, and tour South Fork and some interesting Johnstown neighborhoods. Lunch and dinner are included. Details and fares will be mailed to members closer to the tour date.

THE LANDMARKS STORE

The Book and Gift Shop of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation



Platter
11 1/2" x 8 1/4"



Mottahedeh

World-renowned reproductions
from rare antique originals

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

The jewel in Colonial Williamsburg's collection of fine English ceramics is a platter from a dinner service commissioned by William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, circa 1770.

This platter, with its naturalistic fruit cluster surrounded by butterflies and berries all framed in gold, is a superb example of the sophisticated enamelling prevalent in 18th-century English porcelain.

The antique is on display at The Dewitt Wallace Decorative Arts Gallery at Colonial Williamsburg.

These reproductions are available by special order only for Landmarks' members at a 20% discount.

THE LANDMARKS STORE
BALCONY LEVEL, THE SHOPS AT STATION SQUARE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219-1170 412-765-1042



Join LANDMARKS

Support the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in its work to:

- Preserve architectural landmarks, historic neighborhoods, and industrial sites and artifacts in Allegheny County
- Create tours, lectures, publications, and educational programs featuring the history, architecture, and culture of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County;
- Continue the development of Station Square, the 52-acre riverfront site where Landmarks' principles of historic preservation, adaptive use, and urban planning are creating a lively attraction for Pittsburgh.

Membership Benefits

- Free subscription to *PHLF News*, our membership newsletter published five times each year.
- Free subscription to *All Aboard!*, the Station Square newsletter published four times a year.
- Many rewarding volunteer opportunities.
- A 10% discount at The Landmarks Store in The Shops at Station Square.
- Free initial consultation on landmark designation and preservation advice for your historic property.
- Free access to our historical and architectural reference library in The Landmarks Building at Station Square
- Discounts on, or free use of, all educational resources.
- Reduced rates on tours, and invitation to lectures, seminars and special events

Membership Categories

Please enroll me as a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. I have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of (check appropriate category):

- Individual \$20 or more
- Family \$25 or more
- School and Non-Profit \$25
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Corporate Supporter \$50 or more
- Corporate Member \$250 or more
- Life Benefactor \$5,000 (one-time gift)

"A copy of the official registration & financial information of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement." (as required by PA Act 202)

Please enroll me as a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

I enclose my check for \$ _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Send check or money order to:

Membership
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
One Station Square, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170

 **Creating a Future for Pittsburgh by Preserving its Past**

AT THE LANDMARKS STORE



The Book and Gift Shop of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

POSTERS

Tucked into the left rear corner of The Landmarks Store is an area devoted to photographs and prints of Pittsburgh buildings, panoramic views—old and new—of Downtown, and posters. The poster section, while not large due to space constraints, has nonetheless been growing. Some recent additions (as well as limited editions of some fine older items) offer handsome and interesting images, suitable for framing, at very reasonable prices.

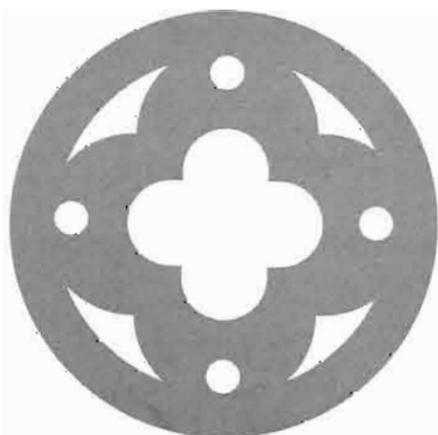
Photographs of 30 stylistically different, brightly colored doorways are displayed in "The Doors of Pittsburgh" (30" x 22"). Architectural photographer Michael E. Haritan has captured 22 whimsical, fearsome, serene human and animal sculptural countenances which peer over the streetscape in "The Faces of Fourth Avenue" (22" x 28").

Work by two distinguished Pittsburgh painters is reproduced in several posters. Vincent Nesbert's Allegheny County Courthouse murals are shown on the Allegheny County "Bicentennial 1788-1988" poster (33" x 24"). There are still several copies of Henry Koerner's a centennial commemoration of the "1893-1983 Smithfield Street Bridge" (31" x 23") and, at this writing, one numbered and signed copy of his "Cultural Picturesque Pittsburgh" (28" x 20").

A Pittsburgh performance, rather than a Pittsburgh artist, is the occasion for the first poster commissioned by the Pittsburgh Opera, a subtly colorful, computer-aided design based on an Aubrey Beardsley 1893 drawing, created for the Opera's 1992 production of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (26" x 20").

All of the above are priced from \$15 to \$35; Landmarks members save an additional 10%.

THE LANDMARKS STORE
BALCONY LEVEL
THE SHOPS AT STATION SQUARE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219-1170
412-765-1042



Education News



Portable Pittsburgh

Now in its sixth year, *Portable Pittsburgh* is becoming an ever-more popular program for both teachers and students. During the 1992-93 school year, volunteers trained by Landmarks' staff presented 164 one-hour sessions of *Portable Pittsburgh* to more than 3,800 students. The students learned how and why Pittsburgh has changed over its long history. Teacher evaluations of *Portable Pittsburgh* compliment the enthusiasm of the docents and the importance of the many historical artifacts used in the program.

Portable Pittsburgh is mainly offered to grades 3 through 6, but the program can easily be adapted to suit adult groups. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, or if you would like more information on *Portable Pittsburgh*, call Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808.

Call for Docents!

Many of our members have expressed an interest in becoming a docent for Landmarks. Here is your chance! Landmarks is now recruiting docents for its highly successful school outreach program, *Portable Pittsburgh*, now entering its sixth year of operation. If you are enthusiastic about Pittsburgh's past and enjoy talking to elementary school children, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to help fill a great need in the schools.

Landmarks' staff will train you with the knowledge you need to know about Pittsburgh, and the skills you need to effectively communicate that knowledge to kids. Training sessions are planned for Tuesdays in September, October, and November. Docents will be expected to complete some outside reading, and to conduct at least two in-school visits per month during the 1993-94 school year. Docents also will need to be able to pick up the boxes of artifacts at Station Square and drive to the schools. (We do reimburse docents for gas mileage.)

