



Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
100 West Station Square Drive, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134
www.phlf.org
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PHLF News

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

No. 177 April 2011



November 18, 1999: August Wilson stands in front of the New Granada Theater, at 2007 Centre Avenue, in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Copyright ©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2011, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

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Now Available: August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays

The A.W. guidebook is amazing! Thanks much. It's the perfect research investment.

—Tonya Johnson, Montclair, NJ

More than 200 people attended the book-signing celebration hosted by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF), Historic Hill Institute, and Hill Community Development Corporation on Saturday, February 26 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Pittsburgh's Hill District. "This guidebook to places associated with playwright August Wilson's life and work is the result of the cooperative efforts of many people," said Louise Sturgess, executive director of PHLF, "and its power is not to be underestimated in terms of its substance and impact. After two years in the making, it's great to hold the book in your hand."

Kenya Boswell from BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Gerry Kuncio of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board offered remarks, along with the authors Laurence A. Glasco, Christopher Rawson, Kimberly C. Ellis, and Sala Udin.

Gerry said, "It's very exciting to be part of an excellent project that results in a resource that will help make

Wilson's life and work more accessible to the public, become the basis for public tours, and encourage people to care for and preserve the Pittsburgh places connected with the African American playwright." The authors

The August Wilson book is a heartfelt triumph. The bricks and mortar of the Hill come to life through Mr. Wilson's own words, the authors' words, and the photographs. . . . Mr. Wilson's work is built upon the foundation of all great art—the artist's ability to make the particular, through its very detail, represent the universal—thereby bringing the artist's own story home to us all.

I congratulate all involved in the book.

—Ray Pendro, PHLF member,
Alameda, CA

and PHLF presented complimentary books to local high schools, colleges, and libraries, and BNY Mellon volunteers helped with book sales.

The guidebook was supported by a Preserve America grant from the

National Park Service, administered under the Preserving African American Heritage in Pennsylvania program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and by BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Multicultural Arts



Initiative and 75 PHLF members and friends also contributed. August Wilson is one of America's great playwrights. He lived in Pittsburgh from his birth in 1945 to 1978, when he moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and later to Seattle, Washington. He died in 2005 and is buried in Pittsburgh. Wilson composed 10 plays chronicling the African American experience in each decade of the twentieth century—and he set nine of those plays in Pittsburgh's Hill District. He turned the history of a place into great theater. His plays, including *Fences*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Two Trains Running*, *Jitney*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and *Radio Golf*, have become classics of the American stage.

(continued on page 10)

Editor's Note

PHLF News is published once a year for members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to hold, read, and enjoy. While our monthly e-mail newsletters bring you breaking news, *PHLF News* features work accomplished and announces forthcoming events.

The breadth, scope, and impact of our work is amazing. In this issue, you will read about our \$8.6 million housing restoration project in Wilkinsburg; our work with the Manchester Citizens Corporation in restoring seven houses and with the Hill CDC in stabilizing the New Granada Theater and getting it listed on the National Register; our 14 Main Street programs in three counties; our successful challenge grant campaign that has reenergized our Historic Religious Properties program; our educational programs serving more than 10,000 people each year; and our research activities that result in a greater understanding of significant, historical places—in this case Swan Acres in Ross Township. In all that we do, we are anchored by our mission: to *identify, save, and use* significant places in the Pittsburgh region that are 50 years old or more *as the key* to renewing communities and building pride among the people who live there.

Eric C. Wise, one of our 2010 scholarship recipients, summed up the importance of what PHLF does in his note to us:

The news often covers rankings that place Pittsburgh as one of America's top cities, but it is your organization and the efforts of so many volunteers that earn Pittsburgh that rank. Not only does your organization save the past but it also preserves the future by stimulating economic growth in historic neighborhoods. PHLF reminds me of the quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



New Granada Theater Listed on National Register

The New Granada Theater retains . . . integrity of location; it remains where it was originally constructed. It retains integrity of design; the only major change to the exterior was the alteration of the Centre Avenue façade to accommodate its conversion to a movie theater; however, since this change was made during the period of significance, it does not compromise integrity. Although much of the interior fabric has deteriorated over time, the large interior spaces designed in 1926 remain impressive and readily adaptable for future use, as they were in 1937. . . . The theater retains integrity of setting; although there have been numerous teardowns and there are many vacant lots, the area still retains its urban setting. The theater retains integrity of association; the exterior still reads as an entertainment/recreation venue. . . . The theater also retains integrity of feeling for the same reason. In sum, the architectural integrity of the Pythian Temple has largely survived, and patrons who attended the first event at the New Granada Theater on May 20, 1937, or anytime thereafter, would recognize the landmark immediately.

—New Granada Theater, National Register Nomination

On December 27, 2010, the New Granada Theater in Pittsburgh's Hill District was added to the National Register of Historic Places, based on a nomination submitted by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. From 1927 through the 1970s, the three-story brick building on Centre Avenue was one of the largest and most celebrated live entertainment venues, community events centers, and movie palaces in the Hill.

Originally the Pythian Temple, the Pittsburgh headquarters of a black fraternal society, the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, the building housed shops on Centre and Wylie Avenues; hosted lodge meetings and events; sponsored local dances, athletic events, beauty pageants, cooking classes, etc.; and presented America's leading black musicians: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Eubie Blake, Cab Calloway, Baron Lee and the Cotton Club Orchestra, and many others.

The Pythians defaulted on their mortgage during the Depression and the

Tudor Revival building was remodeled as a commercial theater in 1936–37 with a polychromatic Art Deco marquee and reopened as the New Granada Theater. The large first-floor drill hall/banquet room became a movie theater, while the musical events and community activities continued on the upper floors.

The architect of the Pythian Temple was Louis Arnett Stuart Bellinger (1891–1946), Pittsburgh's first African American architect; indeed, he was Pittsburgh's only African American architect until the 1950s. Bellinger studied mathematics and engineering at Howard University (B.S. in Architecture, 1914). After serving in World War I, he arrived in Pittsburgh in 1919 and opened his architectural office in 1922. In 1923 Bellinger was the first African American to be hired by the office of the City of Pittsburgh Architect; as an assistant architect, he designed a police station and remodeled service buildings in the city parks. Bellinger returned to private practice in 1926.

Despite being largely ignored by



The majority of the west wall of the New Granada is being restored and will complete the \$1.1 million stabilization effort undertaken by the Hill CDC and PHLF.

Pittsburgh's (all-white) architects, Bellinger persevered and established himself within Pittsburgh's African American community. He was one of three black architects invited in 1927 to display his work at the first exhibition of African American art in the United States sponsored by the Harmon Foundation in 1928 in New York City. In 1931, Bellinger designed Greenlee Field on Bedford Avenue in the Hill District for the Pittsburgh Crawfords baseball team. Baseball historian Rob Ruck called Greenlee Field the "finest independent ball park in the country, and one of the few black-controlled ones"; it opened on April 29, 1932.

In 1932, Bellinger became the first black candidate for Congress from the 32nd Congressional district, but he lost the election. (An African American did not win a Congressional seat from Pennsylvania until 1958.) In 1933, Bellinger was invited to contribute to the Harmon Foundation's second African American art exhibition. In 1937, Bellinger became the first African

American hired as a City of Pittsburgh Building Inspector; he held that position from 1937–39 and 1941–42. Bellinger died suddenly at age 54 in 1946 and is buried in Pittsburgh's Allegheny Cemetery.

The New Granada closed in the 1970s and has been vacant ever since. In 2007–10, the Hill Community Development Corporation (the building owner), African American architect Milton Ogot, and PHLF collaborated in a \$1.1 million stabilization of the New Granada, funded by The Heinz Endowments, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Allegheny County. As the National Register of Historic Places nomination (quoted above) states, despite many changes, this African American landmark retains integrity of location, design, setting, association, and feeling.

For more information and historical photos, see "Pittsburgh's African-American Architect Louis Bellinger and the New Granada Theater," www.phlf.org.



Greensburg Salem, Grade 8



Franklin Regional, Team 1



Yough, Team 2



Penn Trafford, Team 1

150 Students Envision New Uses for the New Granada

On March 3 and 4, thirty-two teams of middle and high school students from Westmoreland County presented their models and drawings showing their vision for the New Granada Theater during the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's 15th Annual Architectural Design Challenge. Their plans included jazz-themed restaurants and bookstores; an ESPN Sports Zone; a restored theater and stage for community performances; a grand ballroom and a Hill District museum; and an

organic grocer and rooftop restaurant. Architects and interior designers evaluated the models according to feasibility, creativity, and historical accuracy, among other criteria. After the competition, students shared some of the lessons they had learned:

At first I thought old buildings were a waste of time. Now I see there are a lot of cool things in them.

I realized that not every old structure is what it seems and it can be made into something great.

It showed us that while you can keep the historical value of a building, you can also throw a new twist into it.

I just figured it's an old building, what are you going to do? But, it turns out that we can do a lot with an old building.

This is the most ambitious project that we do all year, and without it, our gifted program wouldn't be as exciting.

I realized that the history of the building can inspire new ideas.

I like coming up with ideas for an old building and making them come to life.

Through this project we learned how to work together and share ideas.

I learned to see the greatness in old cities.

Time goes by so fast, and due dates are closer than they appear.

Fun! Fun! Fun! Do this next year!





The duplex at 1334–32 Columbus Avenue contains two 3-bedroom units.



1324 Columbus Avenue (left) is a 2-bedroom unit; 1322 Columbus is a 3-bedroom unit. Both have an additional room.



1113 Sheffield Street (center left) is a single-family 3-bedroom residence.



1110 Bidwell Street has an owner-occupied front unit with 3 bedrooms, and a 2-bedroom rental unit in the rear.

Seven Houses in Manchester Are Restored

Nine units of housing have been created in seven historic residential buildings in Manchester, thanks to the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC), the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, State Senator Wayne D. Fontana, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, TriState Capital Bank, and Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCC), a nonprofit subsidiary of PHLF, through a loan from PNC Bank to our Preservation Loan Fund. In addition, as a result of a community benefits agreement with the Rivers Casino, the Northside Leadership Conference awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Manchester Housing Program from the \$1 million casino contribution. Landmarks Design Associates (LDA) was the architect and Mistick Construction Company served as contractor for the \$2.1 million project.

Ahmed Martin, executive director of MCC, said: “This is merely the beginning of our \$35 million comprehensive



1240 Liverpool Street includes an owner-occupied 5-bedroom unit on the second and third floors—and the owner can lease the 2-bedroom unit on the first floor.

neighborhood strategic plan. The housing units are a mix of market rate and affordable housing—and we have signed sales agreements for every one. People will begin moving into the restored houses this month. It is a tremendous accomplishment to have

these seven houses—previously vacant and in deplorable condition—restored and useful again. This project has shown the value of restoring, rather than demolishing, vacant housing in Manchester.”

Market at Fifth Praised

Market at Fifth, a mixed-use development of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, has transformed a deteriorated group of downtown buildings into a handsome, fully occupied, retail and apartment complex—and has helped decrease crime in the area. “District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr., called to say that crime had decreased dramatically in the area of our buildings since the opening of Market at Fifth,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler, “and he suggested we undertake more restoration projects downtown.”

PHLF received three awards in 2010 for Market at Fifth: a Historic Preservation Award from the City of Pittsburgh and the Historic Review Commission; a Sustainability in Historic Preservation Award from Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; and a Commonwealth Award (Silver) from 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania in recognition of Market at Fifth’s contribution to the economic and environmental health of the Commonwealth. Many people have sent e-mails of congratulations to PHLF; several are reprinted here:

I just wanted to thank you [Arthur Ziegler] for all you do for Pittsburgh. . . . Your latest effort for Market Square is looking great. I’m 43 years old with a family living north of Pittsburgh and have always enjoyed working downtown.

You have encouraged me at some point in my life to try to help out Pittsburgh in some way like you have and volunteer with PHLF.”

—Tyler Boyer, February 5, 2010

The Buhl Building and Market at Fifth stopped me in my tracks. Just fantastic. Stopped into Heinz Healey’s, met the owner, and told him thanks for coming downtown. I can’t think of any organization more effective and worthwhile to the city and region than PHLF.

—Kevin Allen, Pittsburgh, PA, March 18, 2010

For the first time in quite a long time, I walked Fifth and Forbes and it looks spectacular.

I remember all of those tours encouraging folks to see the possibilities still remaining and Mayor Tom Murphy repeatedly saying the buildings were worthless.

Congratulations—what a tremendous asset PHLF has saved!

—Cathy McCollom, Confluence, PA, April 7, 2010



Visit PHLF’s offices and two libraries on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square.

Welcome New Trustees

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Kelly S. Lyons
Corbin P. Miller

Landmarks Community Capital Corporation

Don Kortlandt
Michael Sriprasert
Annabelle Javier Wilburn

Landmarks Development Corporation

Aaron Bibro
Joe Kuklis

Landmarks Financial Corporation

Jerry Schiller

About PHLF

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was founded in 1964 by a group of citizens who passionately believed that **historic preservation**, rather than massive demolition, could be a **tool for renewing communities, building pride** among residents, and achieving sustainable economic development.

PHLF includes two nonprofit subsidiaries, Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCC) and Landmarks Financial Corporation (LFC). PHLF also includes a for-profit subsidiary, Landmarks Development Corporation (LDC).

PHLF is chartered to work within 250 miles of Pittsburgh, PA.

For information: www.phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 527.

Staff Facts & Profiles

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation employs 26 people on a full- or part-time basis (*please see the staff list on page 24*). Plus, more than 150 docents, office volunteers, college interns, architects, and community leaders donate their time and energy throughout the year.

Two staff members have joined us since the last issue of *PHLF News*, and Michael Sriprasert has been elected president of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation.



Michael Sriprasert, director of real estate development at PHLF, was elected president of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCC) on February 16. "Since Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr.'s departure

from LCC in April 2010, Michael has been deeply involved in restructuring the non-profit subsidiary to serve as PHLF's lending agency," said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler.

"Our goal with LCC," said Michael, "is to increase the number of loans we do and grow our loan funds so that developments in historic communities can be carried out by nonprofit and for-profit organizations within a 250-mile radius of Pittsburgh."

