

# PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Old Post Office • Allegheny Square West • Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

Number 42 - May 1973

## NATIONAL TRUST AWARDS PHLF CHALLENGE LOAN

\$85,000 3% interest loan to help purchase  
Old Post Office Museum; we must raise  
\$600,000 in '73 and '74

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has awarded to our organization the largest loan ever granted by its National Preservation Revolving Fund. In fact it is fourfold the next largest loan.

The Trust was responding to the imminent deadline set by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh for our acquisition of the Old Post Office, which we have restored as a community museum and cultural center. Due to the withdrawal of state funds several years ago, we had to proceed with the work without having the funds in hand to purchase the building at a cost of \$116,000. URA has generously been extending our lease, but due to federal restrictions is unable to permit it to go beyond this May.

Most important, however, is the Trust's recommendation that we put our organization on a firmer financial base, thereby enabling us to engage in longer range planning. To quote the chairman of the National Preservation Fund, Mr. Lawson Knott, former head of the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government:

We recommend that the National Trust for Historic Preservation award Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation a loan of \$85,000 repayable over 5 years at 3 percent interest because of the extent, significance, and unique value of the Pittsburgh programs, and with the recognition that the Old Post Office is at the heart of this complex, city-wide revitalization effort. We grant it on the basis that the organization raise major additional funds to support its programs.

James Biddle, president of the Trust spoke avidly in favor of the PHLF work:

We cite Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation for significant achievement in historic preservation in its persistent and far-sighted rescue and restoration efforts and in demonstrating that architecturally and historically significant structures are an urban resource of great importance to many people.

In announcing the loan at the annual meeting on April 12, our president Charles Arensberg said that, "We must realize that our organization has grown substantially in its local work and in its national reputation. We now have significant responsibilities including the Old Post Office Museum and nearly 30 other properties. It is time to stop living in our improvised way; we must raise the funds we need to operate as a mature and responsible organization."

He went on to point out that \$300,000 a year for two years is a large sum, but that our record of accomplishment should justify the appeal. However, its success depends first and foremost on our members.

"If our members will pledge extra donations for these two years so that we can demonstrate to the corporations and foundations that we are a group that looks first to itself before asking others, we will then stand a much better chance of favorable responses," he declared.

Each member has now received a copy of the fund brochure in the mail, please respond by sending in the pledge card as soon as possible so that we may approach other, major sources of revenue.

*Shall I say, "Yes, I remember it"*

*Or, "Here it is, I helped to save it"*

Motto - Historic Denver

### Miss Helen Clay Frick Contributes to Old Post Office Fund

We are very pleased to announce that Miss Helen Clay Frick has granted \$10,000 to the Old Post Office campaign fund to help us purchase the building. Miss Frick is deeply devoted to the history of Pittsburgh, and recently opened the very fine Frick Art Museum in East End.

In the past Miss Frick has been generous with PHLF. In fact she gave us our first grant, back in May 1964, to enable us to do our original study of Liverpool Street in Manchester.

Our Executive Director, Mr. Ziegler, in accepting this gift, thanked Miss Frick for leading the

fund drive with generosity and recognized her interest in all that the Old Post Office represents to our community. He also commended her deep commitment to other important buildings in Pittsburgh, particularly her home Clayton, in the East End and the noble Frick Building downtown. "The preservation of the best of our past locally and of these buildings owes much to Miss Helen Clay Frick," he said, "and we all at PHLF thank her deeply for her continuing generosity toward and interest in Pittsburgh."

#### PHLF NEWS TAKES ON A NEW LOOK . . .

In an effort to give more news of our work, events, and people we are changing the format of our former *News For Members*. We hope that through our new *PHLF NEWS* you will become more informed and appreciative of restoration in Pittsburgh and the work and people involved.



# In its first eight years . . .

PHLF has received two awards from the AASCH and three awards for our publications, and PHLF is the only group that has addressed the National Trust Convention four times in four years.