Interested in accepting the challenge? If so, complete the form below, or call Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808. We hope to hear from you soon!

Portable Pittsburgh Docent Registration

YES! I am interested in being a *Portable Pittsburgh* docent. Send me more information about *Portable Pittsburgh* and the docent-training schedule.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mail to: Mary Ann Eubanks, Education Department, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, One Station Square, Suite 450, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170

Welcome New Docents

With April and May the busiest months for *Portable Pittsburgh*, Landmarks is most pleased to welcome five new docents. After a ten-week, 30-hour training program, Judy McIntyre, Bob Bennett, Heather Maier, Pat Bilock, and Eloise Badertscher are "taking Pittsburgh on the road" and into the classrooms of Allegheny County.

"Heroic Efforts"

Through the Pitt Informal program, Landmarks' instructor Sue Neff introduced 22 students to the "Interior Architecture of Pittsburgh Landmarks" on Thursday evening, March 11. But the Blizzard of '93 discouraged all but four students from the Saturday walking tour on March 13 led by architectural historian Walter Kidney, through the interiors of some of Pittsburgh's finest architecture on Grant Street. One of the class participants described the Saturday tour as "heroic efforts under exceptionally difficult circumstances." Landmarks will offer the class again next year — hopefully without snow!

Exploring Your City

As part of Landmarks on-going association with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Anne-Marie Lubenau, an architect with Landmarks Design Associates, taught "Exploring Your City" to 21 teachers in March and April. This in-service program offered an intensive 16-hour (over four Mondays) workshop on Pittsburgh's past and present. The knowledge teachers gained will be shared with students in a classroom setting to inspire interest in Pittsburgh and their neighborhood, and to enrich the traditional social studies curriculum in the schools.

Bookmarks Available

Landmarks recently printed two new bookmarks, now available in quantity, free to members. One, promoting interest in The Landmarks Store at Station Square, contrasts an aerial view of Pittsburgh today with a view of Pittsburgh in 1891. The second, promoting an interest in the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and its educational programs, features legendary steelman Joe Magarac. Both bookmarks are handsomely printed in two colors. If you are a member of a community group interested in Pittsburgh history or in Landmarks' work and would like to give either bookmark to your members, please call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808. The bookmarks are great gifts for students or adults.

Summer Events at the Neville House in Collier Township

- June 6:** House tours and Festival Day (spinning-wheel demonstrations)
- June 13:** House tours and German paper-cutting demonstrations
- June 20:** House tours and a video on "Dress of the 18th Century"
- June 27:** "Let's Talk About Herbs"
- July 4:** "Ben Franklin" and "Betsy Ross" tell about the Declaration of Independence
- July 11:** House tours and a video on the 18th-century woman
- July 18:** Whiskey Rebellion Celebration, free house tours, and a puppet show: "The Burning of Bower Hill"
- July 25:** House tours, a video on "Early American Cookery," and an 18th-century bake sale

For times, events, costs, and details call Hazel Peters at 921-4728.



Real Estate Services

FT. COUCH TOWER
180 FT COUCH RD.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15241
(412) 833-3600

FOR ARCHITECTURAL PURISTS. . .



HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT \$299,900

(12515). Finest example of Greek Revival Architecture avail. in Pittsburgh today! Sensitive restored mansion on high acreage in prominent South Hills location. "Period Correct" updates. Family room & study. 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 car garage. A true classic property updated to accommodate a variety of 1990's lifestyles! And simply glorious...

Dan Whalen
HOWARD HANNA CO.

833-3600
833-3600

PAINSTAKINGLY CRAFTED \$699,000



(04008). Coke-Garrett inspired Williamsburg Colonial with authentic detailing throughout. Formal parlor, planked familyroom (Keeping Room) w/open beams & "Walk in" fireplace. Tavern style billiard room. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths. In USC's most prestigious area of classic residences. On just under an acre of award winning grounds!

Elaine Soroka
HOWARD HANNA CO.

833-3600
833-3600

Revisiting Burtner House:

The Second in a Series About the Historic Properties Affiliated with Landmarks

Albert Tannler

As one drives northeast on Rt. 28 from Pittsburgh, one senses the contrast, indeed, the tension between the relentless, even ominous Allegheny Valley Expressway (throughlanes suddenly become exits) with the perhaps needful, certainly tacky commercial spread at its edges, and the still-strong, still greatly to be savored beauty of the hills along the Allegheny River. Some kind of truce, or at least stalemate, seems to have been achieved between predatory pavement and sylvan landscape. Nowhere does one feel more acutely both the danger and the hope of its containment than at Exit 15, where the convoluted exit ramp coils and undulates away from the main highway and meets the hill on which the Burtner House proudly stands, as it has since 1821, some 20 miles from the city of Pittsburgh.

Philip Burtner, co-owner of the Negley Mill founded in Tarentum in 1796, drew up plans for his home in 1815 and laid the cornerstone in 1818. One hundred and fifty-one years later in 1969, the Pennsylvania Highway Department announced imminent demolition of the building. Local residents, Burtner and Negley descendants among them, organized a successful campaign to save the house; Burtner House Restoration, Inc. was established, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Burtner House Society was founded to restore and maintain the structure and its contents as a museum of local history.



The house c. 1905.

Recently Walter Kidney and I paid a visit to Burtner House. Fortunately we knew where we were going; it is easy to sail past Exit 15 since nothing alerts you to the house before it suddenly appears on the hillside. We met Pauline Arnold and Alice Johnson, Burtner House president and vice-president respectively, toured the house and grounds, and talked about the current program and future plans.

Burtner House serves as the focal point and embodiment of the late 18th- and early 19th-century pioneer heritage of the surrounding communities of Tarentum and Natrona Heights. Activities at the house are centered on the Harvest Festival in October and the Strawberry Festival in June, when crafts are displayed, weaving and lace-making are demonstrated, the Herbal Times Garden Club shows the many uses of the herbs grown in the kitchen herb garden, and seasonal foods are dispensed and consumed. The interior of the house contains many items — furniture, utensils, clothing, and other personal belongings of four generations of the Burtner family, as well as items in common use in the region during the 19th century.



