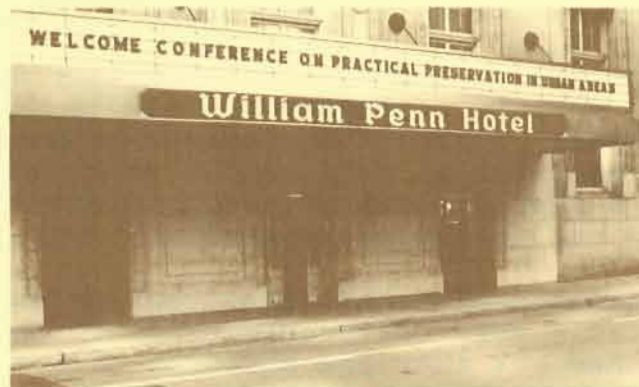


Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

NUMBER 22 - SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 1970

OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE EARNS HIGH PRAISE



Preservationists from states as far away as Florida and Louisiana came to Pittsburgh on September 10th and 11th to study the work of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in our inner city neighborhoods restoration programs. We had a beautiful day for our bus and walking tours of South Side and North Side, a delectable Yugoslavian luncheon at Sarah's Restaurant in South Side, fine food at the William Penn Hotel, and abundant information from our panelists, most of whom reside in the neighborhoods in which we work.

At the Thursday evening banquet many PHLF members joined with our visitors as well as with a large number of local public officials for the reception and dinner; Mr. Arensberg introduced Dr. S. K. Stevens, Chairman of President Nixon's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, who enthusiastically commended our program. Perhaps the highest compliment of the many that we have received is that from a gentlemen who wrote us that he has attended almost every preservation conference for the past decade, but that ours "was the best one of them all".

We are particularly grateful for the work of our volunteer association, Landmark Associates, whose members helped with preparing registration kits and registering the visitors, acted as hostesses, and were on-the-spot in many other ways. The Mexican War Streets Society provided us with a sparkling panel discussion as well as a lovely garden party, and the South Side Chamber of Commerce gave a superb panel discussion about the Birmingham program.



MORE HISTORIC REPRINTS FOR SALE

Through the courtesy of Julius W. Murphy we are able to offer several more historic reprints for sale. The first is a map of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny together with the city of Cleveland showing all the streets at the time the map was made by J. H. Colton & Company in 1855. This map shows the route of the Pennsylvania canal as it came down the Allegheny and across the aqueduct; it also shows several railroad depots and other public structures as well as the penitentiary that was once on the Allegheny Commons.

The second reproduction size 14" x 17" is a very lovely and detailed map of Pennsylvania in 1846 done by S. Augustus Mitchell and published in Philadelphia. It is particularly interesting because it shows the routes of all the canals that laced the state as well as the railroads and roads. Another interesting feature is a legend showing the steamboat routes between major cities and a profile of the Pennsylvania canal.

The reproduction quality of both these items is excellent and we are offering them for sale at a very reasonable price in the hopes that not only our members will want them but that the children of our members might also like to have them. Also remember that PHLF notepaper of historic Pittsburgh scenes in full color is available.

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

Please send me the following:

___ copies of the 1855 map showing the cities of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and Cincinnati @ \$1.50.

___ Mitchell's map of Pennsylvania of 1846 @ \$1.50.

___ Notepaper of historic Pittsburgh scenes in full color, three sheets each of four scenes, 12 to a box @ \$1.75.

___ Notepaper of Mexican War Streets, five sheets each of three different scenes, 15 to a box @ \$1.75.

Total of my order \$ _____

6% sales tax..... \$ _____

Postage and
handling..... \$ _____ .35

TOTAL..... \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

THREE GRANTS ANNOUNCED

One of the highlights of our conference was Mr. Arensberg's announcement at the Thursday evening banquet of three major grants given recently to PHLF. Two grants are from the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation, one of \$35,000 for the continuation of our Mexican War Streets restoration program in North Side and one of \$50,000 for us to establish a restoration program in South Side. The third grant is also for the South Side program: The Hillman Foundation, Inc. gave \$30,000 for us to acquire and restore architecturally significant residential property for rental or resale to low income groups. We plan to purchase and restore houses in one of the few areas that has suffered considerable blight, thereby stopping its progress in that area.

Mr. Arensberg noted with pleasure the continuing support of the trustees of the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation for our work, and expressed our gratitude for the funds from The Hillman Foundation, which are the first from that Foundation for our neighborhood restoration work.

Properties to be acquired under these grants will be announced in the next newsletter.

Our first summer Sunday afternoon walking tour, the Dutchtown area of the North Side, was a fine success; we had pleasant weather and over 75 members

DUTCHTOWN REVIEW

and guests attended. The tour started at St. Mary's Church and then proceeded to Voegtly Church, along East Ohio Street to Avery and Nash Streets and the Avery Institute, across the street to the Gums Butcher Shop that will be installed in our new museum, and ended at the North Side Carnegie Library, now closed for restoration. The library was opened for our group and after a discussion of the facility by James D. Van Trump, who led the tour, we toured it. A foundation member, Mrs. Mary Wohleber spoke at Voegtly Church and gave an excellent review of the history of the church and of the families who founded it.



In recognition of Carnegie Library's 75th anniversary, PHLF presented historic landmark plaques to both Carnegie Library and Carnegie Institute at ceremonies on September 17. James M. Walton, President of Carnegie Institute and Councilman Walter Kamyk accepted the landmark

NEW BOOK MORE PLAQUES

plaques. In conjunction with the plaque presentation, we released a new book, An American Palace of Culture. The book, co-sponsored by Carnegie Institute and Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, is a series of essays on the Institution and Library which were written by James D. Van Trump and which appeared in somewhat different form in Carnegie Magazine. Funds for the book were provided by the Melissa S. McKee Carnahan Trust of The Pittsburgh Foundation. The book is available in both hard cover and paperback. A descriptive brochure and order form accompany this newsletter.