- PHLF was the first group to:
  - Conduct a county-wide inventory of its significant buildings.
  - Obtain a grant from the National Historic American Engineering Record.
  - Obtain a contract from the Federal Bureau of Roads for documenting historic buildings.
  - Have more than a single preservation program.
  - Serve on an official, paid consulting basis for local government agencies.
  - Develop an integrated, mixed income historic district, the Mexican War Streets and a restoration district for a blue collar neighborhood, South Side.

PHLF developed historic districts for blacks in Manchester, restored a major building and made it a community museum, developed educational programs for the schools and a full fledged on-going publication series including hardbound books.

PHLF has undertaken and completed a national study on the economic impact of historic preservation, produced four full-length television documentaries and held a national conference on the subject of Historic Preservation in Urban Areas and in addition utilized subsidized housing programs.

In 1965, PHLF's assets totalled \$38,710.15. In December, 1972 they totalled \$1,533,325.15. Most of these assets have been invested in property; about half a million in the Old Post Office and thirty other properties consisting of 69 rental units located in the Mexican War Streets, South Side and Manchester. PHLF's total indebtedness was \$11,182.34. Membership revenue climbed from \$18,091 in 1971 to \$24,489.45 in 1972.

Some of PHLF's programs fell short of what they should do; however this can be corrected with increased funding and consequently we are engaged in a major fund raising campaign. PHLF has operated on a broad basis, responsive to community needs insofar as funds permit.

These were PHLF's first eight years of experience and we are now beginning to be looked upon nationally as leaders.

## Hillman Foundation Contributes to Neighborhood Work

Mr. Henry Hillman recently announced a grant toward special neighborhood program work of PHLF in the amount of \$5,000. The funds are to be utilized for staff time, materials, and matching grants for special joint programs with neighborhood organizations, particularly in Birmingham and Allentown. It may also be used in several other neighborhoods as needs arise.

The grant follows an earlier grant of \$30,000 toward the restoration of housing for low income families on Jane Street in the South Side. This program is now nearly completed. Funds are still required to restore one house.

In the case of this new grant, we are able to utilize the funds to respond to requests for help in community planning and programming on an interim basis until we see in which direction we feel we should assist these neighborhoods more fully.

"Our greatest need for helping the neighborhoods is making available staff, and we cannot do that without the means to pay for the time," pointed out our president, Mr. Arensberg. Through this generosity of the Hillman Foundation which has been steadily more concerned with urban problems, we can now field some of our people as needs arise.