The Burtner House, beset by roads and without its porches.

Visitors to Burtner House will also find — in addition to a variety of gift items — an impressive collection of moderately priced pamphlets and books about the house and the surrounding area; perhaps the most useful of these are Vera Ferree's various pamphlets on Burtner House and its immediate vicinity, and Francis Harbison's stories of the Allegheny Valley in *Flood Tides Along the Allegheny*, while the most intriguing is *Dear Viola: A Collection of Love Letters* in which Jane Mason presents 64 love letters written to her Natrona grandmother in the 1880s.

Apart from the two yearly festivals, visitors to the house are usually school children from the area and those who stop by the house to see it decorated at Christmas time.

Burtner House has been preserved; but the battle to maintain it is a strenuous one. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ferree served as the front-line leaders to save the house, and now Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Johnson provide as energetic and enthusiastic leadership as anyone could hope for; yet the membership of the Burtner House Society is only 20, with about eight members actively involved in the day-to-day needs of the site. There is not enough manpower in this all-volunteer group to commit to uniform visiting hours, thus disqualifying Burtner House, I was told, from state-funded erection of a highway marker to attract passing visitors.



The house in recent years.

Although the festivals are well-attended, Burtner House is looking for ways to enlarge its constituency and financial base so that funding can be increased to survey and clarify property boundaries, and keep aged textiles, fixtures, and the property and grounds in good repair.

If you would like to visit Burtner House, call Pauline Arnold at (412) 224-7999; notices of the dates of the Harvest and Strawberry Festivals will appear in the *PHLF News*. If you would

like to join the Burtner Society, send a check for \$5.00, Contributing Member; \$10.00, Sustaining Member; \$25.00, Family; \$50.00, Professional or Business; or more, to Mrs. Pauline Arnold, Box 35, R.D. 2, Tarentum, PA 15084.

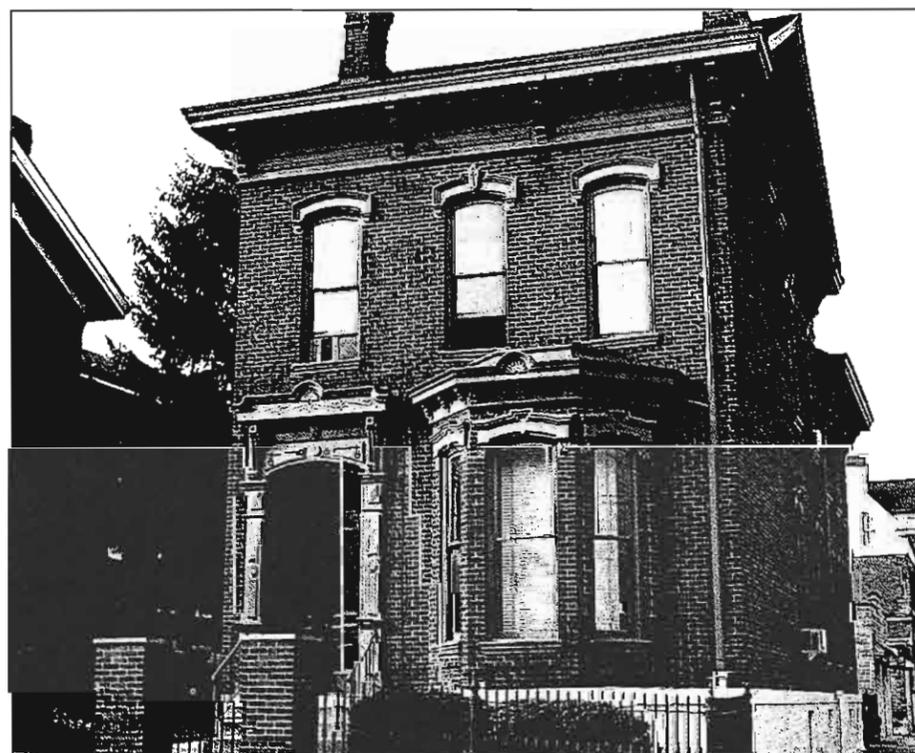
Some of the Burtner House gifts — postcards, notecards, the Burtner House magnet, and the Burtner House cookbook — are available at The Landmarks Store. But to acquire a copy of Viola's love letters, you will have to go to Exit 15 of the Allegheny Valley Expressway — and you should.

Architectural Notes

The Burtner House was placed on the National Register in 1972; the nomination form states: "Architecturally the house is an unusually good example of early 19th-century western Pennsylvania vernacular stone construction. At the time it was built, a structure of such scale and material would have been unusual, and its size and elemental simplicity are still impressive today when such buildings are becoming rare."

Initial restoration has been appropriately basic: the two-foot-thick rubble walls, braced by tall, deep quoins stand solid, and later doorways have been reconverted to windows with the help of new stone. The roof frame is solid. A concrete-block annex beneath the porch area has been cleared away to reveal the original basement wall. In back, the second-floor windows are 6/6 sash such as the house must have had at first.

The ongoing life of the house through four generations of Burtner family ownership has been respected — in the great majority of the windows Victorian 2/2 sash remain and a 1900-period front porch has been replaced by a conjectural replica of the original. Nonetheless, there are desirable interior restoration tasks yet to be completed.



Preserve a Part of History With Integra Bank.

Buy and renovate the home of your dreams with our Historic Rehabilitation Mortgage.

You admired the beautiful woodwork, the marble fireplace, the old-world charm. Now you can take pride in your city's rich heritage by owning a part of it.

PLUS, there's no Private Mortgage Insurance required, and you can borrow up to 95% of the rehabilitated value of the home.

Our Historic Rehabilitation Mortgage makes buying a historic home easier by combining a home mortgage with a home improvement loan. The interest rate and points are lower than you might expect.

To receive more information on our Historic Rehabilitation Mortgage, call 644-6254 for details.