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT

For The Person Who Has Everything Or For Someone Special

A membership in the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Membership includes:

- . PHLF newsletter
- . PHLF publications
- . Free admission to our new museum
- . Invitations to walking and bus tours, lectures
and all PHLF events.

A PHLF gift membership assists in financing the needed programs of the Foundation, and opens to the recipient the interesting but little known world of Pittsburgh's architectural heritage and history.

All new members will receive a personal letter from our president welcoming them to the Foundation explaining that the membership is a gift.

Individual memberships:

- . Active \$10.00
- . Sustaining \$100.00
- . Contributing \$25.00
- . Life \$1,000.00

Contributions above the first \$2.00 on each membership are deductible for income tax purposes.

I would like to purchase _____ memberships as Christmas gifts for the following individuals.

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

_____ Category _____ _____ Category _____

Your Name _____

The acquisition and restoration of houses by members and friends of PHLF has continued through the summer. Mrs. Kenneth Boesel has recently purchased 1210 Resaca Place and has completed a restoration begun by another family. She added a brick patio and a paved parking area at the rear of the house. As many of our members know, Mrs. Boesel has already beautifully restored two other houses in the War Streets, 1213 Resaca Place and 1214 Monterey Street. Another charming house, 1402 Monterey, is now the home of Mr. & Mrs. David Russell and their two children. The Russells are in the midst of extensive interior refurbishing. Their plans include a brick patio in the rear of the house and establishing an antique shop which will be located in a small structure already on the property. The 20 room house on North Avenue being restored by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kenagy is progressing with the installation of furnaces and the restoration of the exterior brick work scheduled as the next major items to be tackled.

WAR STREETS
PROGRESS

The photos below show the progress being made in the restoration of 1201 Buena Vista Street in the Mexican War Streets restoration area. Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Oliver, Jr. purchased this Richardsonian-Romanesque house from PHLF and are meticulously restoring it to house four unique apartments. The restoration of this handsome building gives the War Streets program a major thrust at this time because this is the first house to be restored on Buena Vista Street, one of the most significant in the entire area. There are still a number of Victorian houses for sale in this area. Those interested in discussing the possibility of purchasing property and participating in this civic restoration program should contact our offices.

HESPENHEIDE-
OLIVER HOUSE
WORK CONTINUES



Landmark Associates Meet October 18th

ASSOCIATES
MEETING

Landmark Associates, the volunteer arm of PHLF, will hold a general meeting on Sunday, October 18th, at 2:00 p.m. in the downtown YMCA located at 304 Wood Street. Agenda includes reports on current projects, winter projects, and a brief lecture on architectural terminology.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUTHORIZE PHLF
TO CONDUCT A STUDY FOR IMPROVING
SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL HALL

We have been concerned that Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland, a monumental structure modeled after the Museum of Halicarnassus (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world) has been so little used and noted. The Hall contains hundreds of artifacts of various wars that the United States has been involved in but many of the exhibits are suffering years of inattention. Unused chairs are piled high in front of the exhibits, material is moldering, and little effort is made to involve the public in visiting the Hall or in using the auditorium and banquet facilities.

The structure is listed in LAAC (p. 96) as a landmark structure. It was designed by Palmer and Hornbostel and erected between 1907 and 1911.

We proposed to the Allegheny County Commissioners that our organization conduct a study of the contents of the building, their exhibit potential, improving the Hall of Valor, involving veterans groups in the use of this structure, and publicizing both the functional facilities of the building and the exhibits.

The Commissioners expressed equal concern for the desuetude of this key building in the Oakland scene and accepted our proposal. We are now at the beginning stages of the work and we will report to our members as we progress.

We dedicated a plaque on Pittsburgh's oldest office building and last example of Greek Revival architecture in the Golden Triangle, the Burke-Meyer building that stands on Fourth Avenue between Market and Wood Streets. Designed by John Chislett and erected in 1836, the building contained banking quarters in its earlier days. It was spared in the great fire of 1845 but portions of the interior have been renovated and although some of the original mantels are still extant, the main staircase is now of the later vintage. To restore the structure would require a hefty investment, but it would make excellent quarters for a club or civic organization. Currently it serves as the offices of the Fountain Pen Sales & Service Company owned by Mr. Meyer. Shown in the photograph is Mrs. Cleveland D. Rea of our Board of Directors, Mr. Arensberg congratulating Mr. Meyer on receiving the plaque and Mr. Van Trump, our Director of Research. Ceremonies were held at noon on July 8, 1970.



At present our "Landmark Associates" membership totals 84. Much interesting work remains to be done and if you are actively committed to the task of assisting PHLF in its work, we solicit your membership. There is no dues charge. Membership chairman is Miss Lois Grose 681-5535. Chairmen for other committees are as follows: Speaker's Bureau: LANDMARK ASSOCIATES Mrs. Wilbert Alster; Research: Mrs. Kirke Wilson; Escort: Mrs. William Reed; Office Workers: Mrs. Ralph Leo and Mrs. Alden Pinkerton; Cataloging: Mrs. Edward Leckey; Artifacts Retrieval: Mrs. J. D. DePaul; Education: Mrs. Louis Goldszer; Legislative Action Advisory: L. J. Schaefer. Those interested in joining should contact Miss Grose or call the Foundation office at 281-6207.