A native of Washington, D.C., a Bloomfield resident, and a 2005 graduate of CMU's Heinz College of Public Policy and Management, Michael is completing a Master of Business Administration at CMU's Tepper School of Business.



Karamagi Rujumba, executive assistant to the director of real estate development, joined PHLF's staff on October 17, 2010. A naturalized American, Karamagi was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and was raised in Uganda before coming to the United States in 1997. He is a graduate of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and of

Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. A *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reporter from 2006 to 2010, Karamagi covered the suburban communities east of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County government, city politics, and the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He works closely with Michael Sriprasert on the Wilksburg and Market at Fifth projects, among others.



Anne Riggs, regional main street coordinator for the Freeport Leechburg Apollo Group (FLAG), manages historic downtown revitalization in three Armstrong County towns. A native of Berkeley, California, Anne earned her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture

in 2009 and joined PHLF's staff in February 2010 after participating as a volunteer critic for PHLF's Architectural Design Challenge. She works on a variety of design-related projects, including façade restorations through Allegheny County's *Allegheny Together* program.

The John Roberts House: A Preservation Success



The John Roberts House, 225 North Central Avenue, Canonsburg, PA. The 1809 stone and 1840 brick portions of the house face North Central Avenue.

"The John Roberts House in Canonsburg is a great example of how people and nonprofits can work together to protect and reuse historic buildings of local and national significance to revitalize their communities," said Anne Nelson, general counsel of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF).

During the past five years, this brick-and-stone Georgian house in Canonsburg has been saved through the following sequence of events:

- December 2006: Andrew J. Tarnik, a local citizen, bought the house in order to save it from being demolished for a parking lot. It had stood empty for years.
- October 2007: PHLF acquired the house from Mr. Tarnik, at the request of the newly formed Washington County Cultural Trust (WCCT), a group of concerned citizens who had the desire—but lacked the assets—to purchase and sensitively reuse the house. PHLF held the property and performed minor stabilization work, while WCCT raised funds, publicized its mission, and sought 501(c)(3) designation.
- August 12, 2010: PHLF transferred the Roberts House to the WCCT with a preservation easement that will protect the historic integrity of the exterior forever. A \$219,000 grant from the Washington County Local Share Account Program enabled the WCCT to acquire the house and begin restoring the property as a community arts center.

"The Roberts House shows our principles of preservation at work," said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler. "Over the course of our 47 years, we have developed three major principles. We save a building if: it has architectural significance and integrity; there is a local constituency in support of its preservation; and there is a feasible reuse. The Roberts House fulfills all three criteria. We are glad to have played a part in this preservation story."

Significance and Integrity

The John Roberts House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975, is one of the most significant eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century historic properties in Western Pennsylvania. The property traces its roots to 1791 when John Canon donated the lot to Canonsburg Academy. A log house was erected on the lot in 1798. When the academy was chartered as Jefferson College in 1802, the college's first president, John Watson lived in the log house. He died there that same year.

A stone addition was added behind the log house in 1804—and another stone addition was added in 1809. John Roberts, for whom the house is named, operated a general store and post office there for a time. Circa 1840, the log house was replaced and to some extent encapsulated in a brick structure. Some of the log walls are still visible inside. For over 30 years, Jefferson College (now Washington & Jefferson) owned the house and used it as a residence for either its president or faculty members.

"The Roberts House is an extraordinary example of multigenerational design and building," said Albert Tannler, historical collections director of PHLF. It is referenced in numerous historical and architectural books, including *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania*, by Charles Morse Stotz, and *A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania*, by Helene Smith and George Swetnam.

Local Constituency

Ellen Sims is president of the Washington County Cultural Trust, established in 2007 for the purpose of protecting historic landmarks for use by the arts. "Members and organizations within the community have united to save this architectural gem," said Ellen. "They are eager to re-establish the John Roberts House as a center for art and education."

Feasible Reuse

"By creating an arts center in the house," said Ellen, "we will be re-establishing this as a significant educational site and providing new opportunities for Canonsburg citizens." Canonsburg Middle School—and John McMillan's Log School—are across the street from the John Roberts House.



This year, work will proceed on restoring the exterior of the house. Next year, interior work will begin. "The more we investigate the house, the more questions arise about its construction and development," said Ellen. "We look forward to bringing experts in to help us uncover the story of the house, and we hope to conduct an archaeological dig on the property at some point."

July 23 Bus Tour

PHLF members are invited to visit the John Roberts House during an exclusive bus tour on Saturday, July 23 (*see page 24*). The bus tour also includes visits to "Woodville Plantation" in Collier Township, the National Historic Landmark home of John and Presley Neville, and to "Plantation Plenty," a 400-acre organic farm in Avella, Pennsylvania. Plantation Plenty is on Preservation Pennsylvania's list of endangered places due to threats from mining. Members of the Isaac Manchester family have owned and occupied the farm for 210 years.

The member fee is \$65 per person. Space is limited; contact Mary Lu Denny for reservations: 412-471-5808, ext. 527; marylu@phlf.org.

PHLF's July 23 bus tour to the John Roberts House also includes visits to Woodville Plantation (*below*) and Plantation Plenty (*bottom*).



Planned Gifts, Easements & Awards

A Gift Built on a Firm Foundation

Most people wouldn't know a cornice from a cornerstone. But Albert Tannler isn't most people.

Al joined the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1991 as archivist and as editor for *All Aboard*, Station Square's magazine. In 1994, he became PHLF's historical collections director.

Al's passion is the architectural history of our region, something that's obvious from the time he spends defining, defending, and writing about the subject, and it's something he wants to share.

So recently, Al informed PHLF President Arthur Ziegler that he would use his condominium and retirement plan assets to create **The Albert M. Tannler Fund** to generate income for non-capital projects, specifically to support architectural publications and programs.

Al, who was born in northeastern Pennsylvania, lived and worked in Chicago for 26 years before joining PHLF.

"I discovered architecture in Chicago," Al noted, "and began researching and writing architectural history while working in the University of Chicago Library's Department of Special Collections.

"In Pittsburgh, inspired by the writings of Jamie Van Trump and working closely with Walter Kidney, I have been able to explore regional architecture and design in the most gratifying and exciting ways."

Several years before his death, Walter, PHLF's architectural historian for more than two decades, made PHLF the principle beneficiary of his will and retirement plans. When Walter died in 2005, he left more than \$300,000 to create **The Walter C. Kidney Library and Publications Fund**.

"Like Walter, I am an only child and unmarried," said Al, "and Walter's gift inspired me to do something similar."

"When Al met with me to discuss his goals, a unique opportunity presented itself," said Jack Miller, PHLF's director of gift planning. "Given Al's specific circumstances, he was in a position to do something that Walter couldn't—fund a gift during his lifetime."

Using his Traditional IRA and the cash value from a life insurance policy, Al had enough money to pay off his mortgage. He was then in a position to give his condo to PHLF, retain the right to live there for the rest of his life and use the resulting federal charitable income tax deduction to offset most of the tax owed on his IRA and insurance policy distributions.

Instead of receiving the condo later via a bequest, PHLF could take title to the condo immediately, permitting the creation of Al's named fund during his lifetime. A future bequest will augment **The Albert M. Tannler Fund**.

"This is a tremendously generous gift that speaks volumes to the importance of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation," said Arthur. "It says a lot about an organization when your employees not only enjoy working there but also support you financially."



Albert Tannler, historical collections director of PHLF, in the James D. Van Trump Library

In addition to Al and Walter's gifts, two other current PHLF employees have made planned gifts in the past decade. Collectively, the four gifts have exceeded \$750,000 in value.

"Anyone who has ever worked for a nonprofit knows that our salaries aren't too high," said Al, "but if you can't find a way to direct at least some of what you have to what you care about, what's the point of having anything in the first place?"

Like the local architecture he admires and promotes, Albert's gift is set on a firm foundation. Let's hope that others consider using his blueprint to build their own preservation plan.

House Gift Supports Our Work in Wilkinsburg

In any neighborhood revitalization project, support comes in a variety of ways. PHLF thanks Landmarks Community Capital Corporation Board Member Kasey Connors for her gift of 517 Jeanette Street in Wilkinsburg. The house has now been incorporated into Phase 2 of our Hamnett Place Restoration Program (see pages 12-13).

Four More Historic Landmarks Protected

Since the February 2010 issue of *PHLF News*, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has received preservation easements on four buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A preservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement made between a property owner and PHLF to protect historic buildings from exterior alteration or destruction and is recorded with the deed to the property.

The **Burke Building** at 209 Fourth Avenue is the oldest work of high-style architecture in downtown Pittsburgh. Designed by English-born-and-trained



architect John Chislett, the three-story stone building was constructed in 1836 as an office building and survived the Great Fire of 1845. The easement was donated by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, prior to the sale of the building to Burke Building Enterprises L.P.



The **Willis McCook Mansion** at 5105 Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood is one of only four houses remaining of Pittsburgh's Millionaires' Row. It, and the nearby **McCook-Reed House**, were protected when the owner donated preservation easements associated with a development loan. The two properties are being restored into a luxury hotel.

The **John Roberts House** in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, once served as the home of Jefferson College, which later became Washington & Jefferson. PHLF sold the property in 2010 to the Washington County Cultural Trust, subject to a preservation easement (see page 4).

For more information on the benefits associated with preservation easements, contact Jack Miller, who directs PHLF's easement program: jack@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

Carol Semple Thompson Recognized



Carol Semple Thompson, a celebrated amateur golfer, Sewickley native, and preservationist, was honored with the "Living Landmark" award by the Pittsburgh History

& Landmarks Foundation during a Landmarks Heritage Society event on June 23, 2010 at Oakmont Country Club. More than 100 PHLF members attended the dinner and tour of the recently renovated clubhouse, a National Historic Landmark.

Charitable IRA Rollover Extended for 2011

Former Board Member Frank Fairbanks had to wait until his death to direct his Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to endow the Frank B. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive. Now, persons taking mandatory distributions from their IRA may not need to wait that long.

Among the multitude of items included in the Tax Relief Act signed into law by President Obama on December 17, 2010, was an extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover provision through the end of 2011. The provision is a significant opportunity for donors who:

- hold assets in their IRAs that they do not need;
- would like to make a large one-time gift;
- are subject to the 2% rule that reduces itemized deductions;
- do not itemize; or
- plan to leave part or all of their IRA to PHLF at death.

Here are some important points:

- Individuals age 70 ½ and older may once again request direct transfers of funds from IRAs to PHLF **without income tax on gifted funds**. (Note that such contributions do not qualify for a federal charitable income tax deduction since they were not first realized as income to the donor.)
- The funds must be directly transferred from IRA accounts to PHLF (donors should ask their IRA custodians for special forms to make these requests).
- Each individual is entitled to make a total of \$100,000 in gifts to charities in 2011 under this provision and the contributions may be applied to minimum distribution requirements.
- Only standard IRAs and Roth IRA accounts qualify under this law; other retirement accounts such as 401(k), 403(b), SEP, KEOGH, and SIMPLE IRA plans cannot be used to make an IRA rollover gift.
- Donors of IRA rollover gifts must receive no personal benefits from this gift, nor are they available for planned gifts such as charitable remainder trusts or gift annuities.

For more information on how the Charitable IRA Rollover may be beneficial to you and PHLF, please contact Jack Miller, director of gift planning: jack@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

Note: PHLF does not provide tax or legal advice; please consult with your own legal and tax advisors.

MAIN STREET NEWS: Revitalizing Traditional Downtowns



David . . . I am absolutely blown away at the documentation and level of detail PHLF provided for us. . . . I have loved looking through [the report] and envisioning the possibilities! . . . I cannot tell you how grateful I am that you are here to help us. Please know how much you mean to Bellevue. You are doing a great work that will leave a legacy.

—Kathy Coder, President,
Bellevue Borough Council,
September 17, 2010

Long-time residents and business owners are involved with the VIP, which is under the direction of a third-generation business owner, Julie Martin, the current board president. I have a lot of faith in Julie and Main Street Manager Sara McGuire. Vandergrift's beauty is apparent in the movie "I Am Number IV," which was filmed here in June 2010.

—Louis Purificato,
Vandergrift Mayor and
VIP Vice President

It's great that FLAG is providing assistance so local businesses can have websites designed featuring their products and services. This enables them to compete in today's economy and wouldn't be happening without our Main Street effort.

—Vicki Beuth, President,
FLAG Board of Directors,
March 10, 2010

Sign Up for PHLF's Small Business News

The *Small Business News* is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The goal of the newsletter is to highlight topics that are relevant to business owners in traditional downtown areas.

Over the past two years, the newsletter has addressed topics such as how to provide good customer service and create eye-catching window displays. The newsletter also always features a Q&A with a business that has been successful in a traditional downtown setting. Business owners have commented that it is a valuable resource that they look forward to reading.

To receive the *Small Business News*, contact David Farkas: david@phlf.org, 412-471-5808, ext. 516.



Visit Elizabeth, PA, any Saturday, July through October, and experience "Sounds Like Summer on Plum." The Elizabeth Business District Advisory Council is continuing the popular street fair and concert series that was initiated in 2010. The event features musical performances, street vendors, and other family-friendly activities—and attracts hundreds of people to the central business district.

Allegheny Together Gains Momentum

For the past three years, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) has been one of two consultants hired by Allegheny County to administer *Allegheny Together*, the county's downtown revitalization program. Along with Town Center Associates, PHLF is providing Main Street services, as of March 2011, to the following 10 communities: Bellevue, Bridgeville, Carnegie, Coraopolis, Dormont, Elizabeth, Stowe, Swissvale, Tarentum, and Verona. Carnegie and Dormont were just added to the Allegheny Together program.

This year, PHLF expanded its role with the *Allegheny Restores* façade renovation program and now provides renderings of each project and a construction specification sheet, and monitors the progress of each renovation. As one building owner noted, "The

assistance of PHLF was extremely helpful during the planning process. Their design team worked with me to understand my goals for the project, and the specification sheets they developed made the bid process much simpler."

In addition to providing design and construction management assistance, PHLF is responsible for business recruitment and works to fill gaps in the restaurant, retail, and entertainment offerings. Despite a national economy that is still recovering, a number of new businesses have opened in the Allegheny Together communities. For example, three new businesses opened in Bellevue in 2010: MG's Makin' Scents, a candle and gift shop; The Acoustic Moose Café, a coffee shop and live music venue; and Thai Suan Thip, a restaurant.