 Member FDIC Integra®

Integra Bank
INTEGRA BANK/PITTSBURGH

1993 HANDS-ON HIS

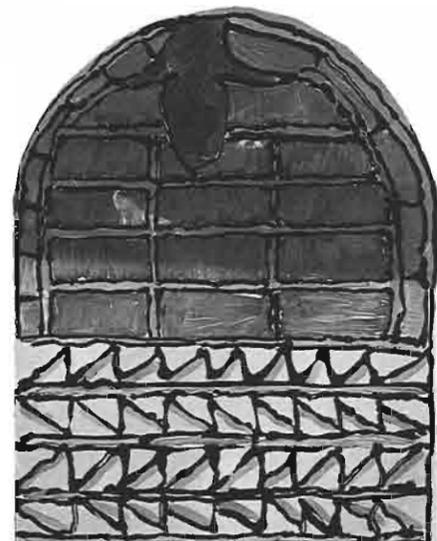


Over 500 people — — teachers, students, their parents and friends — — participated in the sixth "Hands-on History Festival" sponsored by Landmarks on May 8 at the Festival Tent at Station Square.

The Festival opened at 10 a.m. with a parade led by bagpiper Jim Harland, followed by PA PITT, antique cars, and participating students and teachers. Stage performances by Shady Side Academy, Junior School, South Side Area Elementary (Beaver County), the Pittsburgh International Folk Theatre, folk singer Bob Hutchinson, and the South Hills Junior Orchestra Brass Ensemble made for a lively day. Visitors met and talked with Wilbur and Nancy Stewart, who demonstrated pioneer tools and kitchen items, and Bill Sulanowski, a steelworker who brought the tools of his trade to share with all. Representatives from the Rachel Carson Homestead, the Washington County Historical Society, Bushy Run Battlefield, and The Pittsburgh Aviary participated in the Festival.

Landmarks gratefully acknowledges the American Society of Civil Engineers, Pittsburgh Section, for sponsoring the "Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest." Forty-five students entered their hand-made and personally designed bridges in this ingenious and creative contest. Dick Zdinak Associates and Ray Signs contributed their expertise with signage for the Festival. Jenny Lee Bakery graciously donated the treats awarded to participating students.

The 1993 "Hands-on History Festival" was a wonderful event featuring Pittsburgh's history and architecture, and student creativity. Landmarks thanks all the participants, who contributed their time, talent, and energy to make the Festival such a success. In the next issue of *PHLF News*, we will more fully describe the school exhibits.



TORY FESTIVAL

Festival Participants

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks the following schools for exhibiting projects at the 1993 Festival:

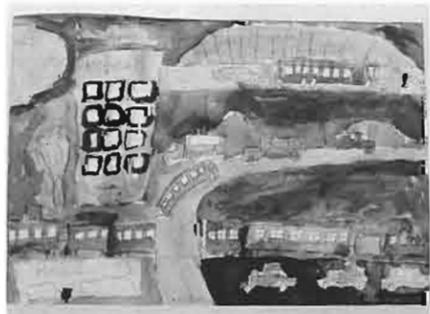
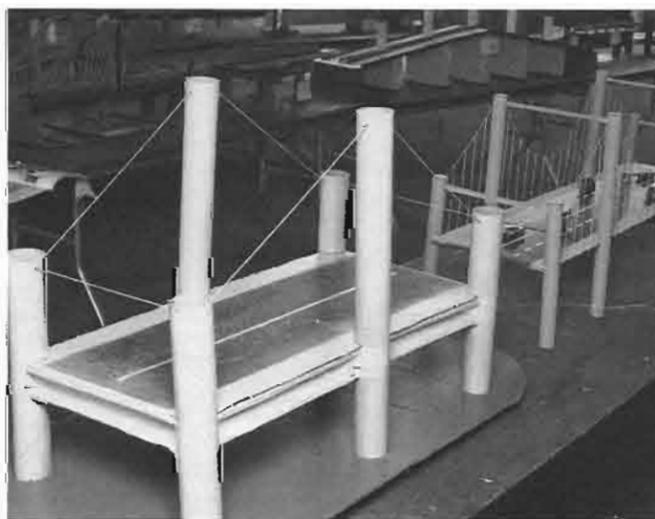
Exhibitors

- Blackhawk School District
- Central Elementary, North Allegheny
- Dorseyville Middle, Fox Chapel
- Duquesne Catholic, Diocese of Pittsburgh
- East Allegheny Schools
- Linden Elementary, PPS
- Markham Elementary, Mt. Lebanon
- McCleary Elementary, PPS
- New Brighton Elementary, Beaver County
- St. Agatha, Diocese of Pittsburgh
- St. Aloysius, Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Shady Side Academy, Junior School
- South Side Area Elementary, Beaver County

Bridge-Builders

Forty-five students entered the "Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest," sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Pittsburgh Section. The students were from the following schools:

- Brookline Elementary, PPS
- Clayton Traditional Academy, PPS
- Dorseyville Elementary, Fox Chapel
- East Allegheny High School, East Allegheny
- Edgeworth Elementary, Quaker Valley
- Forest Grove Elementary, Montour
- Greater Works Academy, Franklin
- Hoover Elementary, Mt. Lebanon
- Howe School, Mt. Lebanon
- Liberty Elementary, PPS
- Linden Elementary, PPS
- Marshall Elementary, North Allegheny
- McKnight Elementary, North Allegheny
- Minadeo Elementary, PPS
- Mother of Sorrows, Diocese of Greensburg
- Mt. Lebanon Junior High School, Mt. Lebanon
- Northwestern Elementary, Blackhawk
- Perry Traditional Academy, PPS
- St. Edmund's Academy
- St. Stephen, Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Shaler Elementary, Shaler Area
- A.E. Stevenson Elementary, Plum
- The University School



Historical/Community Groups

Landmarks also would like to thank the following historical and community organizations for participating:

- Bushy Run Battlefield
- Rachel Carson Homestead Association
- The Pittsburgh Aviary
- Washington County Historical Society

P r e s e r v a t i o n S c e n e



Straightening Out East Liberty

A newspaper article this February announced that the last traces of East Liberty's pedestrian mall of the late 1960s will disappear in the summer of 1994. With them will disappear three decades of theories, hopes, ruin, revision, and money.

