FILLING IN THE STORY

Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad

The Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad was headquartered here from 1879 to 1992, for 113 years. The P&LE served Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio and was called "The Little Giant" because it hauled such a huge volume of freight, including steel, coal, and coke (refined coal).

The buildings and railroad yards were the terminus for many thousands of tons of freight and mail and for 76 passenger trains a day. The P&LE designed its passenger station in the American Renaissance style, with a grand display of columns, arches, and decorative details. The station was a memorable place of arrival and departure for many millions of people and housed the offices of the railroad executives.

When rail business began declining in the 1950s and 1960s because of competition from cars, trucks, and airplanes, the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad held its own but was aware change was coming. In the early 1970s, the P&LE even considered tearing down some of their underutilized buildings. Fortunately, the P&LE entered into an agreement with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation so five historic buildings could be saved and reused.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

From 1976 to 1994, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation served as the prime developer of Station Square and eventually acquired 52 acres of riverfront property. Here, Landmarks was able to put its historic preservation and urban planning principles into practice:

- Historic buildings were restored and reused for offices, shops, restaurants, and entertainment.
- Parking was conveniently located near buildings.
- Artifacts were treated as sculpture and used to ornament buildings and open spaces.
- And, for the first time in Pittsburgh, underdeveloped riverfront land was used to create a place where people could work, dine, shop, and be entertained.

When Landmarks sold Station Square in 1994 because its historic preservation goals were achieved, the sale proceeds were added to its endowment to help fund neighborhood revitalization, historic preservation programs, and educational activities throughout the Pittsburgh region. To learn more about our work or to become a member visit: www.phlf.org or call 412-471-5808.

Forest City Enterprises, Inc.

Forest City Enterprises (www.forestcity.net) has owned Station Square since 1994. The $8-billion Cleveland-based company is principally engaged in the ownership, development, acquisition and management of premier commercial and residential real estate throughout the United States. With plenty of places to shop, dine, and be entertained, Station Square (www.stationsquare.com) is Pittsburgh’s most popular tourist destination.

STATION SQUARE

SCAVENGER HUNT

Every place has a story.
What’s the story of this place?

A self-guided tour created by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

with funding support from The Grable Foundation

Station Square: A Place of Historic Landmarks and New Buildings

Look carefully at buildings so you really see the details. Notice how historic building details are influencing the design of new buildings at Station Square.

Write down the location of each detail you see during your Scavenger Hunt walk.

A. ____________________________
   B. ____________________________
   C. ____________________________
   D. ____________________________
   E. ____________________________
   F. ____________________________
   G. ____________________________
   H. ____________________________

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EXPLORE THESE PLACES TO DISCOVER THE STORY OF STATION SQUARE

The Landmarks Building

Questions
1. This building was built to be the ____________________________
2. When was the building built? _______________________________
3. How old is the building? _________________________________
4. Who was the architect? ________________________________
5. What does P&LERR stand for? _____________________________
6. How do you know that this building is important to our city and nation? _____________________________

Clues

The Shops at Station Square

Questions
1. What was the building originally used for? ____________________________
2. When was it built? ________________________________
3. How old is it? _________________________________
4. What inside reminds us about the original purpose of the building? _____________________________
5. Banners hang from the ceilings. What places or sights of the building? _____________________________
6. Look up! What alphabet letter and shapes do you see repeated in the steel truss work supporting the roof? _____________________________

Clues

Bessemer Court & Other Stuff

Questions
1. What’s new in this place? ____________________________
2. What’s old in this place? ________________________________
3. What was the name of Pittsburgh’s first successful blast furnace? _____________________________
4. What does a Bessemer Converter do? _____________________________
5. What was built to help people walk from Bessemer Court to the river’s edge? _____________________________
6. There are lots of artifacts placed around Station Square. Some are “industrial artifacts,” used to make steel or bricks. Others are pieces saved from bridges or buildings that were demolished. Which artifact do you think is most interesting? _____________________________

Clues

The River & Downtown

Questions
1. Which river flows past Station Square? _____________________________
2. Which direction does the river flow? _____________________________
3. What is the name of Pittsburgh’s first successful blast furnace? _____________________________
4. Where does the river end? _____________________________
5. Name some of the skyscrapers that you see: _____________________________
6. Name some of the bridges that you see: _____________________________

Clues

For answers to this worksheet, visit www.phlf.org or call 412-471-8808, ext. 526.