For more information on PHLF's Allegheny Together program, contact David Farkas, director of Main Street programs: david@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 516.

Tarentum Borough received \$100,000 from Allegheny County Economic Development to implement PHLF-designed streetscape improvements. Concrete barriers along Sixth Avenue were removed and replaced with a decorative metal railing. This change opens the view between Fifth and Sixth avenues, the core of Tarentum's business district, and encourages pedestrian flow between the two.



Westmoreland County's VIP Brings the Community Together

Sara McGuire, a resident of Vandergrift, is PHLF's key staff person in assisting the Vandergrift Improvement Program (VIP). Since 2006, VIP and PHLF have been working together to implement a Main Street program for the historic downtown of Vandergrift, founded in 1895, laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s firm (Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot), and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The VIP's board and committees are made up of local residents and business owners who oversee real estate projects to improve historic buildings and create usable commercial and residential space, develop public spaces, and host community events, among other activities. This year, the VIP is: working with more business and property owners to facilitate façade improvements; continuing real estate rehabilitation and restoration; and making improvements to Teeple Memorial Park, a vacant green space in the heart of downtown. Senator Jim Ferlo and Representative Joseph Petrarca encouraged the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to award two grants to the VIP in 2010 to help fund park improvements.

"There is an energy in Vandergrift that is easy to feel," said Meade Jack, a VIP board member. "So much that we are doing is bringing the community together." The Vandergrift Fine Arts Festival, supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance, and the Vandergrift Farmer's Market, supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, are two events this year that promise to attract thousands of people to our community. "In 2010," noted Sara, "those two events plus Light-Up-the-Night in November attracted over 6,000 visitors to Vandergrift."

Accomplishments in 2010

The VIP worked with main street business and property owners in 2010 to complete four façade grant projects using DCED façade grant funding:

- Dunmire's Home Furnishings: installed a new sign, repaired the awning, and added exterior lighting. VIP contribution: \$4,989. Private funds: \$4,989
- G & G Restaurant: replaced a storefront window. VIP contribution: \$2,154. Private funds: \$2,154
- Just Dance by Justine Albert: replaced the second-floor windows. VIP contribution: \$4,500. Private funds: \$5,100
- 145 Grant Avenue: restored two upper-level balconies. VIP contribution: \$5,000. Private funds: \$8,366

Two new businesses opened and two relocated and expanded: Just Dance by Justine Albert and the Kiski Area Federal Credit Union filled two vacant storefronts on Grant Avenue, after a business and a religious organization left to expand into other Vandergrift properties.



Before and after: The Columbia Avenue parking lot in Vandergrift, PA.



Before and after: two upper-level balconies have been restored at 145 Grant Avenue (right).

A segment of the sidewalk along Columbia Avenue was improved, thanks to a Growing Greener Grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection to the Westmoreland Conservation District. The District worked with the VIP to utilize new technology to plant three linden and three sycamore trees along a segment of Columbia Avenue. Silva cells were installed beneath permeable concrete to support and contain tree growth; the permeable surface will allow water and nutrients to flow easily to the tree roots.



Students from Kiski Area High School and the University of Pittsburgh display their plans for 134 Grant Avenue.

The former J. C. Penney building at 134 Grant Avenue, owned by the VIP, housed two major events in 2010: in April, students from Kiski Area High School and the University of Pittsburgh showed their plans for transforming the second-floor mezzanine into a lounge; and, in November, the popular Farmer's Market moved indoors, filling the first-floor space. The VIP hopes to transform

the vacant building into an arts and community center.

For details on the Farmer's Market and other events in 2011, visit www.officialvandergrift.com or call the VIP office at 724-567-5286.



Visit Vandergrift on Saturday, June 4, during its Fifth Annual Arts Festival, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Grant Avenue. Or, stop by the Farmer's Market in the Columbia Avenue parking lot, any Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., June 16 through October 20.

Armstrong County's FLAG Takes Off

Thanks to the support of local residents, businesses, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and State Senator Jim Ferlo, the Freeport Leechburg Apollo Group (FLAG) is off to a fast start. Anne Riggs is PHLF's key staff person assisting the regional downtown revitalization organization. "Working with the business owners and residents of these Kiski River Valley communities is an exhilarating experience," said Anne. "The area is one of great natural beauty and the main streets have so much to offer."

During its first full year as a Main Street participant in 2010, FLAG achieved many of its goals, including the following:

- launching a website, Flagpa.com, featuring up-to-date information about the organization and community as well as resources for business owners and residents;
- completing six façade improvement projects; and



Sign up this year for FLAG's River Sojourn on the Kiskiminetas on September 18.

- hosting the second annual FLAG River Sojourn, attracting twice as many participants as in 2009.

The first FLAG Annual Meeting in December 2010 drew 30 participants, including State Senator Jim Ferlo and Armstrong County Commissioner Patty Kirkpatrick, to review FLAG's

accomplishments and discuss future goals.

"This year," said Anne, "we plan on completing at least nine more façade improvement projects; hosting e-commerce seminars and providing inexpensive websites for local businesses; promoting outdoor recreation through an expanded series of events; and implementing a

Buy Local campaign to support local retail and increase sales to regional customers."

PHLF members can learn more by visiting Flagpa.com or by contacting Anne Riggs: anneriggs@phlf.org; 724-719-9700. Ask her to mail you the new FLAG brochure.



Façade renderings showing improvements for Steve Banco's State Farm Insurance Agency in Leechburg and for the St. Vincent de Paul store in Apollo



New Life for Historic Religious Properties Program

Last year showed the leadership and commitment of our members and friends. For the first time in our history, two members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation came forward to offer a challenge grant. Their initial goal was to generate \$50,000—through their \$25,000 challenge grant matched by others—in support of PHLF's Historic Religious Properties (HRP) program so our staff could offer a technical assistance workshop in the fall of 2010 and announce a new grant cycle.

The outcome? PHLF immediately offered a gift of \$12,500, thus increasing the challenge grant to \$37,500. Within 60 days, by the end of June, our members and friends had met the challenge through their generous gifts. PHLF continued to receive contributions through December 2010. In all, \$106,380 was raised for the HRP program between May and December, including the challenge grants.



The program results? PHLF hosted a Technical Assistance Workshop on September 20, 2010 at Calvary Episcopal Church. More than 90 people attended from 36 historic religious properties in Allegheny County. Mark Bibro, chairman of PHLF, welcomed participants by reminding them that they “are the survivors, serving people on Saturday and Sunday and throughout the week. It is our prayer that your places of worship will be part of our future.”

George Dorman, chair of PHLF's HRP Committee, added: “We appreciate your dedication to these marvelous worship sites that are sources of life for Pittsburgh's communities. Over a 12-year period, from 1997 to 2009, PHLF made 211 grants totaling more than \$700,000 to 98 different sites, leveraging more than \$2.9 million in construction/restoration work. Today's workshop signals a new start for the HRP program.”

By December 1, 2010, twenty-six congregations had submitted applications requesting a total of more than \$260,000 to carry out critical façade preservation and maintenance work. Each application was carefully reviewed during an intensive and lengthy committee meeting on January 24, 2011.

A Technical Assistance Workshop participant reads about PHLF membership benefits.



Congregation Poale Zedeck (Philip Friedman and Alexander Sharove, architects, 1928), at Shady and Phillips Avenues in Squirrel Hill

\$78,600 Awarded in 2011

PHLF awarded 14 grants totaling \$78,600 and five technical assistance awards during a reception on March 2 for HRP recipients and new members. In his opening remarks, Mr. Dorman noted that PHLF had not been able to award any grants in 2010. *Only because of the successful challenge grant campaign were the 2011 grants possible.*

PHLF's grant awards will be matched by funds from each congregation and will leverage close to \$375,000 in preservation and construction projects. Grant recipients are:

- Congregation Poale Zedeck (Squirrel Hill), for brick pointing and masonry repairs;
- First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, for refinishing of exterior doors;
- First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh (Downtown), for refinishing of exterior doors;
- First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Oakland), for repairing box gutters and replacing missing slates;
- Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church, for restoring stained glass windows;
- Pittsburgh Mennonite Church (Swissvale), for brick pointing;

Thank You Historic Religious Property Donors

(January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011)

Leadership Gifts (\$1,000 to \$25,000)

Anonymous (4)
Audrey and Kenneth Menke Fund for Education, PHLF
David Barenfeld
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Booth, Jr.
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Kathy and Lou Testoni
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From left: Pat Jones, new PHLF member; Simone Spaulding Cephas, Bethesda Presbyterian Church; Dolores Nypaver, Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh; and Kevin Brevard, Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

- Sacred Heart Church (Shadyside), for restoring stained glass windows;
- St. Nicholas Catholic Church (Millvale), for repairing and repainting the exterior woodwork;
- St. Paul Baptist Church (Point Breeze), for relining the box gutters and replacing missing slates;
- South Side Presbyterian Church, for replacing the main roof;
- Stewart Avenue Evangelical Lutheran Church (Carrick), for brick pointing and masonry work;
- Waverly Presbyterian Church (Point Breeze), for repairing masonry on the main entrance stair.

In addition:

- The Byzantine Catholic Seminary, in Perry Hilltop, received a grant from The Kim and Miller Family Fund at PHLF, payable over a four-year period, to help with dome repairs.
- Calvary United Methodist Church, in Allegheny West, received a grant from the Barendfeld Fund at PHLF, to help with its handicapped-ramp project.

Technical assistance was awarded to:

- Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Homewood)
- Brown Chapel AME Church (Central North Side)
- Ethnan Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church (Wilkinsburg)
- Greenfield Presbyterian Church
- Jesus' Dwelling Place (North Braddock)

Endowing the HRP Program

The two members who issued the challenge grant also had a long-term goal. With their major gift, they hoped to encourage other HRP donors to help build an endowment for the HRP program so funds are always available for critical preservation efforts. As PHLF Trustee David Vater noted, "Historic religious properties are long-term assets. They are centers of art, culture, and community, and places of value for contemplation and for many social services. There is no other single building type in Allegheny County that

is as architecturally and historically significant as religious properties."

Therefore, the goal of PHLF's annual fundraising campaign, to be launched this June, is to encourage major gifts to help build an endowment for our Historic Religious Properties program. "It takes \$2.5 million in principal to generate \$100,000 in interest to underwrite our HRP program," said Jack Miller, PHLF's director of gift planning. "Since few people can make a one-time gift at that level, we encourage supporters to use bequests and other forms of planned gifts as ways to help us endow the HRP program."

"PHLF has the tools to help people leave a legacy," said Mr. Dorman. "I'm hopeful that some of our friends who supported the 2010 challenge grant campaign will call Jack to learn how they can use mutually beneficial estate planning strategies to endow our HRP preservation efforts. We're the only place most historic properties can turn to for façade-related help, and they are truly grateful for what we do for them."

To contribute, visit www.phlf.org or contact Jack Miller: jack@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

For more information on PHLF's HRP program, contact Carole Malakoff: hrp@phlf.org or 412-471-5808. The application deadline for the 2012 cycle of grants and technical assistance is Thursday, December 1.

Dear Carole:

We truly appreciate all the support we have received and continue to receive from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. I would also like to thank you for coordinating the Technical Assistance Workshop for Historic Religious Properties last September. Members from our synagogue who attended the workshop gained valuable information and connected with knowledgeable people with whom we still consult for advice.

—Jay Angel, Congregation Poale Zedeck



Detail, Sacred Heart Church, Shadyside

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Ann Fay Ruben



More than 60 people participated in a Jane's Walk through Polish Hill last year on May 1. This year, PHLF hopes that many of its members will volunteer to lead a Jane's Walk in their neighborhood. Our goal is to top the 120 different Jane's Walks taking place in Toronto, on May 7 and 8, 2011.

Jane's Walk

Help launch a new Pittsburgh-area tradition by leading a "Jane's Walk" in your neighborhood, on either Saturday, May 7 or Sunday, May 8—whichever date suits you best.

Jane's Walks are fun and easy: they can be thrown together in a matter of days. You decide you want to do a walk, plan a route, set a meeting location and time, and spread the word to your neighbors.

The purpose of the walk, named in honor of Jane Jacobs (1916–2006)—author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*—is to look at your neighborhood more closely by walking the streets, observing the surroundings, commenting on what is working and what isn't, listening to stories, and meeting neighbors.

After your walk, send an e-mail to PHLF (info@phlf.org) and share your observations with us.

PHLF is serving as a local contact for people interested in leading a Jane's Walk in the Pittsburgh region. You can register at: janeswalk.net and contact PHLF Education Coordinator Karen Cahall (karen@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 537) for guidance.



Paulette Still-Khouri, a Polish Hill business owner and resident, gave away carnations at the end of the 2010 Jane's Walk. Photographs by Chuck Alcorn



Book donors, authors, and editors (from left): Jim McDonald, BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania; Louise Sturgess, PHLF; Gerry Kuncio, Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board; Laurence A. Glasco, author; Kenya Boswell, BNY Mellon; Christopher Rawson, author; Albert Tannler, PHLF; Kimberly C. Ellis, Historic Hill Institute; and Sala Udin, Coro Center for Civic Leadership. Both Kimberly Ellis and Sala Udin wrote introductions to the book.

Photograph by Christopher Milne

August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays

(continued from page 1)

August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays guides visitors to key sites in the playwright's life and work in the Hill District and elsewhere in the Pittsburgh area. The guidebook enriches the understanding of those who have seen or read his plays, inspires others to do so, and educates all to the importance of respecting, caring for, and preserving the Pittsburgh places that shaped, challenged, and nurtured August Wilson's rich, creative legacy.

Contents include:

- introductions by Kimberly C. Ellis and Sala Udin;
- essays on the life and work of August Wilson and on Pittsburgh's Hill District;
- a guide to 45 places in the Pittsburgh area associated with Wilson's life and plays; and
- summaries of the 10 plays in Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle and a bibliography.

Book Specifications:

- 166 pages, soft cover; 5" x 8"
- 104 photos and maps (mostly color)
- Price: \$8.95
- ISBN 978-0-9788284-7-9
- Trade discount available



Chris Rawson autographs a book.

