

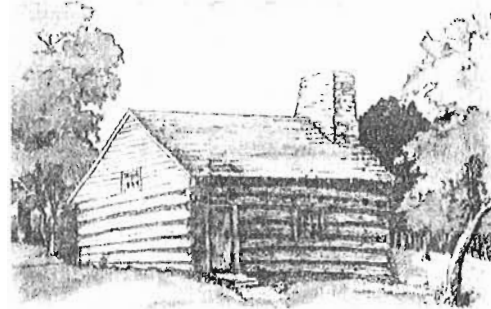
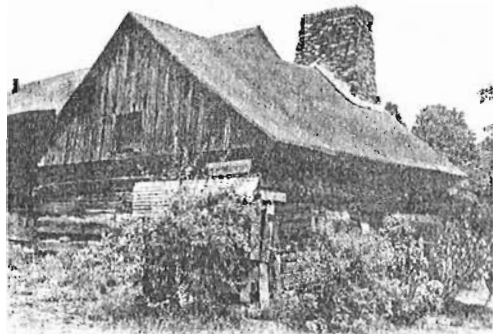
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

no. 7

FEBRUARY, 1968

NEAL LOG HOUSE TO BE RESTORED



One of the oldest buildings in Pittsburgh--the Neal Log House in Schenley Park--will be restored and opened to the public by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. A grant of \$50,000 from the Richard King Mellon Foundation will enable us to carry out the work.

The Neal Log House is one of the last three eighteenth-century buildings within the city limits. (The others are the Block House and the Woods' house in Hazelwood.) Derelict for years, it collapsed just a few weeks ago while we were preparing our proposal to restore it. This unique structure, built about 1787 and termed "one of the most interesting log houses in western Pennsylvania" by Charles M. Stotz, was nearly hauled away as rubbish.

The Neal Log House, standing as it does so close to Oakland, is a real heirloom in the midst of our city, and our goal in restoration is to preserve as much of the original fabric as possible. All the logs that are still structurally sound will be re-used, and the great stone chimney will be retained almost intact.

Out of the ruins we will create much more than simply the log house. We plan to construct an old springhouse similar to one that stood on the site, a privy, and a kitchen garden. Pittsburgh will then have a complete eighteenth-century domestic complex for residents, school children, and tourists to visit.

Mayor Joseph M. Barr said of the project, "It seems prudent to me to seize on this opportunity to preserve this landmark of an earlier day for our own cultural benefit and that of generations to come."

We have appointed Stotz, Hess & MacLachlan as architects of the restoration and Griswold, Winters & Swain as landscape architects. Work will begin in the spring.

In accepting the grant, our president, Charles C. Arensberg, noted that the Neal Log House is a sole survivor of our eighteenth-century domestic timber buildings and said, "Our entire community should be grateful to the trustees of the Richard King Mellon Foundation for the interest that they have shown in preserving the heritage of Pittsburgh."

Our new book Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County has sold nearly 2,000 copies in the first two months of publication. Many of the copies were sold in Pittsburgh during the Christmas season, but orders have come from throughout the United States particularly from libraries. Dr. S. K. Stevens, chairman of President Johnson's National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, was on hand for our press party and has given us high commendation for conducting and publishing the first such survey in the nation. No other survey has been so complete or has been published as a hard-bound book.

We have developed a large self-help restoration program for the South Side area of Pittsburgh. In South Side we have potentially one of the most interesting collections of mid to late nineteenth century domestic buildings that any city could wish for, and our effort is to induce private owners to recondition them and yet retain their architectural features. We also hope to restore Carson Street as a nineteenth century shopping district unique perhaps in America. We are working with the South Side Chamber of Commerce, the Department of City Planning, the Community Council, and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to help South Siders maintain their fine architectural heritage. Next spring we plan to have several walking tours through the area for our members.

Our publication on Liverpool Street has won its second award. A 1967 merit awarded from the Art Directors' Society of Pittsburgh cited it for excellence in graphics.

THE BRIDGES OF PITTSBURGH

We have just issued a new publication called The Bridges of Pittsburgh. This eight-page folio size reprint of an article that we assisted in preparing for Fortune magazine consists primarily of photographs of the astonishing bridges of our city. We in the city of bridges seldom pause to realize the vast number and importance of these spans or to note their intricate, graceful beauty. This folio of text and photos presents the bridges of Pittsburgh with an almost startling freshness.

We have only a limited number of these reprints available for members at 50¢ plus 6% sales tax. Use the order form below.

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To: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
900 Benedum-Trees Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Please send me _____ copies of "The Bridges of Pittsburgh" at 50¢ plus 3¢ sales tax each. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____