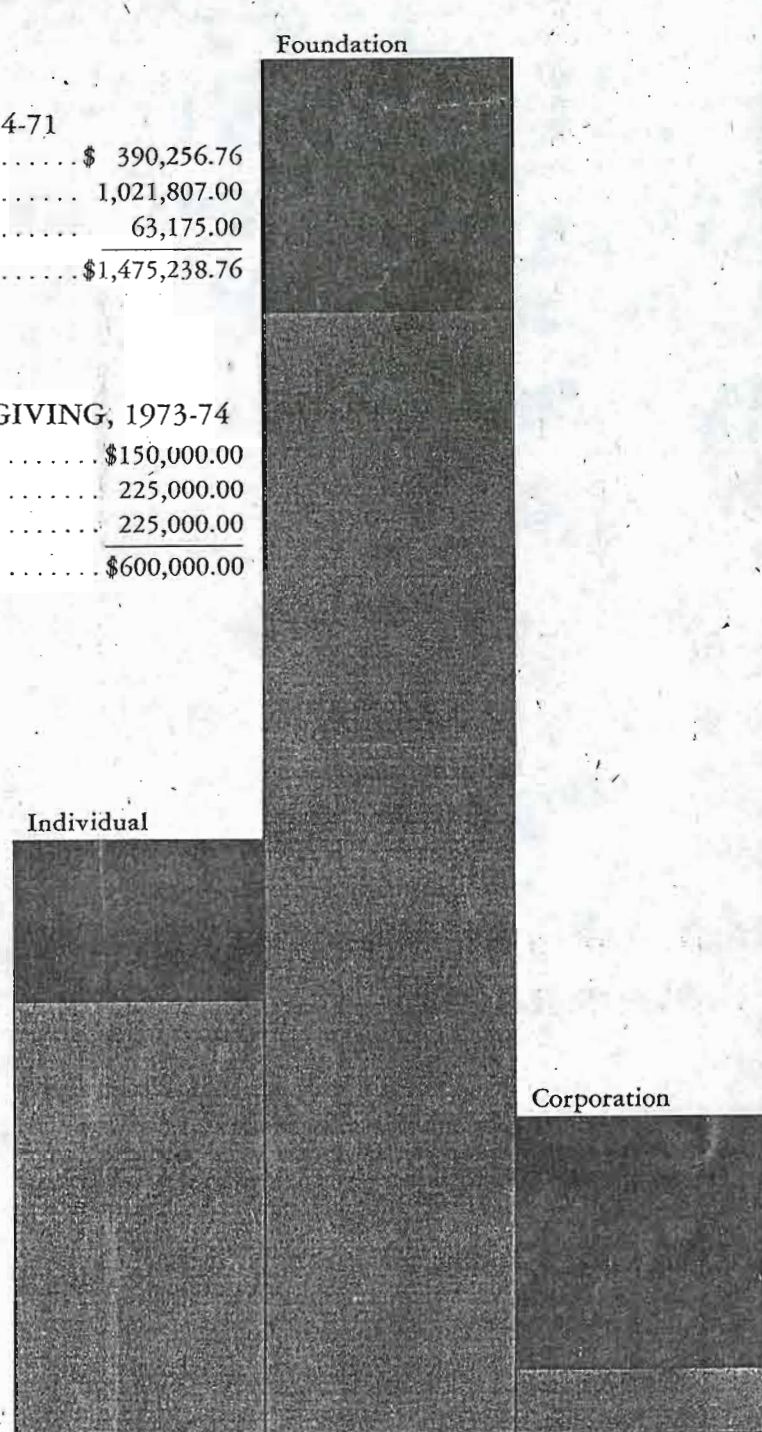
Mr. Ziegler announced that funds are already in use in both neighborhoods for which they are originally intended and program planning is underway.

# Our Goals, 1973-1974

Purchase the Old Post Office from the Urban Redevelopment Authority as required by our agreements (includes repayment of the National Trust loan).....	\$117,000
Develop the open space adjacent to the building as an outdoor exhibit and performing arts area and artifact garden...	75,000
Expand our exhibition, performing arts, educational and neighborhood "outreach" programs and operate the Old Post Office.	90,000
Increase our Revolving Fund for inner-city neighborhood restoration.	
Complete the Phase I area of the Mexican War Streets. Increase our restoration and community action program in Birmingham (South Side).....	80,000
Launch more restoration activity in Manchester, particularly on Liverpool St...	65,000
Provide seed money that will enable us to respond to other inner city residential neighborhoods and small, decaying business districts that seek our aid.....	15,000
Examine several major buildings that are or may be endangered to identify economically feasible adaptive uses so that they may continue in service (Included among these might be our great railroad stations, abandoned warehouse buildings, trolley barns, and several kept structures downtown and in Old Allegheny).....	40,000
Continue and expand our educational publishing program.....	8,000
Through the media, tours, and general promotion alert both residents and visitors to the vital heritage of our area and the unique qualities of Pittsburgh, thereby increasing tourism and obtaining economic benefits for the community.....	5,000
Retain our extraordinary staff and support our general operations for these and our other programs.....	90,000
<b>Total required 1973-1974.....</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

<b>GIVING, 1964-71</b>	
Individual .....	\$ 390,256.76
Foundation .....	1,021,807.00
Corporation .....	63,175.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,475,238.76</b>

<b>PROPOSED GIVING, 1973-74</b>	
Individual .....	\$150,000.00
Foundation .....	225,000.00
Corporation .....	225,000.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$600,000.00</b>





# A Visit to Yesterday

GREENFIELD VILLAGE & HENRY FORD MUSEUM  
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

We still have room for a few more reservations for our tour to Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, June 8, 9, 10.