August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays was designed by Greg Pytlik of Pytlik Design Associates and was printed by Knepper Press Corporation. It is the fourth in a series of guidebooks published by PHLF. Other guidebooks feature H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse; architecture and urban spaces in downtown Pittsburgh (second edition forthcoming); and Connick stained glass.

To order books, contact Frank Stroker: frank@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 525. Or visit www.phlf.org and click on STORE. PHLF members receive a 10% discount on all publications.

There will be a walking tour based on the guidebook on Saturday, June 4 (see page 24).

The August Wilson book has opened my eyes to what's in my own community and you have inspired me. We always go away to tour other places—Baltimore, Philadelphia—but now I realize that my own backyard matters too and is significant.

—Darlene Moore, Hill District resident

Acknowledgments:

This project is supported by a Preserve America grant from the National Park Service, administered under the Preserving African American Heritage in Pennsylvania program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The activity that is the subject of this guidebook has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of Interior.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

February 26: Authors and guests at the book-signing celebration in Fellowship Hall, Ebenezer Baptist Church





PHLF acquired the old Packard building at 744 Rebecca Avenue in Wilkesburg in November 2006, as a result of a planned gift and a grant from The Hillman Foundation. It reopened as the Landmarks Housing Resource Center on October 12, 2010.



Through the place, we renew
the spirit of the people.
Historic preservation
can be the underlying basis
of community renewal,
human renewal,
and economic renewal.
Preservation is not some isolated
cultural benefit.

—Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., President,
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Continue Giving

Your money is put to good use and the need is great. Contributions this year are helping PHLF:

- continue downtown revitalization efforts;
- offer programs at the Housing Resource Center and expand revitalization efforts in Wilkesburg;
- continue Main Street programs in Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Armstrong counties;
- continue our Historic Religious Properties Program;
- offer educational programs to more than 10,000 people;
- reprint *Whirlwind Walk*, a downtown Pittsburgh guidebook; and
- offer gift planning opportunities to people who share our goals.

PHLF's Housing Resource Center Encourages Community Investment

The Landmarks Housing Resource Center (LHRC), located at 744 Rebecca Avenue in Wilkesburg, opened in October 2010. What was once a luxury car dealership and later an auto repair shop is now used as a state-of-the-art meeting space for PHLF programming related to home ownership, maintenance, building restoration, and community development.

The interior of the LHRC includes a large meeting room for 60 people outfitted with high-tech equipment; a conference room for smaller meetings; a workroom space; a kitchen; and restrooms.

Since its opening, the LHRC has hosted a series of monthly workshops and community meetings on topics such as cost-effective home renovation and energy efficiency techniques in house restoration and home financing. During a March 12 workshop, Pittsburgh Attorney Greg Beinacki discussed what homeowners need to know about Allegheny County's property reassessment process and how they can navigate the reassessment appeals process. Dr. Herman L. Reid, Jr., a trustee of PHLF, offered the first of six career assessment and awareness programs for young people on March 19. During Dr. Reid's FocusNOW presentation, participants

developed personal career plans based on their strengths.

On March 22, PHLF partnered with 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University to screen "The New Metropolis," an award-winning documentary about the revitalization of America's first suburbs, such as Wilkesburg.

First Niagara Bank is sponsoring a continental breakfast on business façade improvements on April 27 at 8:30 a.m. Representatives will be on hand to discuss financing options. If you own a business or building in a traditional downtown, plan on attending. RSVP to Mary Lu Denny at PHLF: marylu@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 527.

The LHRC is also being used by a group of Wilkesburg residents who are participating in PHLF's vacant lot reuse initiative, which was designed to complement our \$8.6 million housing restoration project of the Wilson House and the Crescent Apartments (see pages 12-13).

To learn more about programs at the LHRC, visit www.landmarkshousing-resource.org or contact Karamagi Rujumba: karamagi@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 547.

Funders

Lead Donors

- Richard M. Scaife
- Allegheny Foundation
- The Hillman Foundation
- Fifth Third Bank

Major Donors

- TriState Capital Bank
- FHLBank Pittsburgh
- H. M. Bitner Charitable Trust
- G. Whitney Snyder Charitable Fund
- Russell W. Coe
- Vartan K. Tchekmejian
- U. S. Hotel Group, Inc.

PHLF Named Funds

- Carl Wood Brown
- Catherine Hornstein
- Thomas Hornstein
- Shadybrook

During a "Tour and Art" Saturday workshop series at the LHRC in November and December 2010 with PHLF, artist Ernest Bey, and facilitator Josie Bryant, Wilkesburg children and adults created collages of neighborhood landmarks. Their artwork was hung and unveiled during a celebration at the LHRC on December 11. PHLF members Russell W. Coe and Harry C. Goldby funded the program.



PHLF Facts

- Governed by a board of 75 community leaders
- Has had a balanced budget in each year of operation since its founding in 1964
- Involves people of all ages in carrying out its mission
- Offers a preservation easement program to protect historic properties in perpetuity, and holds easements on more than 30 historic properties in Western Pennsylvania
- Provides consulting services and develops real estate through a for-profit subsidiary, Landmarks Development Corporation, and through various limited partnerships
- Provides leadership and assistance to local, state, national, and international organizations



This is a really exciting time to live in our neighborhood and in Wilkinsburg. It isn't often that a community gets the kind of investment we are getting and it was really inspiring to see the array of people who were at the press conference today and who have brought considerable resources to the table to make these projects and others a reality.

—Wilkinsburg Councilman Jason Cohn,
October 12, 2010

Thank you again for an inspiring presentation at today's WQED Editorial Board Meeting. We're still talking about it. And I must admit it was one of our best. Who'd have thought it wasn't so long ago when the Mexican War Streets were almost leveled. . . . You could hear a pin drop in the room as you discussed your planning, execution, and development of Station Square.

Your current Wilkinsburg neighborhood revitalization endeavor is of great interest to us. . . . I'm thrilled about Mr. Scaife and so many others continuing their financial commitment to PHLF.

—Michael Bartley and WQED Editorial Board, June 23, 2010

Your efforts to revitalize historic neighborhoods are particularly impressive. And it's because of people like you, who can step into an abandoned flooded parking structure and see opportunity, look at a blighted block and see possibility, or take a chance on a creative vision and make it a reality, that struggling areas, such as my hometown of Wilkinsburg, might one day see springtime again. We would enjoy finding a way of becoming involved with the organization and putting our hands and hearts (at a minimum) to work in a meaningful way. As a small first step, today we officially joined as members.

—Hannah Arnold and Dan May, NY,
June 23, 2010, in an e-mail to
PHLF President Arthur Ziegler

I am really grateful that you were able to take me on the tour of Wilkinsburg. PHLF's work continues to be cutting edge, instructive, and vital.

—Carol Clark, Columbia University,
April 17, 2010



Left: Funders and Wilkinsburg stakeholders at the October 12, 2010 press conference and ribbon-cutting for the Landmarks Housing Resource Center.

Photograph courtesy of Philip G. Pavey,
Tribune-Review

Work Expands in Wilkinsburg

On October 12, 2010, Wilkinsburg stakeholders, including funders for Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation development projects and initiatives, local government officials, bankers, community leaders, and residents, attended a press conference announcing the ground breaking of the Crescent and Wilson development, Phase II of the Hamnett Place Restoration Program, the opening of the Landmarks Housing Resource Center (LHRC), and the beginning of year two of the Neighborhood Partnership Program.

This gathering was especially important because it displayed the interweaving of numerous programs and initiatives, in addition to different types of funding sources, which are working together to bring multiple community revitalization programs to the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Prior to the press conference, many officials and financiers walked up and down Jeanette Street to view construction that had already begun on the Crescent and Wilson buildings. There was a sense of amazement from many who had seen the site just a year or two ago, since dramatic improvements have occurred in this key block of the National-Registered Hamnett Place neighborhood.

Many who came also admitted that they could not believe or see the vision for all that is happening in Hamnett Place when they first learned about the initiatives years ago. Going into the spring of 2011, Hamnett Place is blossoming, and it is apparent that preservation is driving revitalization throughout Wilkinsburg.

The Wilson, at 506–08 Jeanette Street, will have four affordable units; they will be ready this fall.



Crescent and Wilson Under Construction

The Crescent and Wilson development project, which will bring 27 affordable units to the Hamnett Place neighborhood of Wilkinsburg, is well underway and is nearly 60% through the restoration process, despite a frigid winter.

New windows are being installed in the Wilson building, and framing, insulation, and drywall work is moving along. One third of the Crescent building, which had its roof fall into the basement, still stands with just three walls. This portion of the building will be completely rebuilt from the basement up. Framing, insulation, and drywall work has already begun on other sections of the Crescent, which are in better shape, and the housing units are quickly taking shape.

Financing for this \$8.6 million restoration project is being provided by The Allegheny Foundation, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, PNC Bank, Allegheny County Economic Development, FHLBank Pittsburgh, and Allegheny County through its office of Behavioral Health. Landmarks Design Associates (LDA) is the project architect and Sota Construction Services, Inc., is the contractor.

Construction will be completed this fall. For leasing inquiries, please contact Dianna Sadler at NDC Real Estate Management, Inc.: 412-647-7415; dsadler@ndcrealestate.com.

Neighborhood Partnership Program Continues

The Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP), an initiative of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, is now in year two, with program funds being split between the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation. With funding support from TriState Capital Bank of \$1.8 million over six years, PHLF is making a big impact through the housing programs being offered at the LHRC, in addition to the vacant lot improvement program in Hamnett Place. PHLF is focusing NPP funds primarily in two program areas, housing and vacant lots.

Three More Houses Are Being Restored

PHLF continues its work to restore single-family homes in and around the Hamnett Place neighborhood of Wilkinsburg, designated a National Register Historic District on June 28, 2010. Following its successful restoration of four houses as part of Hamnett Restoration Phase I in 2008, PHLF is restoring three more houses located at 833 Holland Avenue, 845 Holland Avenue, and 517 Jeanette Street, with funding from Allegheny County Economic Development and The Allegheny Foundation, a Richard M. Scaife charitable foundation. Landmarks



Left: PHLF members and friends joined Wilkinsburg residents on a walking tour of the Hamnett Place neighborhood on October 23, 2010 showing off the innovative preservation, gardening, and art initiatives underway, thanks to local citizens and PHLF.



The Crescent (1904), at 638 Rebecca Avenue, will house 23 affordable units.



833 Holland Avenue

Design Associates (LDA) is the architect and Mistick Construction Company is the contractor.

Much like the first phase of residential development in Hamnett Place, PHLF will be working to secure new long-term owners for the properties. The Hamnett



845 Holland Avenue (corner house)

Phase II renovations will be completed this fall. Homebuyer incomes are restricted to 120% of the area median income. For more information, please contact David Farkas, PHLF director of Main Street programs: david@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 516.

In addition, Allegheny County awarded a \$20,000 grant to the vacant lot project at 502-04 Jeanette Street. The funds will help Hamnett Place neighborhood residents create an urban farm and community garden, and purchase gardening tools, materials, seedlings, and technical expertise over a two-year period. PHLF and Growth Through Energy and Community Health (GTECH) Strategies are helping the community craft a site map of the garden on the 19,000-square-foot lot. PHLF was able to leverage Neighborhood Partnership Program funds for vacant lots to obtain these two grants.



The vacant lot at Rebecca Avenue and Mulberry Street is opposite the LHRC.

PHLF owns the vacant lot at 502-04 Jeanette Street, next to the Wilson.

Two Vacant Lot Improvements

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from The Heinz Endowments to PHLF in October 2010, work will proceed this year on improving two vacant lots in the Hamnett Place neighborhood: one at 502-04 Jeanette Street, adjacent to the Wilson house, and another at Rebecca Avenue and Mulberry Street, across from the Crescent and the LHRC.

Left: 517 Jeanette Street (center) was donated to PHLF by LCC Board Member Kasey Connors.



2010 Stats: Education

More than 10,000 people of all ages were involved in PHLF's educational programs in 2010. Staff members and docents presented **30 lectures/presentations**, **44 private group tours**, **82 walking tours and special events** for our members and the general public, **99 school tours** (for grades 2–12), and **6 professional development classes/tours** for teachers. In addition, 13 schools borrowed PHLF's **Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit** to use in their classrooms.

Plus, we hosted **architectural design challenges** for Westmoreland County students and an **Architectural Apprenticeship program** for Allegheny County students; participated in **12 major conferences and community events**, including **Kennywood's Education Days**; and **awarded \$4,000 scholarships to 5 more college-bound students**, thus bringing the total number of students in our Landmarks Scholarship Program to 40, since the program's inception in 1999—a tremendous record of support.