The basic idea, implemented in 1968, was for Highland and Penn Avenues, near their intersection, to become pedestrian malls, with some limitations, as well as Broad Street near its intersection with Highland. Highland Mall, four short blocks long, was partly open to traffic, as was Penn Mall, five blocks long. These were to be connected by Penn Circle West, North, East, and South, an irregular auto ring road with which Broad Street was also connected. It was a plan Landmarks opposed and felt was doomed for failure. It took only till January 1969 for everyone to realize that motorists were being repulsed from the malls, which were supposed to be relaxed and inviting, by the ring roads. Drivers found them confusing and frightening (the City Traffic Engineer said that the drivers would just have to learn how to drive them), the promised public parking had not been built, and promised policing of the malls was still inadequate.

A *Pittsburgh Press* article of later in the year praised the fountain, the rather cute shelters, the signage program of Peter Muller-Munk, and observed that 2,000 off-street parking units and 1,500 housing units had been built in the development area near the malls. Mellon Bank, in 1970, had no misgivings about showing a 1920-period aerial view of Penn Avenue toward the Liberty Theater and East Liberty Station, then the "beautiful new East Liberty pictured above" — plain, boxy new stuff, parking lots, cleared ground, and a few distinguished remnants from the past. In 1975, the Equitable Gas house organ still saw a bright present replacing a shabby past, the fulfillment of yearnings the East Liberty Chamber of Commerce had expressed in 1949. But in 1979 the Chamber was vehemently denying that East Liberty was economically dead: a supposition supported by 18 store closings in a three-month period around

the beginning of the year. The blocked streets were not the only cause of decline, but they were the most visible of a multitude of adverse forces, and the official attitude was more or less, Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Mitigation of the street arrangement began in the late 1970s, with Highland and Penn Avenues, and Broad Street reopened to cars, and preparations under way to offer on-street parking again at the expense of the mall's pedestrian areas.

The work being done next year will eliminate the in-and-out curbs of such areas, remove the shelters, set up new lamps and trees, and replace road pavements on Highland Avenue. The result will be a vehicular commercial street of the conventional type, pleasant to see but in a way not suggesting its recent past. *PHLF News* wrote of the accompanying architectural rehabilitation in its last issue ("A Look at East Liberty," March 1993).

The HRC in 1992

Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission, with John DeSantis as chair and Michael Eversmeyer as staff, has a multitude of responsibilities. At present, along with other duties, it oversees about 1,700 buildings in seven legally-protected City Historic Districts, 30 City Historic Landmark buildings, and one historic site, the Allegheny Commons. It has to review any State- or federally-funded project affecting National Register or NR-eligible properties in Pittsburgh, of which there are about 6,000. It also makes recommendations to City Council on new Landmark or District designations.

Some outstanding items on the HRC's 1992 report are these:

- the first entire year of work on the Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places — a list of buildings, structures, and sites important for architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural reasons. (This should allow for a fairer and more lucid designation process, since it puts owners and buyers on notice that certain properties could be proposed for designation, and that the proposal would probably be found to have merit. On the other hand, the neglected gem belatedly discovered and the good design a little too recent at first would demand occasional updates.)
- recommendations to City Council to designate the following as Districts or Landmarks:
 - Oakland Civic Center (done, with some modifications)
 - 311 Lowenhill Street (done)
 - King Estate (done)
 - Engine House No. 1 (done)
 - 118 Woodland Road (rejected)
- presentation of its annual awards for outstanding preservation projects (numbering 17 in 1992)
- collaboration with Landmarks and the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society on the "Saving Religious Properties" conference, held in May
- issuance of 83 Certificates of Appropriateness permitting demolitions or alterations. (Median number of business days between receipt of application and issuance of certificate: two days.)

The HRC's future effectiveness still depends on the outcome of the long-undecided Boyd Theater case (see "This [Strange] Year in Preservation," *PHLF News*, December 1991), at least as regards designation of individual properties without owners' consent. But the Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places is bound to have a moral force in preservation controversies even should no legal force exist to back any given designation.



Close to Hammerschlag Hall



The Lost Neighborhood

Junction Hollow

Landmarks paid a visit to Junction Hollow at the beginning of April, prompted by a March 14 *Post-Gazette* article (which called the place Panther Hollow). We have always thought that the view across the Hollow near the Schenley Bridge, where it is about 600 feet wide and 75 feet deep, is one of the peculiarly romantic places of Pittsburgh: that the pomp of the two Carnegie institutions overlooking a wild ravine with traces of industry and the "Lost Neighborhood" of Michael Chabon's describing have constituted a condensation of Pittsburgh's old character.

Many, though, have seen Junction Hollow as an offense to the tidy utilitarian mind, a mere void to be filled with productive floors and pavement. Such yearnings for productivity have gone thus far in the last few years, beneath the Schenley Bridge that may or may not get its utilitarian cyclone fences and Jersey barriers: the Carnegie Institute has built a parking structure that looks like quite a lot of not very much as seen from Boundary Street. CMU has built a rather nice white-brick building, fronting in the Hollow just north of Hammerschlag Hall, and is to build an Electronic Materials Technology Building — design as yet unseen — at the very foot of Hammerschlag (this will require respectful treatment of the bow scrollwork from the armored cruiser *Pittsburgh*, mounted on a concrete ram prow in front of Hammerschlag since 1909). At the north corner of Joncaire and Boundary Streets is a private parking lot, raised above the street level and just another lot. Cater-cornered from the simple wood, brick, and stone houses of the Lost Neighborhood, which up close has a trim, contented look, is a tactfully-landscaped parking lot for the University of Pittsburgh. Beyond this area of homes the land is rather seedy, sunk beneath a railroad embankment and ending in debris and a private parking lot reached by a little blue-and-white shuttle bus from Oakland's main level.

We could imagine this sunken terrain tidied up a little, but hate the thought of it as a mere depository for cars, garages, and offices. Junction Hollow is on the way to becoming the back yard of Oakland, where the dumpsters go, and this should not happen.

