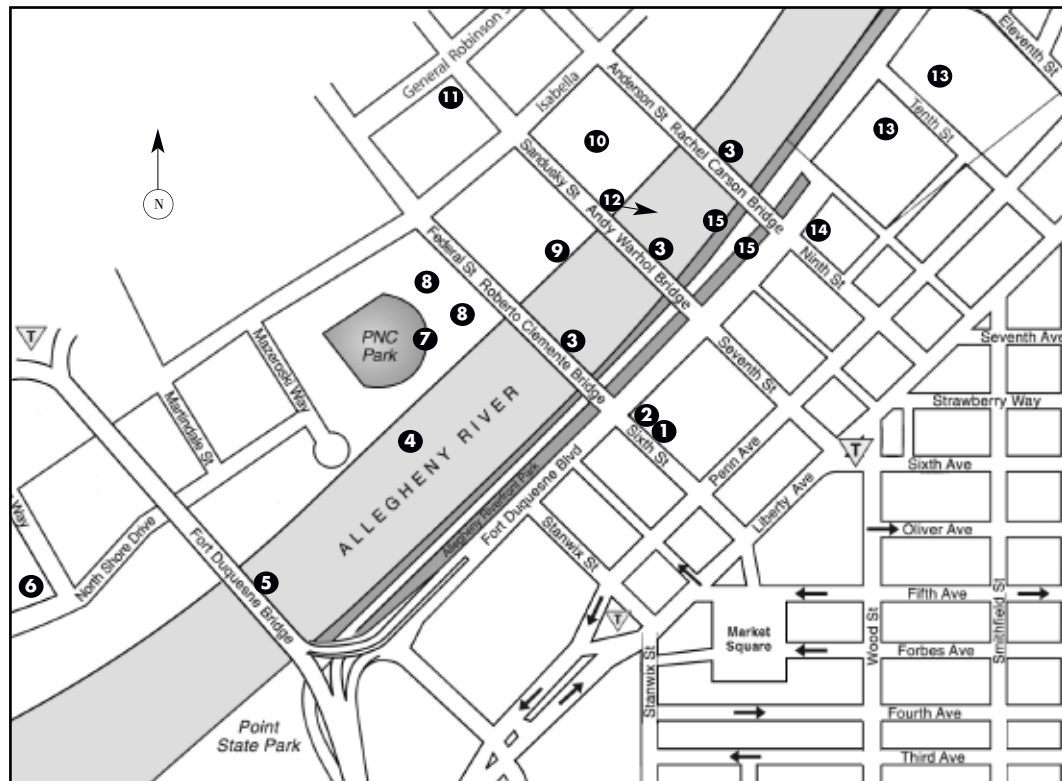


1. Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel
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first certified “green” convention center, with natural ventilation, recycled and low-emissions materials, water reuse systems, and roof skylights. In 2012, the Convention Center achieved LEED Platinum-EBOM (existing building operational management).

David L. Lawrence (1889–1966) was the Democratic Mayor of Pittsburgh who joined forces with Republican financier Richard King Mellon (1899–1970) between 1946 and 1959 to engineer Pittsburgh’s first Renaissance. During that time, smoke-control and water purification laws were enforced, and massive clearances eventually resulted in the creation of Point State Park and in the redevelopment (unsuccessfully) of portions of the Hill District, North Side, and East Liberty.

14 Pittsburgh CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) 6–12

MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, architects; 2003/2009

Part of the Pittsburgh Public School system, CAPA is a state-of-the-art facility built largely through the generosity of The Bitz Foundation. The design of the new building plays off the design of the adjoining historic structure of 1915 by Pittsburgh architect Charles Bickel. The two buildings are connected, with classrooms flowing from

one building to the other. A four-story exterior Jumbotron on the Fort Duquesne Boulevard façade showcases student artwork during the school year.

15 Allegheny Riverfront Park

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (New York), landscape architects, with artists Ann Hamilton and Michael Mercil; 1998 and 2001

The park consists of two separate strips of land, on two different levels, connected by ramps and steps: one pathway is close to the water’s edge and the other borders Fort Duquesne Boulevard. When the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust commissioned Allegheny Riverfront Park, the nonprofit organization helped realize a riverfront park system originally conceived for Pittsburgh in 1911 by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

For more information on local buildings, bridges, and architects, purchase one of our books: 412-471-5808, ext. 525; www.phlf.org. Click on Store.

There’s nothing like walking to get you in touch with a place. You see, hear, notice, explore, and discover.