For the first time, PHLF offered **CampDEC (Design Explore Create)**, a 25-day afternoon camp for middle school students, offered through the Pittsburgh Public School's Summer Dreamers Academy. PHLF will be offering CampDEC again, from July 11 to August 10; middle school students can sign up by contacting the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Financial Support and Volunteers Make Possible All We Do

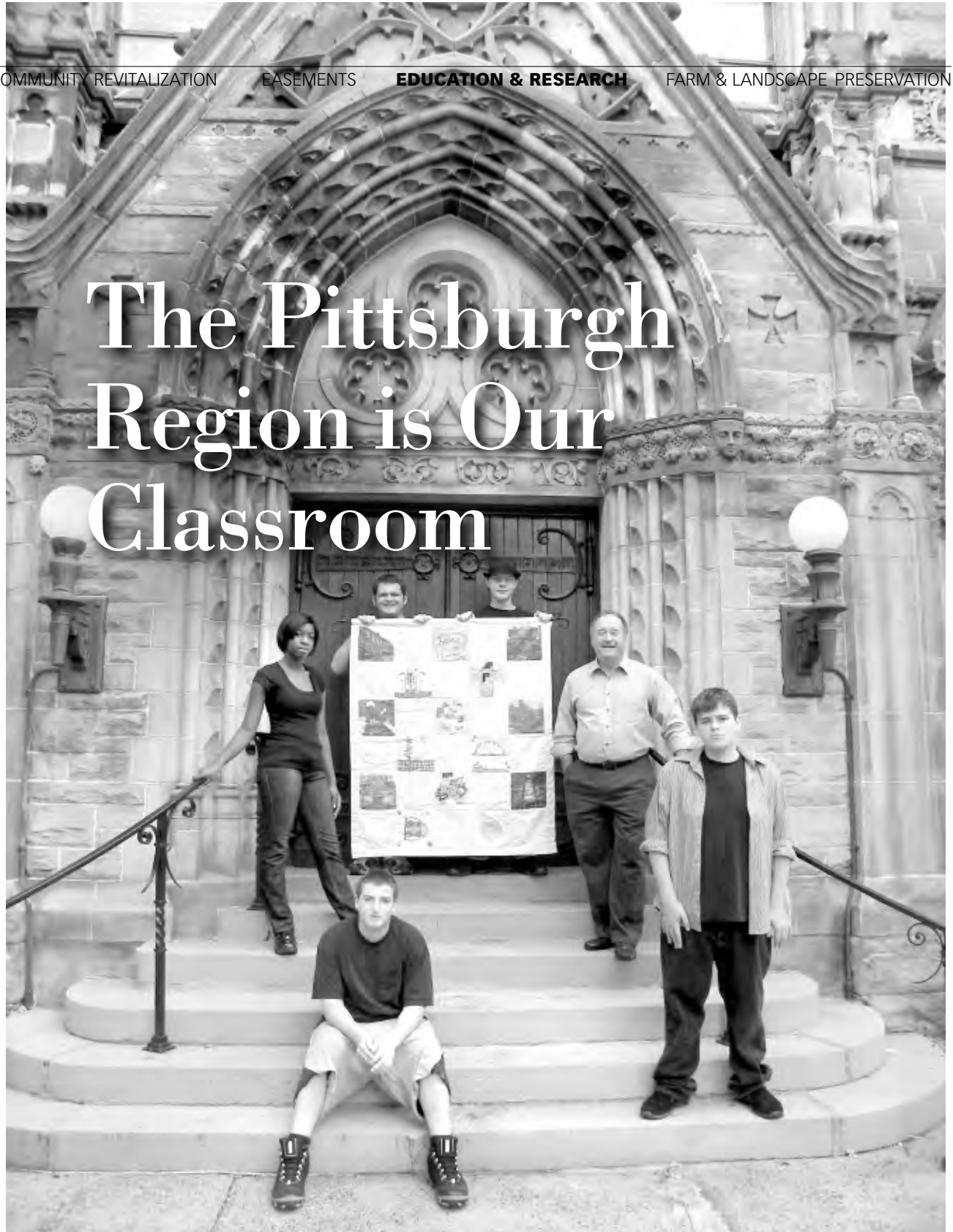
We are grateful to the many donors (*see page 23*) who support PHLF's educational, scholarship, and book-publishing programs. PHLF is *only able* to offer and carry out a full-range of year-round educational programs *because of* consistent funding support from private foundations, businesses, trustees, and members. Thank you!

And, our staff is *only able* to involve more than 10,000 people each year in educational programs *because of the volunteer involvement* of docents, architects, community leaders, and college students. In 2010, **40 PHLF docents** volunteered more than 6,000 hours to lead our tours. In addition, **30 architects and community leaders** provided their expertise, and **38 college students** completed unpaid internships: many received academic credit in the process. Thank you, all!

To become involved in PHLF's educational programs on a volunteer basis, contact Mary Lu Denny: marylu@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 527.

2011 Landmarks Scholarship Deadline

College-bound high school students who live in Allegheny County, have a 3.25 grade point average or above, and care deeply about the Pittsburgh region are invited to apply to Landmarks Scholarship Program. The **application deadline is Thursday, April 21**. Visit www.phlf.org to download an application or call: 412-471-5808, ext. 526 and we will mail one to you.



Student Tours & Art: Thanks to a grant from The Fine Foundation and following tours with PHLF, Wesley Spectrum Highlands students (*above and below*) created a Pittsburgh quilt and then donated it to Calvary United Methodist Church, one of the North Side landmarks featured on the quilt. Sto-Rox students created a series of mosaic murals based on McKees Rocks history (*below right*). The murals are permanently installed in the high school hallway. Students from Carson Middle School published a book of essays, following a “Nountown Tour” (downtown) with PHLF (*below right*).

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation offers a full-range of educational programs, year-round, engaging people of all ages—from pre-schoolers to senior citizens—in discovering more about the Pittsburgh region: its history, architecture, and lasting significance. The photographs here and on pages 15 and 17 show memorable moments from some recent programs.

This April, PHLF will launch a new program—a career education initiative—with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, called “People Who Work to Improve Our Communities.” To learn more about this initiative, or to discuss other PHLF programs or your interests, contact Education Coordinator Karen Cahall: karen@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 537.



Architectural Design Challenges: more than 200 students from Westmoreland County worked in teams to create models showing their visions for reusing the vacant Savings & Trust building in Monessen (March 2010) and the New Granada Theater (*see page 2*) in Pittsburgh's Hill District (March 2011).





Program Compliments

People appreciate our programs. Here are some excerpts from a few of the many e-mails, evaluation forms, and thank you notes PHLF received in 2010:

Now I don't call something an "old building." I say, "Look at the potential that historical building has."

[Westmoreland Design Challenge]
—Anonymous student, March 2010

Going on these tours makes one feel more connected to the city!

[Free Friday Walking Tours]
—Susan Karas, April 13, 2010

That was the best field trip I ever went on and probably the best one I will ever go on.

["Building Pride/Building Character Trolley Tour"]
—Jimmy L., Pittsburgh Minadeo, May 20, 2010

A magical blend of history and architecture—the students were in awe!

[Downtown Dragons Tour]
—Anonymous teacher, Summer 2010

Loved by both kids and parents, and extremely educationally valuable.

[Downtown Dragons Tour]
—Anonymous teacher, Summer 2010

I may not be the first scholarship recipient to achieve this goal, nor do all go into architecture, but I thought you'd like to know that what began so many years ago as a simple \$4,000 scholarship helped me get to where I am today.

—Steven Albert, August 27, 2010
[He is a fully-registered architect.]

This was my first time to Pittsburgh . . . such a great way to start my visit.

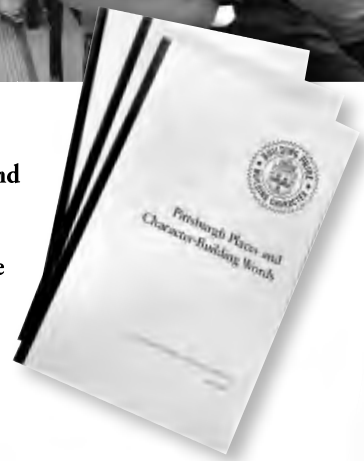
[Walking Our Mainstreets—South Side Tour]
—Trisha Knueven, October 23, 2010



CampDEC (Design Explore Create): Middle school campers show off their certificates of excellence, *CampDEC Journal*, and pedestrian bridge model—and pose with contractor Dwight Quarles, Sr.—during PHLF's 2010 summer camp. Contact the Pittsburgh Public Schools Summer Dreamers Academy to register for PHLF's 2011 CampDec. We'll be touring downtown Pittsburgh and building lots of stuff!



Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program: Thanks to continuing support from PNC Bank and others (see page 23), PHLF offered its "Building Pride/Building Character" trolley tour to Pittsburgh Public Schools in 2010—and has more trolley tours and in-school activities in progress, March through May 2011.



Professional Development: Teachers in PHLF's "Exploring Your City" inservice set out for a tour on March 21, 2011. Forthcoming classes include "Getting Real" (May 2) and "Community Connections: Pittsburgh Architecture and Resiliency Wellness" (June 21–30).

2010 Scholarship Winners (from left): Anna M. Murnane (Woodland Hills, Syracuse University); Stephen R. Karas (Pittsburgh Schenley, Penn State University); Eric C. Wise (South Fayette, Carnegie Mellon University); Victoria N. Lewis (Woodland Hills, Howard University); and Candice L. Thornton (Sto-Rox, College of Wooster). Photograph by Lynley Bernstein

(continued on page 17)

In Memoriam

Rege J. Kessler (1944–2010) died on December 26. After a 39-year-career as an art teacher in the Upper St. Clair School District, Rege retired in 2005 and began volunteering with PHLF, offering his expertise to Pittsburgh Beechwood School, in particular, through our “Building Pride/Building Character” program.



Third and fifth grade students at Beechwood created 3-D models of Pittsburgh during six historical time periods, of houses in Allegheny West, of downtown bridges, and of their school.

“The students felt connected to Pittsburgh after immersing themselves in a Kessler-designed art project,” said Louise Sturgess, executive director of PHLF, “and they wanted to return to school each day to continue working on their projects. Rege took our education program to a whole new level.” We miss his creativity and expertise, but are grateful for the time he spent with us. We thank members of Rege’s family and his friends for donating to PHLF in his memory. Please see “Memorial Gifts,” page 23.

PHLF member and preservationist **Sara L. Wyckoff** died on March 12, 2010 at age 64. Her passion for her early nineteenth-century farm in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, led PHLF to use part of a Richard King Mellon Foundation grant to acquire an adjoining property to prevent its development and then return that parcel to the farm in return for a preservation easement on the consolidation. The planned gift preserved nearly 300 acres of land and numerous farm-related buildings. Sara was instrumental in helping PHLF expand its farm preservation program.

Jack R. Zierden, one of PHLF’s most loyal office volunteers and a 19-year member, died on September 8, 2010 at the age of 83. “We could always count on Jack to come into the office to help with membership mailings and major projects,” said Mary Lu Denny, director of membership services. “As we stuffed envelopes, he entertained us all by singing show tunes and hymns. He even knew the third and fourth verses of many songs!” Jack became involved with PHLF as a docent in 1996, presenting tours and slide shows throughout the region. He was a great supporter of PHLF and consistently donated to the Audrey and Kenneth Menke Fund for Education. We were fortunate to know Jack and to have his help for so many years.



320 West Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA.
(Alden & Harlow, architects, 1903)

Another “New” House by Alden & Harlow

In the February 2010 issue of *PHLF News*, Albert Tannler wrote about four newly discovered issues of the Pittsburgh *Builder* magazine, not available in Pittsburgh, but owned by the University of Notre Dame Library. The four issues were dated May 1901 through December 1903 and included many buildings designed by architects Alden & Harlow. Indeed, 11 previously unidentified Longfellow, Alden & Harlow and Alden & Harlow houses designed and built between 1895 and 1903 were illustrated.

Al subsequently received an e-mail from a *PHLF News* reader in Coral Gables, Florida, who had another surprise. Arthur Humphrey wrote: “I have one more house that you might wish to add to your list. . . . That was my grandparents’ house, Mr. and Mrs. John Barclay, located at 320 West Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The house was built about 1903 . . . and I have the original drawings done by Alden & Harlow.” Mr. Humphrey sent a postcard showing the house when his grandparents lived there, noting that it still stands in Greensburg.

PHLF Receives GIS Software Grant and AutoCad System

The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in Redlands, California, awarded a grant of specialized Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation on February 25. The grant is valued at \$160,000.

“PHLF does a significant amount of work in historic and urban inner-city neighborhoods,” said Ronald C. Yochum, Jr., chief information officer. “Understanding the raw data we collect via sophisticated mapping technology helps us better visualize and achieve our goals of successful and sustainable neighborhood revitalization.

“PHLF had been using a version of ESRI’s ArcView GIS software to produce maps for our work in Wilkinsburg,” said Ron, “however, we wanted to expand the level of spatial analysis of the raw data, so we approached ESRI and applied for their Non-Profit Organization Program.” ESRI offers a variety of programs to support groups working for social and environmental benefit.

PHLF will be using ESRI’s ArcInfo GIS software for a quantitative analysis of activities over the past 47 years and will be developing maps of historic assets in the Pittsburgh region.

For more information, visit: www.esri.com.

AutoDesk of San Rafael, California, generously provided PHLF a software grant of computer aided design software valued at \$9,000. Gifts In Kind International, a third-party grant-making organization, donated the software in March on behalf of AutoDesk.

“Having this powerful drafting software will help our talented staff and interns provide outstanding drawings and renderings for our preservation projects,” said Ron.

For more information on this software, visit: www.autodesk.com.

Recent Guidebooks to Two Important Pittsburgh Churches

Albert M. Tannler

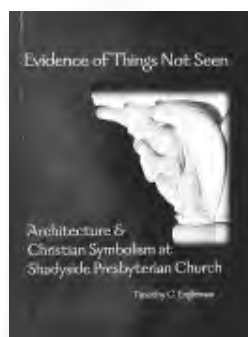
Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Art and Architecture.

Fifth Edition. Pittsburgh, 2008. ISBN 978-0-615-25175-2. 89 pp. Soft cover \$19.95. Available from The Bookstore at Calvary Episcopal Church, 412-661-0120, ext. 33; fax 412-661-6077; bookstore@calvarypgh.org

Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside was designed by Ralph Adams Cram for Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson in 1905 and was completed (save for many of the stained glass windows) in 1907. This centennial edition, the fifth edition of the guidebook, is organized according to sections of the building. A floor plan, section drawing, chronology, glossary, list of stained glass makers, “Scheme of Sacred Windows,” and “Index of Biblical and Historical Characters” are included.

However, there are errors and omissions: Cram’s “first major work” is not Calvary [7], but is All Saints Ashmont, designed 16 years earlier. The Grueby Faience Company was located in Boston, not Chicago [52]. The Lady Chapel window was not the first American window “to move away from the Tiffany School of stained glass” [72]; in fact, Cram considered the chancel window, not the first, but “one of the most notable examples of the revival of . . . the art of stained glass.” [*The Architect’s Report to . . . the Vestry* (1909).] That report is mentioned in the text but in the absence of a bibliography, citations are not clear. A list of sculptors, woodcarvers, and tile makers—three were founding members of the Society of Arts & Crafts, Boston—would have been an important counterpart to the list of stained glass window makers.

Nonetheless, this clearly organized and beautifully illustrated book is the best introduction to this twentieth-century American Gothic masterpiece.