The Schenley Park Bridges

In our March 1993 issue, Landmarks commented on the plan to erect Jersey barriers on the Panther Hollow and Schenley Bridges, and cyclone fencing along the latter (see "Mandated Defacement," page 7). As the issue was being printed, an Ad Hoc Committee for the Bridges of Schenley Park sent a letter with 12 signatories, including Arthur Ziegler, president of Landmarks, to the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State's Bureau for Historic Preservation to protest these aspects of the reconstruction. Schenley Park is a National Register District, and if the current federal and State finding of "no adverse effect" from the new plans is changed permanently, it will make it hard if not impossible to use any federal or State money in the work, and a very substantial amount is said to be involved. In mid-March, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission did indeed withdraw its No Adverse Effect finding, and the look of the bridges may be saved yet. The Committee has been meeting with the City's engineers.

Duquesne Heights Incline

Early in 1963, it looked as if this remarkable way of getting up a hill was to be obliterated. Gone, it seemed, would be the cars with their Eastlake interiors (painted gray back then), the wooden-teethed gears, the wrought-iron track structure, the graceless but characterful lower station and the upper station that was like a folk museum: all gone.

Now, on Saturday, June 26, 1993, those most concerned with its preservation, restoration, and operation will celebrate what the Incline has become. The next day, fares will be \$0.25, back to the 1963 level, with light refreshments in the upper station.

The Incline is looking for more tourist traffic these days, and is looking ahead to the new busway, which will have an Incline stop.



Emmanuel Church Fund

As our readers know, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Allegheny West is in need of repairs. Its situation is not dire, but repairs and renovation now to the roof, the masonry, and other parts of the construction will prevent later emergencies. H.H. Richardson's economical church, built in 1886 for \$25,000, now requires \$390,500. The Church campaign is for a total of \$1.5 million: a rounded-off \$400,000 for the repairs, \$600,000 for a trust fund to maintain "infrastructure," and \$500,000 to continue its mission-like "outreach program." Checks may be sent to: Emmanuel Episcopal Church; 957 West North Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15233. For further information, telephone: (412) 231-0454.

ZENITH
ANTIQUE
EMPORIUM

"a tribe of one"

Corner of
South 26th
and Sarah
Southside.

412/481-4833



St. Mary's main front, on Lockhart Street.



The courtyard between the two buildings.

St. Mary's Problem Resolved

Late February brought with it the news that the consecrated St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, attached to the Priory inn on Pressley Street in Deutschtown, was deteriorating and would have had to be demolished if its projected career as a rental hall were delayed much longer. In mid-May, the crucial parking situation was resolved with the obtaining of a satisfactory lease for a lot from the city.

MCC Fire and Reconstruction

Landmarks' relations with Manchester Citizens Corporation go back a long way; we helped found MCC in 1967, helped in the marketing campaign that attracted new residents, and assisted it through our Preservation Fund, whose director Stanley Lowe was once MCC's president.

We were grieved, then, to hear of the fire on February 19, which gutted the interior and destroyed historical archives and current operative files. Some of the material is irreplaceable, but MCC's future is in no doubt. It will rebuild within the existing walls to a new plan by Landmarks Design Associates. Money has yet to be raised, but reopening is expected with a year's time.

Filling the Void

Those who remember the short-lived Bank Center between Forbes and Fourth Avenues, closed in 1988, recall its interior abundance of veined marble and leaded glass, of Corinthian capitals and occasional fine metalwork: and recall too, no doubt, the complicated multilevel plan that was the Bank Center's undoing. Within a year, though, it is to reopen as library space for Point Park College and for the Carnegie Library's Downtown and Business Branches; the two institutions will share some space and divide the remainder about half-and-half. Three former buildings are involved: the Colonial Trust Company of 1902 and 1926, a vast T-shaped space by Frederick J. Osterling onto Forbes, Fourth, and Wood; the Freehold Real Estate Company of about 1890; and its Fourth Avenue neighbor the Land Trust Company of 1897 by Alden & Harlow. The architects for the new conversion, Damianos Brown Andrews Inc., will leave the exterior virtually unchanged and retain the principal architecture and decorative work of the exterior, demolishing however some of the construction of the 1970s.

A few years ago there was a much-celebrated proposal to carry an enclosed mall into this block as well as the adjoining one toward Grant Street, bridging Smithfield Street in the process. The Bank Center facades, if kept at all, would have been mere masks applied to the new graceless bulk. The present outcome is much more fortunate.

Three Rivers Heritage Trail

Friends of the Riverfront reports that the Trail, one element of which will be Landmarks' Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts at Station Square, has received two generous grants: \$71,000 from the Vira I. Heinz Endowment for the next phase in its development plan, and \$340,000 in federal money, under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, to acquire the Trail's North Shore section from Washington's Landing to Clemente Park.

Monongahela River History

The Mon River Buffs Association (P.O. Box 401, Monongahela, PA 15063) is seeking money to raise two Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission post-mounted historical markers, the cast-metal blue-and-yellow ones familiar by the roadsides. One, to be erected at California, Pa., is to celebrate the town's 1852-79 career as a steamboat-building center. The other is to go by the Light Rail bridge across the river from Station Square, and will celebrate the 1811 launching there of the *New Orleans*, first steamboat on the Western Rivers. On Landmarks' Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts, we plan to point across to the old Suke's Run area, where the subway now begins, and commemorate its industrial history: the *New Orleans* launching; a shipyard by Benjamin Latrobe for Robert Fulton; the Pennsylvania Canal terminus and Charles Dickens' arrival in 1842; and the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel of the 1860s and the first emergency application just outside of the Westinghouse air brake in 1869: a remarkable history for a small area never noticed.

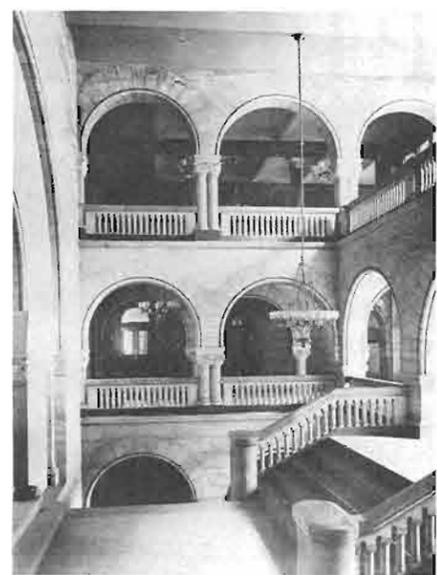


Nixon Theatre, 1900s. Demolished in 1950 for the construction of the Alcoa Building.