—Laurence A. Glasco, author, historian, and PHLF Trustee

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- *Advance reservations are appreciated (see below).*

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DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH WALKING TOUR BRIDGES & RIVER SHORES



A self-guided walking tour, compliments of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation © 2017

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BRIDGES & RIVER SHORES WALKING TOUR

A bridge is said to represent the drama in building construction. There is something intensely dramatic and fanciful in the appeal of the bridge to all classes of people, under all conditions of nature. All traffic converges and concentrates on the bridges. They become a daily necessity and a familiar benefactor, giving convenient passage over some natural obstruction.

When the highway leaves its natural bed and soars through the air on thin and film-like construction, to convey the people, the trains, the street cars and all the traffic in safety across a wide river or deep valley and when we look over the railing of the bridge into the dark flowing water or the ground many hundreds of feet below, we are all deeply stirred in our emotions.

This accomplishment of man’s handiwork is one of the most dramatic things in modern life. The bridges are a very vital part of the life of the community. It would be impossible to get along without them.

—“*The City of Bridges: Pittsburgh*,” Stanley L. Roush and Edward B. Lee, *The Charette* (March 1925); reprinted in Walter C. Kidney’s *Pittsburgh’s Bridges: Architecture and Engineering* (PHLF, 1999)

According to Bob Regan’s book, *The Bridges of Pittsburgh* (2006), Pittsburgh has more bridges than any other city in the world: 446 to be exact. Pittsburgh’s first river bridge was built over the Monongahela and opened in 1818 (at the site of the present Smithfield Street Bridge). The city’s newest river crossing is the Veterans’ Bridge of 1987 over the Allegheny, although the Mon Conn (1904) and Hot Metal Bridge (1900) provide the newest routes over a river, with the former railroad bridges converted to carry vehicular traffic in 2000 and pedestrian traffic in 2007 over the Monongahela.

On this tour we’ll cross the Roberto Clemente Bridge, and point out other notable bridges and significant architectural landmarks in Downtown Pittsburgh and on the North Side, the independent City of Allegheny until 1907.

1 Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel *Grosvenor Atterbury (New York), architect; 1906 Remodeled, 2001*

Sage Hospitality Resources of Denver used federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits to transform the Fulton Building, originally commissioned by Pittsburgh entrepreneur Henry Phipps, into the four-star Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel. Some quick facts: The exterior light well, a nine-story arched opening, was designed to allow the cool air from the Allegheny River to cool the building by pushing the hot air up. Forty thousand pounds of baking soda were used to clean the copper cladding on the light well, making it the largest copper restoration project on the East Coast since the Statue of Liberty restoration in 1986. Three hundred pounds of coal dust were removed from the exterior surface of the skylight, making the lobby space within one of Pittsburgh’s most spectacular.

2 Byham Theater *Dodge & Morrison (New York), architects; 1904*

Following its Halloween-night opening in 1904, the Gayety Theater, as it was originally called, was one of the country’s foremost stage and vaudeville houses. Ethel Barrymore, Gertrude Lawrence, and Helen Hayes performed there. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust purchased the theater in 1990, restored it, and renamed it in 1995. On the Allegheny-River side of the building is Richard Haas’ *trompe-l’oeil* mural showing the Bessemer steelmaking process.

3 Roberto Clemente Bridge (Sixth Street) Andy Warhol Bridge (Seventh Street) Rachel Carson Bridge (Ninth Street) *Allegheny County Department of Public Works, engineers; Stanley L. Roush, architect; 1926-28*

Originally named for the streets to which they connected—Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth—these identical self-anchored suspension bridges were long referred to as the “Three Sisters.” They have been renamed to honor baseball legend Roberto Clemente (1934-1972), who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955 to 1972; Pittsburgh-born pop artist Andy Warhol (1928-1987); and scientist and author Rachel Carson (1907-1964), who was born in Springdale, about 15 miles up the Allegheny from the Point.

An aside worth noting: German immigrant John Augustus Roebling (1806-1869) began his bridge-building career in Pittsburgh, although he achieved his greatest fame as the designer of New York’s Brooklyn Bridge. After founding Saxonburg (north of Pittsburgh), Roebling devised a method of manufacturing wire cable and applied it first, in 1844, to an aqueduct across the Allegheny for the Pennsylvania Canal (about where the Fort Wayne Bridge is); then, in 1846, to the second Smithfield Street Bridge over the Monongahela; and finally, in 1859, to the second Sixth Street Bridge over the Allegheny.