Timothy C. Engleman. Evidence of Things Not Seen: Architecture & Christian Symbolism at Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

Pittsburgh: Published by the author, 2010. ISBN 1453866086/9781453866085. 74 pp. Illustrated. Hardcover \$40; soft cover \$20. Available from the author at www.shadysidelantern.com or from Shadyside Presbyterian Church at www.shadysidepres.org/church-publications

The architects of Shadyside Presbyterian Church (1889–90) were Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, successor firm to H. H. Richardson. Shadyside Church is the sole surviving Pittsburgh building by this firm and a splendid essay in Richardsonian Romanesque. Tim Engleman’s book, illustrated with historical and handsome color photos, explores “the history of the relationship among worship, architecture and symbolism at Shadyside Church, fitting it into the context of churches rooted in the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century.” However, according to the author, “close scrutiny of building form, fenestration and circulation patterns are omitted. Stained glass is touched only tangentially as it relates to symbolism.” [4]

After a brief discussion of the earlier church buildings of 1867 and 1874, of church architecture within the Reformed tradition, and of Romanesque revival architecture and architectural forms, Engleman takes us through the primarily interior changes made to Shadyside Church from the original auditorium plan, to the addition of the richly carved wooden narthex screen in 1919, to the installation of a new chancel by architects Wilson Eyre & McIlvaine and designer Charles Marcus Osborn (who also worked at Heinz Chapel), that reflected the liturgical revival of the 1930s. The author notes that Calvin and Knox would have disapproved. I can only agree in part. Philip Schaff and John Nevin’s pioneering Calvin scholarship at the German Reformed seminary at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, had demonstrated as early as the 1840s that John Calvin, sacramentally and liturgically, would have felt at home in the new chancel.

Evidence of Things Not Seen is a thoughtful, wide-ranging, and visually compelling exploration of one of Pittsburgh’s most important churches.

Civic Arena Update

The fate of the Civic Arena—the large, domed structure in Pittsburgh’s Lower Hill District—is uncertain. The Pittsburgh Penguins, a principal tenant of the arena, began moving out in mid-July 2010 to the Consol Energy Center, a new facility across Centre Avenue. The board of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) voted unanimously on



The Civic (formerly Mellon) Arena from Crawford Street in the Lower Hill

September 16, 2010, to demolish the Civic Arena, in order to clear the way for a mixed-use development proposed by the Penguins that would re-establish an urban street grid. (By agreement with the SEA in 2007, the Penguins were given an option to purchase the 28-acre property, including the Civic Arena, for development.)

However, on November 24, 2010, a Hill District resident nominated the vacant structure as a City of Pittsburgh Historic Structure, thus setting a review process in motion. On March 2, 2011, the Historic Review Commission unanimously rejected the building’s nomination; the City Planning Commission rejected designation on March 22; City Council is required to vote by the end of April and will need an affirmative vote of at least six members to override the previous votes.

We at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation regret the potential loss of the Civic Arena as a unique example of early modernism in American architecture. Conceived by philanthropist Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr., and funded as an innovative public-private partnership, the project was intended to be a grand contribution to the region—a “civic” auditorium and convention center. Mitchell & Ritchey, the premier Pittsburgh architectural firm during the city’s Renaissance, designed the arena in 1954; it was completed in altered form in 1961. It was a daring, contemporary design and an extraordinary feat of engineering with the world’s largest retractable roof.

However, we also understand the practical difficulty of saving and finding a feasible new use for the arena that will generate sufficient revenue to adapt and maintain it.

We recognize that many Hill District residents and community groups have negative feelings about the existence of the arena, which caused the taking and demolition of many houses and businesses and the displacement of more than 8,000 people.

From the outset of the discussions, we have advocated that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) be followed by the SEA.

The Section 106 review process requires that alternatives be evaluated “that could avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.” We understand that the SEA feels that the report by Michael Baker does that. However, the report fulfills only the State History Code requirements and does not follow all the processes defined in the Section 106 regulations.

We believe there is the possibility of jeopardizing the future use of federal funds for the redevelopment of the entire 28-acre Lower Hill site without Section 106 compliance. Section 110(K) of the NHPA prohibits “anticipatory demolitions” by placing a penalty on applicants of federal funds, including local governments, that intentionally destroy or harm historic properties prior to the completion of the Section 106 review. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, our organization, and others have informed the SEA that proceeding with the demolition of the Civic Arena may jeopardize the future use of federal funds at the site and make the federal funds vulnerable to legal challenge.

In the case of the Civic Arena, we would favor its preservation if a practical plan were to be put forth that did not add to the financial burden of the City, that generated tax revenues from the land in the Lower Hill and development opportunities as well, and was supported by the Hill District residents.

If the arena is to be removed, we then support the plan to establish an urban street grid, opening the land to provide development opportunities to a variety of developers, and we will suggest that a high standard of contemporary design be required.

Advocacy Update

Since the February 2010 issue of *PHLF News*, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has participated or continues to participate as a “consulting party” in the Section 106 review of the National Historic Preservation Act for the following projects:

- Baum Square Parking Garage Project;
- Carrie Furnace Redevelopment Project;
- National Gateway Initiative Clearance Project; and
- West Ohio Street Bridge Project.

In addition, Anne Nelson, PHLF’s general counsel, has presented testimony at the City of Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, Planning Commission, and/or City Council on:

- nominations of the Nunnery Hill Incline, the Civic Arena, and 1425 Brownsville Road to become City-Designated Historic Structures;
- the proposed demolition of the pipe shop building of the Pittsburgh Brewing Company buildings (Iron City Brewery) and 2628 E. Carson Street; and
- the proposed installation of a canopy at 434 Market Street.

We participated as an “Interested Party” in the State History Code review of the proposed demolition of the Civic Arena, and attended meetings of the PRESERVEPGH Management Committee that is working on the City’s first cultural heritage plan in 25 years.

The Pittsburgh Region is Our Classroom

(continued from page 15)



Free Downtown and Main Street Walking Tours: VisitPittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and Mainstreets Pittsburgh helped fund PHLF’s downtown and main street tours in 2010. PHLF also offered free neighborhood tours in conjunction with the Car Free Fridays and BikePGH. For a listing of events this year, see page 24.



Architecture Apprenticeship: 22 high school students presented their designs for a vacant lot in Homestead, at Amity Street and Seventh Avenue, on December 15, 2010.



Pre-school Programs: About 120 children (ages 3 to 6) participated in “People, Buildings, and Pittsburgh” with PHLF on January 20, 2011.



School Tours: Pre-engineering students at Pittsburgh Allderdice toured their school with PHLF on February 3, 2011.



Assignment Room Restoration Completed

Under the leadership of the Honorable Raymond Novak, the Allegheny County Historic Properties Committee, chaired by PHLF President Arthur Ziegler, raised about \$125,000 from 71 donors to fund improvements in the Assignment Room on the seventh floor of the City-County Building. A bronze plaque recognizing the donors will be installed in the room later this year. Landmarks Design Associates (LDA) Architects oversaw the restoration.

Award from Allegheny County Council

PHLF President Arthur Ziegler accepted a proclamation from Allegheny County Council on March 15 honoring the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation “for its continued efforts to restore beauty and to revitalize historic structures and neighborhoods in Allegheny County. Because of the foundation, our area’s history, economy, and culture have been enriched and have been encouraged to grow.” Councilman Bill Robinson sponsored the proclamation; he specifically mentioned our work in Wilkinsburg.

Courthouse Benches

Two more custom-made benches will grace the halls of H. H. Richardson’s Allegheny County Courthouse. PHLF Trustee Martha W. Jordan and an anonymous donor recently contributed funds for a Courthouse bench in memory of the architect. In addition, Judge Manning’s office donated funds for a bench in memory of The Honorable Amy Reynolds Hay.

Twenty-three benches have been made so far. Every time we are able to add one of these heirloom benches to the Courthouse corridors, we are able to remove several inappropriate chairs.

Carve Your Name in History

You can underwrite a solid, White Oak bench with a fully tax-deductible \$4,200 contribution, payable to PHLF. Or, you can purchase more than one bench at a special rate:

- 2 benches — \$3,750/each
- 3 or more — \$3,400/each

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The 200 block of East Eighth Avenue, Homestead’s historic “Main Street USA”

Why Homestead? *David Lewis*

You don’t have to think long and hard to find the answers.

Pittsburgh is a city rich in neighborhoods. And the spine of each neighborhood is its main street. Lawrenceville has one. So does East Liberty, Squirrel Hill, Bloomfield, Shadyside, South Side, and old Allegheny on the North Side, among many other city neighborhoods. Main streets are the spines that hold urban neighborhoods together. And, they are coming back.

Of course our hills and valleys and rivers have a lot to do with the formation of our many neighborhoods and main streets. In the old days, our topography gave physical definition to our communities. Every community was in a real sense a small town. Before the advent of automobiles, everyone lived within ten minutes’ walking time from shops, churches, schools, and parks. Communities were places where people knew one another, where children went to school together, where porches were outside living rooms, and where the shopkeepers on main street knew your name.

The three boroughs—Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead—were just such a community. Their cohesion was the blast furnace. When steel collapsed in the early 1980s, the economy tanked. And the main street of those three communities died.

Or did it? Well no, it didn’t. Enough physical assets survived to become the foundation for new life.

Changing Attitudes

When I first came to Pittsburgh in the early 1960s, the talk was all about the Golden Triangle becoming “an island of excellence.” Gleaming corporate towers in steel, aluminum, and glass would reach for the skies, and radial highways would take automobile commuters to and from downtown to the new suburbs on the outskirts of the metropolitan area.

Inner-city neighborhoods like the Lower Hill and East Liberty with their vibrant street life were declared blighted; huge areas within them suffered massive demolition. There

were plans for the Hill District and the Strip to be replaced by slab blocks of apartments erected in park-like settings.

Into this situation stepped the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF). I was on the Board in the 1960s and I remember it well. Architectural historians James D. Van Trump—and later Walter C. Kidney—helped us understand that our great buildings—our courthouses, libraries, and churches—had to be preserved. But PHLF also recognized the need to preserve historic neighborhoods. PHLF President Arthur Ziegler introduced practical preservation strategies on the North Side with Manchester, the Mexican War Streets, and Beech Avenue in Allegheny West.

It still strikes me as ironic that at the very moment when corporate towers in the Golden Triangle were being built in steel and glass, the houses on two-acre lots in the commuter suburbs were not being designed as modern boxes but rather as imitations of nineteenth-century domestic architecture, with hip roofs, dormers, and bay windows. It is also ironic that so many commuter suburbs in cities all across the U.S. are struggling, 50 years later, to create traditional town centers. Indeed, new developments like the Southside Works, following the model of New Urbanism, are being fashioned on historic models.

No wonder the Mexican War Streets became so successful. They combined the density of a historic neighborhood with a traditional main street, park, and cultural facilities within a five-minute walking distance. And this is precisely the appeal that South Side, Lawrenceville, Shadyside, and now the Southside Works have for a new generation of urbanites.

The Main Street Next Door

So, back to my question and subject: why Homestead?

Here is a world-famous community that is the same distance from downtown Pittsburgh and from Oakland, with its universities and medical centers, as it is from Highland Park and Point Breeze. It also has the Monongahela

River, the bike trail, Sandcastle, and The Waterfront mixed-use development.

But what most people don’t know is that next door to The Waterfront—which attracts 1.5 million visitors a year to its shops, restaurants, and theaters—is a traditional “Main Street USA” that PHLF helped local citizens get listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And next door to that main street are 12 ethnic churches and the great Carnegie Library of Homestead, all also on the National Register, and street after street of historic “pattern book” houses, all within a 10-minute walking radius.

Today that main street, East Eighth Avenue, is being patiently restored to historic standards, building by building. It already has restaurants, high-rent loft apartments, businesses, antique furniture stores, streetscapes, and public art. The great Homestead Bakery building is being renovated by Charlie Batch, Steelers’ quarterback and Homestead native. PHLF’s façade grant program of 2003 helped restore several handsome buildings, and PHLF’s leadership prevented CVS pharmacy from demolishing the 100 block of East Eighth Avenue and resulted in dismissal of the CVS lawsuit.

What are needed now are more dedicated and historically sensitive investors to add to the critical mass of renewed vitality on which every main street



depends. Come meet me for a cup of tea at the Tin Front Café, and we can talk more about the opportunities and possibilities of renewing this historic main street.

David Lewis is a Homestead business-owner with his wife and family; a resident of West Homestead; a PHLF member; and a distinguished urban designer, architect, sculptor, and professor emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University.

Swan Acres, “the nation’s first Modern subdivision,” Revisited and Reassessed

Albert M. Tannler

By 1932 [Harry E. Pople] was ripe to listen to the talk of Clinton [sic] Beck, a young man who had taken honors in architecture from Penn State College. Beck showed sketches. A firm was organized forthwith: Beck, Pople & Beck, and their first house went up in 1934. Since that time they have put up some twenty more houses, all of modern design, around western Pennsylvania. Architect C.[sic] C. Clepper now does the bulk of the B.P.B. Company’s designing; young Beck helps out with occasional ideas.

“‘Homes All to Be Modern’ is the Startling but Financially Sound Restriction in a Pittsburgh Subdivision.”
Architectural Forum 67
(November 1937): 442.

William T. Miller residence, 105 Circle Drive (left) and Arthur Goetz residence, 103 Circle Drive, Swan Acres

Photograph courtesy of Sondra Goetz Abrahamson and Mimi Goetz Fleming



“Architect’s sketch of one of the typical homes of modern design to be built in Swan Acres.” *Pittsburgh Press*, August 23, 1936. [Frederick Horst residence, 14 Swan Drive]

Acclaimed by *Architectural Forum* as “the nation’s first Modern subdivision” in November 1937, Swan Acres in Ross Township, 10 miles north of Pittsburgh, has drawn the attention of historians since 1977 when PHLF Co-founder James D. Van Trump published the first assessment of its significance.

Exploring Swan Acres

I began my investigation of Swan Acres, as many do, with the information supplied to an *Architectural Forum* writer in 1937 by Harry E. Pople, president of the Swan Realty & Development Company and the design firm, Beck, Pople & Beck (B.P.B.). Although the project instigator and first designer, Quentin Beck, and architect H. C. Clepper who “now does the bulk of the B.P.B. Company’s designing” were mentioned, they were not interviewed.

It became clear that Pople, who specialized in real estate financing, was

an unreliable informant. Where are the 20 modern houses designed by B.P.B. beginning in 1934? Several historians have been inclined to accept Pople’s numbers at face value and emphasize the role of architect Harry C. Clepper (Franklin Toker, *Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait* [1986], p. 300; *Pittsburgh: A New Portrait* [2009], p. 460; David Gebhard, *The National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America* [1996], p. 65.)