Pittsburgh Postcards

Greetings from Pittsburgh: A Picture Postcard History. Ralph Ashworth. Vestal, N.Y.: Vestal Press, 1992. 104 pp., about 200 ills. \$11.95

The city, as it was between around 1900 and around 1915, is presented in post-card views. The variety is good, and the caption material abundant. There are numerous small errors of fact, and a few other facts might have been added, yet the book is full of information and gives an idea of how many aspects there can be to a city's history, what an accumulation of notable events and curious complexities can pile up over the decades.



The Courthouse stair in Victorian times, at the present third-floor level. The corridors here must be secured, but this space must remain undivided and unmarred.

The County Buildings: What Future?

A meeting held in mid-March enunciated the need for security measures in the courtrooms of the Allegheny County Courthouse, designed by H.H. Richardson, especially of the criminal courts, such as already exist in the City-County Building's domestic courts. The judges are afraid of violence to themselves and others, and a prospect of ever-sealed doors and metal detectors in the Courthouse stands ahead of us. How appalling security expedients can get is shown in the March 1993 issue of *PHLF News* ("Mandated Defacement," p. 7). The only economical plan would have closed the Grant and Ross Street entrances permanently, and would have made those entering Katy's Park pass through a metal detector, blocked off the grand stair below the third floor, and so on — the stuff of nightmare. Visions of bars, of cyclone fencing, of casual visitors and architecture-lovers — whole tour groups — made to shed and replace the metal on their persons: architecture defaced, alienated. Loss of a sense of freedom, some residual feeling of confidence in people. Ugly in every way.

But obviously, Landmarks and a number of other organizations will be watching these security plans with intent eyes, demanding that the security barrier be placed to secure only the necessary spaces, and that their design be as worthy as possible of the building. The County Commissioners, the Department of Property, the Judges, the Sheriff's office, as well as the County Administrator all share the same aesthetic concerns.

The County has also hired IKM, Inc. to produce preliminary plans to make over the old Jail interior as courtrooms and office space. Such a remodeling would leave the exterior untouched and afford necessary space in a ready-made building shell. At the security meeting, it was suggested that criminal courts might all go into the Jail, a place meant from the start to be secured. If only this could happen! Whatever does happen, however, will happen over a period of several years, so there is still time for an uninhibited walk through the Courthouse doors and along its corridors.

Call Us with Preservation News

Our staff wants to hear from you if you see or know of any historic buildings that are threatened with demolition or that have recently been demolished. We need your help in covering the County. Please call Walter Kidney (412/471-5808) and report what you know.

CUSTOM ARCHITECTURAL MILLWORK

ALL TYPES OF WOOD CUSTOM DESIGNS
CABINETRY
 Libraries, Wardrobes, Curios
PANELING
 Wainscot, Fireplace Surrounds, Mantles, Paneled Walls
DOORS
 Entries, Through Tenon and Pegged, Curved Top
TURNINGS
 Newels, Spindles, Hand Rail, Porch Posts, Brackets
CARVING
 All Types

Wilson & McCracken, Inc.
 5255 Butler Street Pittsburgh, PA 15201
 (412) 784-1772 1-800-783-1772

Elegant Temporary Housing

5405 Fifth Avenue
682-2300
 The Suite Life ... at an Affordable Rate

- ★ Decorator Furnished Studio. One or Two Bedroom Suites Beautifully Accessed and includes equipped kitchen, Free local phone, VCR. ... everything!
- ★ **SHORT TERM FLEXIBLE LEASE**
- ★ 10 Minutes from Downtown. 5 Minutes to Hospitals & Universities. 1½ Blocks from Walnut Street's Fashionable Shops and Fine Restaurants
- ★ MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE:

Walter C. Kidney

Pittsburgh tends to be an architecturally conservative town, importing rather than engendering progressive or trendy design, and then only on occasion. Still, toward 1900, new construction in the city visibly abandoned mid-Victorian characteristics for more modern ideas of form and materials.

Right: Mid-Victorian architecture was apt to be an affair of accumulated features rather than of strong, dominant design, and it liked its colors darkish and its textures de-emphasized. In Brewer's Block of c. 1860, once on Fifth Avenue downtown, Barr & Moser has given each window its own frame above an insubstantial iron arcade, then topped the whole with a large, elaborate cornice. A shallow central break and cable moldings at the ends of the facade do not really impose much organization.



Above: The near symmetry and nicely-shaped Mansard roofs of the B.F. Jones house, c. 1880 and once on Brighton Road, give it a basic order that is emphasized by the sandstone cantons at the corners. Yet the windows look attached to the wall rather than being integral features. The brick is a strong uniform red, the joints are thin as possible, and texture is suppressed. The rather dark brick and sandstone colors are absolutely standard for the time.



Above: George Orth's Spencer house of 1886 on Amberson Avenue has a general Queen Anne styling. The style itself was fairly up-to-date though its peak was over, but this is still quite a "Victorian" building in its air of chance accumulation of features — gables, bays, a chimney, etc. around a center — in this case a drab, commonsensical red-brick mass.



Left: The Shingle Style house at Morewood Avenue and Wallingford Street, probably of the early 1890s, shows a similar way of subordinating details to a well-thought whole. The house is now disfigured with gray paint, but underneath will be a first floor of red or buff brick, and above brown creosoted shingles, making a gentle rippling texture. The porch is drawn into the building mass, and only the former entrance canopy has an added-on look.

Right: In the Courthouse and Jail, Henry Hobson Richardson showed Pittsburgh a whole new vision of architecture. The County Commissioners had insisted on granite facades, and Richardson specified a Massachusetts granite of pale, slightly pinkish gray — light in color for the place and the time, and much more soot-resistant than sandstone or brick. This lightness, approaching whiteness, was to be prevalent 15 years after the Courthouse completion in 1888. The texturing and patterning of the stonework are very carefully thought out, as opposed to the rather mechanical, habitual quality of "Victorian" masonry. Furthermore, Richardson showed how a building design could, even in a large and elaborate building, be designed as a great, dominant shape with decorative details subordinated to and integral with it.