4 Allegheny River

Formed in its present course more than 12,000 years ago as a result of glacial action, the Allegheny River begins near Coudersport, Potter County, in northwestern Pennsylvania, then flows north into New York and then south to Pittsburgh, where it meets the Monongahela River at the Point to form the Ohio River, which flows into the Mississippi. The 325-mile-long Allegheny River dumps two billion gallons of water into the Ohio every day, versus the Monongahela’s 775 million.

5 Fort Duquesne Bridge *Richardson Gordon & Associates, architects; 1963 (Completed in 1969)*

For six years this was the “Bridge to Nowhere,” because it was left unfinished. When the main span was completed in 1963, one end of the bridge was left hanging in midair until a site for the north-shore connecting ramp was selected. The tied-arch bridge was named for the French fort which occupied the Point from 1754 to 1758. The Fort Pitt Bridge, crossing the Monongahela, recalls the name of the British fort that was built at the Point between 1759 and 1761. The British occupied Fort Pitt until 1772.

6 Heinz Field *HOK Sport (Kansas City, MO), architects; 2001*

This football stadium is the home field of both the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pittsburgh Panthers (University of Pittsburgh).

7 PNC Park *HOK Sport (Kansas City, MO), with L. D. Astorino, architects; 2001*

PNC Park is a classic-style baseball stadium, designed to fit in with the existing street grid and to provide terrific views of the downtown skyline. Before the stadium was built, an archaeological dig was conducted on the site. Pots, pans, dinner plates, a book, and other artifacts were unearthed from the 1830s home of General William Robinson, Jr., the first mayor of Allegheny City. Allegheny was the third largest city in Pennsylvania at the time of its forced annexation to Pittsburgh in 1907. Then it became the “North Side.”

8 Roberto Clemente and Willie Stargell Statues *Susan Wagner, sculptor; 1994 and 2001, respectively*

The Pittsburgh Pirates commissioned this 12-foot bronze statue of right-fielder Roberto Clemente. Soil from Clemente’s native Puerto Rico and from the two Pittsburgh stadiums where he played—Forbes Field and Three Rivers Stadium—is placed under the markers for first, second, and third bases. Facts about Clemente are inscribed around the base of the statue.

Left-fielder and first-baseman Willie Stargell (1940-2001) played for the Pirates from 1962 to 1982 and was known for his “monstrous” home runs. He had 475 career homers, and hit three in the Pirates’ 1979 World Series victory. Notice Stargell’s quote inscribed in the base: “Last night, coming in

from the airport, we came through the tunnel and the city opened up its arms and I felt at home.”

9 Allegheny Landing *City of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Museum of Art, 1984*

This sculpture park includes “The Builders,” by George Danhires; “The Forks,” by Isaac Witkin; “Piazza Lavoro” and “Mythic Source,” by Ned Smyth; and “Pittsburgh Variations,” by George Sugarman. Allegheny Landing takes its name from the place where a ferry once operated by 1800 between Allegheny Town and Pittsburgh. Allegheny Landing is part of Three Rivers Park and a riverfront trail that extends from the West End Bridge to the William Prom Memorial Bridge, formerly the Thirty-first Street Bridge.

10 Alcoa/Arconic *The Design Alliance with Agus Rusli, architects; 1998*

Behind this wave-like form of aluminum and glass is an open-office environment, with no work station more than 45 feet from the 11-foot-high windows. Originally designed as the corporate headquarters of Alcoa, the building also houses the offices of Arconic. Alcoa is involved in the mining and refining of bauxite into alumina and in aluminum production and refining, while Arconic manufactures engineered aluminum products, particularly for the aerospace and automotive industries.

11 Andy Warhol Museum *William G. Wilkins Co. (?), architect; c. 1913*

The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Originally used as a warehouse for the Frick & Lindsay machinery company, the historic landmark now houses an extensive permanent collection of art and archives from Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

12 Downtown Pittsburgh Skyscrapers (view)

U.S. Steel Tower (Harrison & Abramovitz [New York], architects, 1971) is Pittsburgh’s tallest skyscraper at 841 feet. The exposed frame of Cor-Ten weathering steel advertises a company product, and also bears the UPMC name; both U.S. Steel and UPMC are headquartered there. Also notice the limestone ziggurat top of the Art Deco Gulf Tower (Trowbridge & Livingston [New York], architects, 1932) and the Art Deco Koppers Building (Graham, Anderson, Probst & White [Chicago], 1929), with its crowning chateau roof of copper. All three buildings are on Grant Street.

13 David L. Lawrence Convention Center *Rafael Viñoly Architects (New York), architects; 2003*

The slope of the Convention Center roof plays off the sloping catenaries of the nearby bridges. Cantilevered over the Allegheny River, the Convention Center is the world’s