I visited Swan Acres in 1997 and met the owners of 103 Circle Drive, designed for Arthur Goetz. (All house numbers are current.) Elaine and Stuart Gordon had the blueprints of their

house, dated July 25, 1936. The Goetz house adjoined the house of his brother-in-law William Miller at 105 Circle Drive (a photograph and floor plans of the Miller house were published in *Architectural Forum*); both houses have been unsympathetically re-roofed. We viewed the well-maintained houses designed for Frederick Horst at 14 Swan Drive, and for Harry Pople at 16 Swan Drive (also illustrated in *Architectural Forum*—without the incongruous awnings added later). Pople’s widow was living in the house in 1997 and many residents had the impression that he had designed the Swan Acres houses.

I located a two-page spread in the *Pittsburgh Press*, “Swan Acres, A Planned Community in the Country, Opening Today” (August 23, 1936). A rendering of the Horst house was published and the public was invited to tour the grounds: “Now under construction in Swan Acres are the first two of five exhibition homes which will set the standard for future construction. They will be constructed of Haydite

Concrete Block walls, insulated with Thermax. All equipment in them will be of the highest quality and strictly modern.” Indeed: “Only houses of strictly modern design—or international style—will be permitted.”

The first four concrete houses—for Horst, Pople, Miller, and Goetz—were completed at the beginning of April 1937. They are composed of the same materials and are stylistically akin—all are two stories, corners are either right-angled or gently rounded, the top of each house is defined by prominent coping, all have second-floor terraces, casement windows are recessed and meet at corners, glass block is sometimes used. Originally all were painted white. The forms are more characteristic of American Art Moderne than of the European buildings shown in the H. R. Hitchcock/Philip Johnson *International Style* exhibition, on view in Pittsburgh at the Carnegie Museum of Art, June 4–24, 1932.

My interest centered on the aesthetic conception behind Swan Acres and on the architect of the four original houses designed and erected 1936–37. The response to my first article, “Swan Acres: ‘first Modern subdivision,’” published in the *Tribune-Review Focus* magazine, June 1, 1997, would provide some answers:

On June 2, 1997, the telephone began to ring. . . . Sondra Goetz Abrahamson and Mimi Goetz Fleming shared information about Dorothy and Arthur Goetz, their home, and their Swan Acres neighbors. Ruth Beck and Karen Beck Bock told me about Quentin Beck, gave me a tour of houses he designed in Rosslyn Farms, and directed me to colleagues like Bill English who had worked for Quentin Beck in the 1950s. Homeowner Marcia Mastrangelo provided a critical document. Their contributions have been invaluable. They provided additional evidence and an already remarkable story has become an extraordinary one.

(continued on page 20)



(continued from page 19)

The Model for Swan Acres

The new information appeared in my second Swan Acres article, “A Man Ahead of His Time,” published on October 5, 1997 (and quoted from above), which focused on the career of Quentin S. Beck (1909–67). Beck studied architecture at Pennsylvania State College (now University) and received his B.S. degree in 1933. In 1934 Quentin and his uncle, Wilbur G. Beck (misidentified by the *Architectural Forum* as “Clinton’s [sic] father”), established the design/construction firm of Beck & Beck. They built a modernist house Quentin designed in suburban Rosslyn Farms, where his parents lived. Ruth Beck took me to view the house—in 1957 a subsequent owner had it sheathed in brick veneer, adding a hipped roof and porch. I met the owner, Marcia Mastrangelo, who gave me a tour, pointing out a few modernist interior details, then produced a full-page illustrated article that appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on June 8, 1934: “Only House of Its Kind in the World: Unique, Modern Home Built by Becks in Rosslyn Farms As Seen in Completed Form and During Construction.” The article compares the house to those exhibited at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1933–34. The principal materials are concrete and Thermax insulation, and the rhetoric anticipates the August 23, 1936, description of the Swan Acres houses:

W. G. and Q. S. Beck . . . have patents pending on this system of building, which they call the Beck & Beck System of Reinforced-Concrete, Fireproof, Insulated Construction. . . . As one approaches the Beck house, the first thing that attracts the eye is the modern design. One of the Becks graduated from Penn State’s architectural school with honors in modern designing, and good use of his talent is made in the present instance. Those who have attended the Fair at Chicago are more or less familiar with such designing—most of the houses on exhibition there have featured it—and those who have not been fortunate enough to see the World’s Fair houses, should see Pittsburgh’s example.

The Beck & Beck model house in Rosslyn Farms was cubic, the recessed

southwest section incorporating the garage into the body of the house. The master bedroom on the second floor opened onto a deck covered by a striped cloth awning. The article drew attention to corner windows designed to admit light from two directions. The only decoration was a pattern of horizontal stripes on the second-floor façade and a semi-circular hood, perhaps trimmed in aluminum or chrome, above the front door (the hood is gone but a chrome stair banister remains in the house).

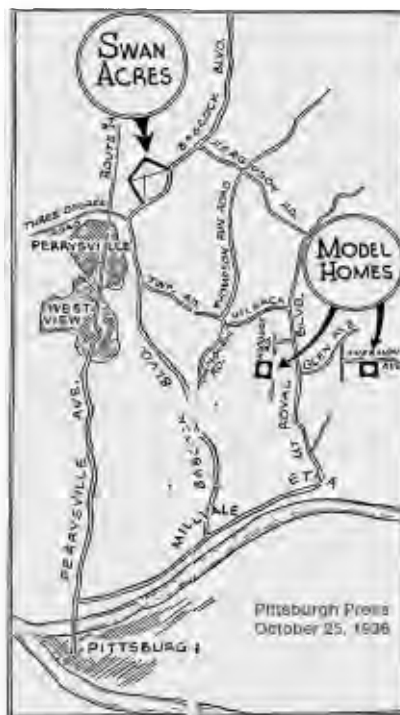
“The Becks have arranged for and secured the services of the Union Mortgage Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as their financial agents to handle the financing in connection with sales and contracts for homes built under their system.” The president of Union Mortgage Company was Harry E. Pople. In 1935 Beck, Pople & Beck was established with Pople as president. His role in B.P.B. was financial, not architectural.

Five houses—one completed in June 1934 and four completed in April 1937—were constructed by Beck & Beck and B.P.B. Pople’s claim of another 15 modern houses erected c. 1934–37 was inflated. However, in 2009, Ross Township house historian John Schalcosky led us to two previously unidentified B.P.B. houses.

Successor to Rosslyn Farms, Forerunner to Swan Acres

In October 1936, six months before the first Swan Acres houses were completed, B.P.B. opened two houses in Glenshaw, Shaler Township, six miles southeast of Swan Acres, for public inspection. The event was heralded by a lavishly illustrated two-page spread in the *Pittsburgh Press*, October 25, 1936:

Two homes of new and modern design have just been completed in the Pittsburgh district and are now open for public inspection. These two homes, the first modern American homes in this section of the country, were designed and constructed by Beck, Pople & Beck, builders . . . and are representative in architecture of the type of homes now being constructed on the company’s unique and beautiful home development plan, Swan Acres. . . . Although the two houses just completed by Beck, Pople & Beck are not located in the



Swan Acres development, they secured permission from the owners for public inspection for a short period as these two structures are typical in design and construction to those being built in Swan Acres.

The houses, commissioned and owned by brothers Joseph and Jerry Vokral, are not adjacent but are located on either side of Mt. Royal Boulevard. The Vokral brothers worked with their father, Czech-born Joseph Vokral, brewmaster for Fort Pitt Brewing Company, Sharpsburg, who moved to Pittsburgh in 1925 from Chicago.

Jerry Vokral’s house has been drastically altered; his brother’s home appears to be in immaculate condition, although originally painted white. The *Press* noted that exterior walls are “Haydite [Concrete] Block, a new fire-proof, insulating masonry” and the exterior finish is “Portland cement, painted white with waterproof cement paint.” Unlike the Swan Acres houses, the Joseph J. Vokral house is one-story. Otherwise, all stylistic elements are the same.

Swan Acres Reassessed

“Four homes of new modern American architecture have been completed [at Swan Acres],” the *Pittsburgh Press* announced on April 4, 1937, “except for painting and landscaping, and are occupied by their respective owners for whom they were designed and built.”

Photographs of the houses appeared in the *Pittsburgh Press*, May 2, 1937. Seven houses designed by Quentin S. Beck for Beck & Beck and B.P.B. were standing in Rosslyn Farms, Glenshaw, and Swan Acres. Despite his skill, however, Quentin Beck was not licensed to practice architecture. In order to construct houses and move the development forward it was necessary to hire an accredited architect to sign B.P.B. drawings. Enter Harry C. Clepper, Registered Architect, who is first identified in print as working for B.P.B. in October 1936.

Harry C. Clepper (b. 1873) partnered c. 1910 with Charles R. Moffitt in the firm of Clepper & Moffitt and later opened a Pittsburgh office of E. E. & H. C. Clepper with his brother, Edgar E. Clepper of Sharon, Pennsylvania. Some of Harry Clepper’s buildings 1927–29 have been documented and include the Church of God, Alverton, Pennsylvania; Daughters of Divine Redeemer Mother House, Elizabeth Township; Glassport High School; and various projects in Leechburg, Kittanning, Chalfant, and Vandergrift. Clepper was almost 63 when he joined B.P.B.

There is nothing in H. C. Clepper’s oeuvre to suggest modernist tendencies but there needn’t have been if his function was to sign drawings on behalf of the firm. That brings us to the fifth house erected in Swan Acres.



Gilbert McInnes residence, 111 Circle Drive, Swan Acres

As I wrote in my second article:

The fifth house built at Swan Acres appears to be the house at 111 Circle Drive, erected for Gilbert McInnes, a prominent funeral director, whose tenancy is confirmed by the 1937 city directory. Clad in stone, with a heavy boxy symmetry unlike the earlier concrete houses, and with a prominent (rather than concealed) three-car garage, the McInnes house . . . is clearly the work of a different



“Only House of Its Kind in the World: Unique Modern Home Built by Becks in Rosslyn Farms.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 8, 1934



Joseph J. Vokral residence, Glenshaw



Frederick Horst residence, 14 Swan Drive, Swan Acres



Harry E. Pople residence, 16 Swan Drive, Swan Acres

architect. Although the August 1936 Swan Acres prospectus had touted concrete houses, the character of the designs and the materials for the Swan Acres houses changed with the appointment of Harry Clepper as chief architect.

I now know that Clepper did not design the McInnes house. He did not design any houses erected in Swan Acres between 1936 and March 1939. Harry Pople's statement, reported in November 1937, that "Clepper now does the bulk of the B.P.B. Company's designing" was false.

111 Circle Drive is discussed and illustrated in an article in the *Pittsburgh Press*, August 22, 1937—"McCall Home is Completed: Residence Occupies Swan Acres Site":

Bupp-Salkeld Co., Inc., has completed erection of a stone modernistic dwelling for Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert McInnes, [111] Circle Dr., Swan Acres, Ross Township.

The dwelling was designed by H. T. Lindeberg, New York City architect, and was recently featured by "McCall's" as the "House of the Month."

The architect of the fifth house in Swan Acres, Harrie T. Lindeberg (1879–1959), is known for his country houses and Long Island estates. Although he did experiment in the 1930s with "mass-produced, welded, cellular steel construction, with all ornament eliminated," the result, according to Alfred Bush Brown and Thomas R. Hauck—who admire his historically informed eclecticism—"was a flaccid, puerile memory of French academic villas." [*Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects 1869–1940*, New York, 1997, 47.]

The *Architectural Forum* article, published in November 1937, stated that the McInnes house was under construction. Thus the article had been written several months earlier, prior to August 22. The Becks—sidelined by Quentin's non-accredited status, and Pople's self-promotion—left B.P.B. in the summer of 1937, and Beck, Pople & Beck dissolved.

The sixth house at Swan Acres was not finished until the Spring of 1939. It is a two-story rectilinear brick building, with corner casement windows, decorative parallel brick banding, and a one-story semi-circular entryway. (A brick front porch was

added later.) The house was illustrated and described in the *Pittsburgh Press* on March 19, 1939:

Located at the intersection of Circle Dr. and Swan Dr., Swan Acres . . . the house was designed by Architect Joseph Hoover. . . . The owner is Dr. Elbert R. Moses, president of the



Elbert R. Moses residence, 127 Circle Drive, Swan Acres. *Pittsburgh Press*, March 19, 1939

Pittsburgh School of Speech, through whose courtesy the house is being made available. . . . The style is modern. . . . Homes of modern style only may be erected in Swan Acres.

The contractor was J. J. Trunick & Son. Joseph Wilfred Hoover (1906–80) graduated from Carnegie Tech in 1930

and apprenticed with residential architect Theodore Eichholz from 1929 to 1931. He is known for his many traditional houses in Mt. Lebanon, where he lived, the Greater Pittsburgh Airport (1952; demolished), and many school buildings in Western Pennsylvania.

In "The Skyscraper Style in Pittsburgh: Deco Form and Ornament (1920–1940)," *Carnegie Magazine* (1977), Jamie Van Trump recalled Swan Acres houses as "once-modish small villas having ribbon windows and tapestry brick walls" [80]. In *Landmark Architecture* (1985), Walter Kidney characterized Swan Acres as "a dozen houses . . . offering several interpretations in one place of the concept of Modern architecture as understood here in the late 1930s. . . . To use innovative styles at all was a bold decision at the time" [327].