Left: D.H. Burnham & Co.'s Frick Building of 1902 avoids the rugged textures of the Courthouse but has a similar pale-gray granite facing. It was as if the old Pittsburgh problem of soot were being shrugged off at this point. Granite, white glazed terra cotta, limestone, cream-colored brick, and, increasingly, brick artfully textured and toned were entering the architect's palette in the 1900s, whether or not these materials allowed easy cleaning. Next door is Longfellow, Alden & Harlow's Carnegie Building (now-gone) of a decade before: darker than the Frick Building and, while not fussy, lacking its grand simplicity.

New Ways of Seeing



Above: St. Paul's Cathedral, designed around 1902 by Egan & Prindiville, is a traditional building. Its facing is very up-to-date limestone, but its features still have an additive Victorian look: pinnacles, niches, towers, even the several sides of the towers looking half-detached from all the rest.



Above: Sacred Heart Church at Walnut and Shady, begun in 1924 to designs by Carlton Strong and finished in the 1950s, shows the succinct, refined Gothic that Ralph Adams Cram had introduced to Pittsburgh in Calvary Episcopal Church, and his partner Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue in First Baptist Church. Massing is strong, with no pinnacles or finials to disturb the skyline. Detailing is rich but is firmly contained by the masses. The stonework patterning is random and its texture has ruggedness that asserts the density of the stone without challenging the building's rather simple geometry.



Above: Edward Weber designed this house on Amberson Place around 1913, modeling it somewhat after English farmhouses. The big roof, its eaves rolled to suggest thatch, sits firmly on the stuccoed walls and their multiplicity of openings. The air of quaintness and cozy domesticity is so cultivated that the building seems almost a picture with an architectural theme rather than a building with abstract compositional values — though it is an attractive work however interpreted.

The previous house, in its whiteness, echoed the prevailing lightening of tone in buildings of every sort. Yet in domestic architecture there was a growing interest in conscious quaintness that went beyond the Weber type of design into wild fantasy. This house of the late 1920s (left), on Cordova Road in Highland, has not only a strange entrance turret and a roof that seems to have sagged with age, but willfully ragged slating and brickwork so crazy that one cannot speak of a bond. The nemesis of Modern architecture followed close on such excesses.

National Trust President Visits Landmarks

Continued from page 1

Ralph showed Mr. Moe through a restored Victorian townhouse, one of 96 low- and moderate-income units being rehabilitated by the Manchester Citizens Corporation. Harriet Henson talked about the programs of the North Side Tenants Reorganization and led a walking tour of Brighton Place where 34 turn-of-the-century townhouses are being restored and converted into affordable housing, and where two previously notorious taverns have been purchased and closed, to reopen as day-care and office facilities. The morning tour concluded in a stop at the offices of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) where the successful relationship established by this coalition of 26 neighborhood organizations with Pittsburgh's banks was reviewed.

A working lunch followed at Station Square. Participants in the morning tour — both neighborhood presenters and visitors — were joined by preservationists, educators, officers of Pittsburgh's major lending institutions that are targeting loan funds to neighborhoods represented by the PCRG, foundation trustees, and Landmarks staff to discuss preservation practice and policy, nationally as well as locally. Recalling that the theme of the 1992 National Trust Convention posed the



Left to right: Peter Brink, Richard Moe, Arthur Ziegler, Anthony Wood (chief program officer of the J.M. Kaplan Fund in New York), and Stanley Lowe on Liverpool Street in Manchester.

question, "Is historic preservation relevant to the realities of everyday life?" Mr. Moe asked the group how they thought preservationists, and the Trust as an organization, could help shape federal policies. Mr. Moe took notes on what he heard: for example, the desire of neighborhood leaders to have more Trust programs available to people of modest means, the importance of lobbying for a raising of the Federal Investment Tax Credit, and the linking of National Register Districts and City Historic Districts with the ideal that the creation of the former will eventuate in the creation of the latter. The lunch also gave individuals on the morning tour a chance to supplement their earlier remarks, and for those not on the tour to explain their work. The spirit of the

occasion was perhaps best captured by one of the participants who observed that it was "nice to go to a meeting of people who are *doing* things rather than a meeting where people *talk* about people who are doing things."

After lunch, Mr. Moe toured Station Square, met with Arthur Ziegler for a private discussion of issues, and had some time to himself after a full day of excursions and conversation.

The visit concluded after dinner, preceded by a reception in the Grand Concourse hosted by Landmarks and PNC Bank where Mr. Moe met government leaders, representatives of Pittsburgh's cultural, civic, and lending institutions, and members of the historical and preservation communities.



Richard Moe and Mid-Atlantic Regional Office director Patricia D. Wilson.



Mary Ann Graf tells about her success in renovating St. Mary's Priory as a "city inn."



Thomas Bess, executive director of Landmarks Harlem.

This Brighton Place bar, purchased with the aid of Landmarks' Preservation Fund, will become a day-care center.



Restored Brighton Place townhouses seen from the rear.



Harriet Henson of the Northside Tenants Reorganization tells the group about Brighton Place.



Guests at the Grand Concourse reception, hosted by Landmarks and PNC Bank.



ANGEL'S CORNER
Restaurant

A converted church serving award-winning cuisine. Reservations call 682-1879

TOUR
with Landmarks

- architectural landmarks
- corporate skyscrapers
- restored rowhouses and mansions
- ethnic neighborhoods and churches
- public parks and sculpture
- inclines, bridges, steel mills...and lots more!

Call (412) 471-5808 to schedule a bus or walking tour. Our tours are "tailor-made," for from five to any number of people, suiting your interests, time schedule, and budget. Tour fees vary according to group size and program format. We serve tourists, convention and community groups, and schools.

We'll show you the town

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
THE DUQUESNE INCLINE

Dedicated to the preservation of that which cannot be replaced

For a membership please phone 381-1665

WILL POWER

Preserve our region's history and landmarks for future generations. Add the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation as a beneficiary under your Will. If you would like to discuss this giving option, please call Eric Dickerson at (412) 471-5808.