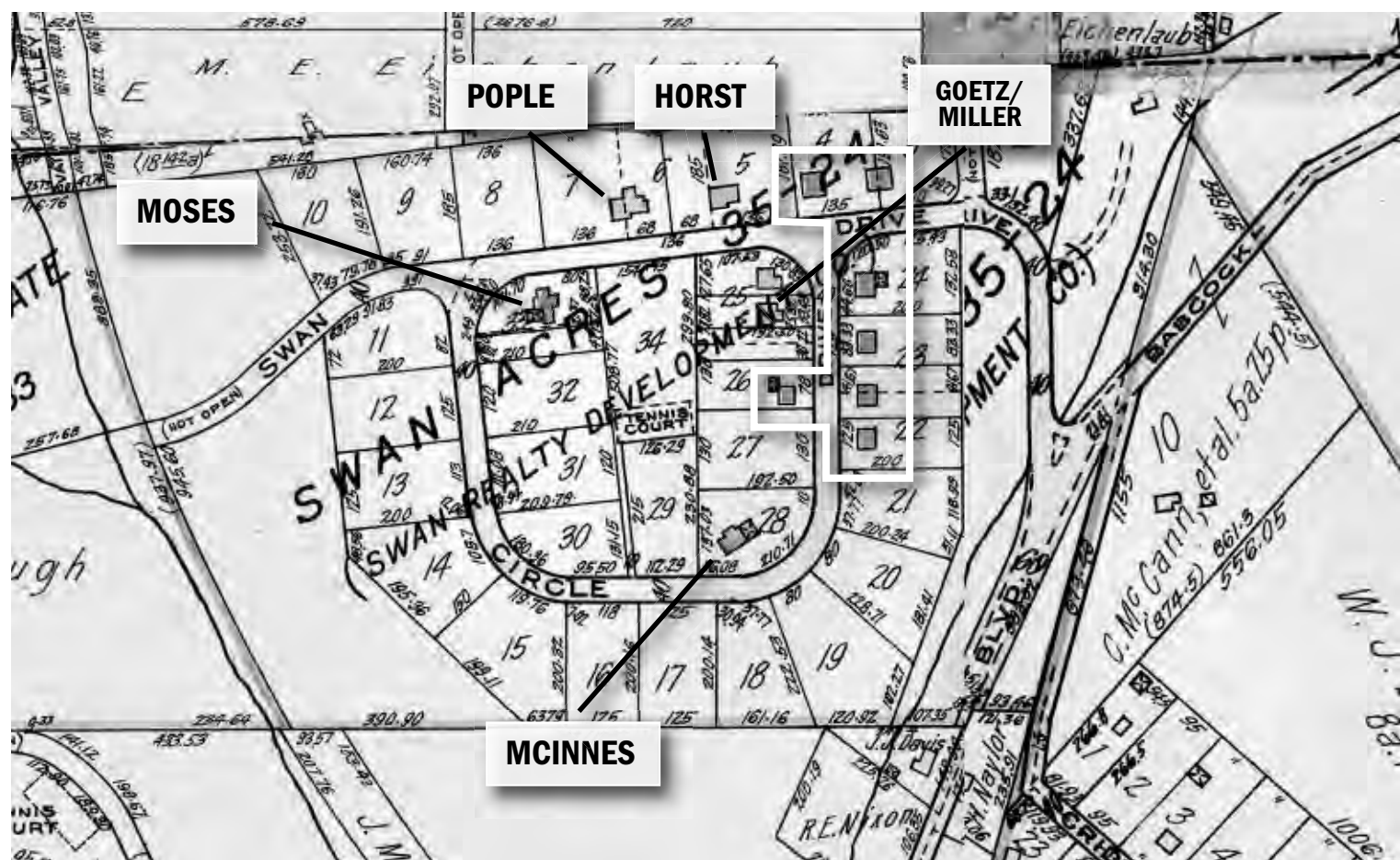
The 1940 plat of Swan Acres in the Hopkins Real Estate map shows 13 buildings: the four original concrete houses designed by Quentin Beck (1936–37), the large stone house at 111 Circle Drive designed by Lindeberg (1937), the substantial brick house at 127 Circle Drive designed by Hoover (1938–39), and seven small brick buildings clustered together—two on Swan Drive and five on Circle Drive. The map visually confirms the "small brick

villas" that Jamie recalled and "a dozen houses . . . offering several interpretations [of Modern architecture] in one place" that Walter noted.

The small brick houses—traditional forms stripped of ornament, with a few "modern" touches—erected c. 1939–40 (all have been greatly altered) may someday be documented as the work of H. C. Clepper who was employed by Swan Realty through 1940.

The house in Rosslyn Farms, one of the houses in Glenshaw, and the Goetz and Miller houses in Swan Acres have been drastically altered and have lost integrity (enterprising persons might yet restore the latter two). Yet the vision and skill of a young architecture student from Penn State, Quentin Beck, gave metropolitan Pittsburgh "the nation's first Modern subdivision"—as the surviving houses of Joseph Vokral, Frederick Horst, and—ironically—Harry Pople—eloquently attest.

Plat Map of the Northwest Vicinity of Pittsburgh, Vol. 11 (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Co., 1940). Composite photograph from plates 16, 17, 27, 30. The six houses erected between 1936 and March 1939 are identified by name. The remaining seven brick "villas," erected c. 1939–40, are outlined in white.



Feedback from Members

What wonderful projects and initiatives you all have accomplished or are undertaking or considering. Truly, I know of no other more impressive or effective public service organization—or really organization of any stripe.

—Kevin Allen, Pittsburgh, PA,
December 9, 2010



PHLF's James D. Van Trump Library

We recently paid a visit to your Station Square offices to review your references relative to the Isaac Lightner House. . . .

It is our intention to try to reverse the present deterioration and restore the house to its original condition. We were delighted by the staff's knowledge and their readiness to provide assistance. . . . [We have extended] our membership for the next five years.

—Tim and Sue Dreier, Glenshaw, PA,
September 28, 2010



Angela and Doug Marvin, tour participants and PHLF members

We went on the Market Square tour yesterday and really enjoyed it.

I'll be anxious to do more. The city has come a long way. I'm so glad they didn't tear down all those buildings that Mayor Murphy wanted to. I got my membership renewal and I wanted to know about the multiple-year membership.

—Gary George, Natrona Heights, PA,
June 25, 2010

Welcome New Members *(January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011)*

Members are vital to the work and growth of PHLF. Many members volunteer their time to help with educational programs, office work, and preservation projects. By joining, each person demonstrates his/her belief in our mission—and contributes to a strong, collective voice for historic preservation in the Pittsburgh region.

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(January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011)

Your gifts support historic preservation programs and services throughout the Pittsburgh region and are especially welcome during these challenging economic times. Gifts PHLF received between January 1, 2010 and January 31, 2011 include the following.

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Corporate Matching Gifts

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- Dominion Foundation, for matching a gift from James B. Richard
- EQT Foundation, for matching a gift from Martin A. Fritz
- Google, for matching gifts from Paul and Mary Placeway and from Catherine Serventi

Easement Program

(for easement and endowment gifts)

- Fifth & Amberson Holdings, LP (McCook House and McCook-Reed House)
- Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Spa (Bedford Springs)
- Progress Street Partners, Ltd. (Heinz Lofts)
- Washington County Cultural Trust (Roberts House)
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (Burke Building)

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- Allegheny Technologies Incorporated
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- Alfred M. Oppenheimer Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
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- Sandra Danko, for a gift membership for Jon J. Danzak
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- Rose and John Evosevic, for a gift membership for Alexis and Elaine Evosevic Lozada
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- Jack Miller, for gift memberships for Melody Miller, Mr. & Mrs. John C. Miller III, and Teresa Williams
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- John and Cathy Ciofani and MaryAnn and Tim Davis; Susan and Nelson Earley; Fran and Steven Kayatin; Ronald and Joyce Marinacci; Jan Rankin; Ray and Darlene Ronchetti; Edward and Lorraine Sarver; Robyn Smigel and Josh Criswell; Bob and Mary Ann Sontag; Lawrence and Frances Warzinski; Janice Zahurak; and Frederick L. Zinger, for gifts in memory of Rege J. Kessler

Memorial Gifts (continued)

- Mary Lu and Jim Denny, Martha M. Grotenthaler, Samuel D. Levine, Audrey and Kenneth Menke, and Michael and Karen Menke Paciorek, for gifts to the Audrey and Kenneth Menke Fund for Education in memory of Jack Zierden
- Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., for a gift in memory of Vinnie DeWinter Ziegler

Named Funds

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- George and Eileen Dorman, for gifts to their Named Fund
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- Anonymous, for a gift to the Shadybrook Fund

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- The Walden Trust
- Henry W. Weis
- Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

“Woodville Plantation” (Neville House)

- Paula and David Sculley





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Special Tours & Events

Space on tours is limited: reservations are accepted by phone or e-mail. For reservations or further details, contact Mary Lu Denny: marylu@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 527. Also contact Mary Lu if you would like to receive e-mail reminders about these events or have a flyer mailed to you: *do this only if you are not already receiving information from us in these ways*. Event details listed below are subject to change. Contact Mary Lu or visit www.phlf.org for up-to-date information. *Students qualify for the member fees.*



On February 2, more than 100 people attended a lecture by PHLF Trustee David Vater, tour, and dinner at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, celebrating its centennial this year. The PAA swimming pool is on the third floor of the private club in Oakland.

Jane's Walk

May 7 or 8

You lead a tour of your neighborhood. Select whichever date/time is best for you. See sidebar, page 10.

August Wilson's Hill District Walking Tour

Saturday, June 4
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting and ending locations:
Freedom Corner, Centre Avenue and Crawford Street

With *August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays* in hand, guides from PHLF and the Hill District will point out places in the Hill associated with August Wilson's childhood—and brought to life in his 10 plays chronicling the African American experience in each decade of the twentieth century.

Members: free (one of the benefits!)
Non members: \$5
The tour is limited to the first 50 people.
Reservations are required by June 1.
The walk is strenuous, including uphill and downhill climbs.

Grant Street Walking Tour: From Firstside to Liberty

Saturday, June 25
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meeting location: PNC Firstside, Grant Street and Second Avenue
Ending location: Grant Street and Liberty Avenue

This walking tour will feature the full-length of Grant Street. You'll stroll through two greenspaces—PNC Firstside Park and Mellon Green—past what's left of Chinatown, and see major historic landmarks, skyscrapers, and some spectacular views.

\$10 per person (PHLF members)
\$15 (non members)
The tour is limited to the first 50 people.
Reservations are required by June 21.
The walk is on fairly level ground.

Allegheny River Bridges and Point State Park Walking Tour

Saturday, July 16
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meeting location: 107 Sixth Street, in front of the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel
Ending location: Point State Park

This walking tour is a refreshing mix of city views from bridges and riverfront

paths and parks. We'll walk across the Roberto Clemente Bridge to the North Shore, where we'll explore the riverfront path, water steps, and war memorials. Then, we'll walk across the Fort Duquesne Bridge to Point State Park, where we'll go inside the Block House—Pittsburgh's oldest surviving building. The tour will end outside the Fort Pitt Museum, which we encourage participants to explore on their own.

\$10 per person (PHLF members)

\$15 (non members)

The tour is limited to the first 50 people.

Reservations are required by July 12.

The walk is on fairly level ground, although there are steps and bridge ramps.

Bus Tour to Woodville, the John Roberts House, and Plantation Plenty

Saturday, July 23
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting and ending locations:
Station Square

The bus will be parked alongside the Commerce Court building, opposite the main entrance to the Station Square parking garage. Board at 10:30 a.m. The bus will depart promptly at 10:45 a.m.

Our first stop will be "Woodville Plantation," where we'll enjoy a light lunch at the c. 1775 John and Presley Neville house in Collier Township. In Canonsburg, we'll hear how the Washington County Cultural Trust is restoring the John Roberts House as an arts center, thanks to PHLF's initial help and easement program. "Plantation Plenty," the Isaac Manchester Farm in Avella, Washington County, will be the tour grand finale. The 400-acre plantation is a working, organic farm. The Georgian house, completed in 1815 by Isaac Manchester, has been in the family for 210 years. Jack Miller will be on board to discuss PHLF's farm preservation and easement programs.

\$65 per person (PHLF members)

\$85 (non members)

The tour is limited to the first 40 people.
Reservations are required by July 12.

Behind-the-Scenes Tour, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh (For PHLF and Carnegie Museum Members Only)

Wed., Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m. to Noon
or Sat., Sept. 17, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Meeting location: Scaife Gallery entrance, 4400 Forbes Avenue

Have you ever wondered what's in the basement of the Carnegie Museums? Have you ever wanted to see the remnants from the original 1895 building that exist within the Forbes Avenue building expansion, completed in 1907? If so, this tour is for you. Please indicate the date you prefer. Each tour is limited to 12 people and is the same on both days.

\$15 per person

Four Special Pittsburgh Houses (A Bus Tour for Members Only)

Saturday, October 15
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting and ending locations:
Station Square

The bus will be parked alongside the Commerce Court building, opposite the main entrance to the Station Square parking garage. Board at 12:45 p.m.

The bus will depart promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Al Tannler, historical collections director of PHLF, will lead us on an adventure in architectural styles, from Richardsonian to Secessionist to Usonian to Post Modern. The owners of four private East End homes will welcome us and share the joys and challenges of living in a landmark.

\$50 per person

The tour is limited to the first 32 members.
Reservations are required by October 4.

PLUS There's More:

Society of Tavern Seekers "S.O.T.S."

Save the dates of June 23, September 22, and December 15, always from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Young professionals and historic preservation enthusiasts are invited to three more evenings of fun, networking, and talking at historic taverns; the first S.O.T.S. event was on March 24 at the Gandy Dancer in Station Square. For locations and details contact: saramcquire@phlf.org

Free Self-Guided Jail Museum Tours

EVERY Monday, February through October, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Closed on court holidays

440 Ross Street, downtown Pittsburgh

Free Guided Public Walking Tours (Downtown & Oakland)

Every Friday, Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Contact PHLF for meeting locations

- May: Grant Street & More
- June: Market Square Area
- July: Penn-Liberty Cultural District
- August: Fourth Avenue & PPG Place
- September: Bridges & River Shores
- October: Oakland's Civic Center

Free Career Assessment and Awareness

Five more Saturdays: April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10, and October 1, always from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

PHLF is sponsoring this career planning initiative with Dr. Herman L. Reid, Jr., a trustee. The goal is to educate students and young adults about trade and technical career choices, including the preservation trades and other technical trades associated with rehabilitating historic structures. For details contact: marylu@phlf.org

Professional Development for Teachers (through the AIU)

- "Getting Real" (Teacher Induction): Monday, May 2, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Community Connections: Pittsburgh Architecture & Resiliency Wellness June 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, always from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Plus, we have hundreds more school tours and private group tours scheduled throughout the year. Almost every day we're out exploring!