Cost of the tour is \$85.00 per person for twin accommodations (Single room \$90.) This cost includes bus fare, all Museum admissions, two nights' lodging, dinner Friday and Saturday evenings and breakfasts Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Reservations are being accepted on a First-come, First-served basis! Make your reservations now by completing the form on this page and sending with your check and self-addressed stamped envelope to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks, Allegheny Square West, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212.

WEST MIDDLETOWN SESQUICENTENNIAL AND  
GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Our tour is set and ready for reservations for our one-day visit to West Middletown in Washington County and the Greene County Historical Museum

Our morning will be spent on a walking tour of West Middletown and enjoying their exhibits of Candle making, Churning, Horse Shoeing, Chair caneing, Quilting, Wood carving, Soap making, Bread making, and Doll display. Then a guided bus tour will point out the surrounding points of interest of the locality.

We will then have a buffet lunch at the historical Drover's Inn enroute to our afternoon visit to the Greene County Historical Museum.

Our bus will depart from the Old Post Office Museum at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6:30 p.m. The cost for the day, including bus fare, admissions, and lunch is \$12.00 for members and \$16.00 for non-members.

RESERVATION FORM FOR MICHIGAN TOUR JUNE 8,9,10, 1973

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ROOMING WITH \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFY ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED:  
\_\_\_\_\_ TWIN @ \$85. per person; \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE @\$90.

I understand no money can be refunded after May 11, 1973, and I hereby absolve PHLF from any liability for loss, damage or injury to my person or property due to any cause whatsoever.  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

RESERVATION FORM FOR WEST MIDDLETOWN - GREENE COUNTY  
TOUR - JULY 7, 1973

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please hold \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the Tour to West Middletown and Greene County Historical Museum @ \$12.00 for members; and \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for non-members @ \$16.00 each.

My check is enclosed. My self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

MORE SUMMER TOURS TO COME!

- WASHINGTON & GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL TOUR,.....  
July 7, 1973
- THORNBURG WALKING TOUR.....  
July 29, 1973
- OIL COUNTRY VISIT.....  
September 15-16, 1973
- HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS.....  
October 1973

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN FORTHCOMING PAPERS

AND HELP THEY DO !!!

A contribution to PHLF that is often overlooked and sometimes underestimated, is the work of our volunteers. Some of these people give many hours of their time even when it means giving up things they had planned sometimes. They do a marvelous job and without them our organization could not function. They are eager to see the goals of PHLF completed and work tirelessly. WE THANK THEM!

Officers of our Volunteer Group are:  
President.....Mrs. Alan Wohleber  
First Vice-President.....Mrs. W. F. Alster  
Second Vice-President:....Mr. John Martine  
Secretary.....Miss Pat Degenhardt

If you would be interested in being a part of this great group of volunteers, please call Mary Wohleber at 231-5788, or Carolyn Emerick at 322-1204.



National Historic Preservation Week  
May 6-12, 1973

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Renewal  New

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR A \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP.

(Contributions in excess of \$3.00 per year are tax deductible. Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Individual .....from \$10.00
- Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00
- Contributing .....from \$50.00
- Sustaining .....from \$100.00
- Patron .....from \$500.00
- Life .....from \$1,000.00
- Organizations:
- Active .....from \$25.00
- Contributing .....from \$50.00
- Sustaining .....from \$100.00
- Patron .....from \$500.00

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Free admission to the Old Post Office, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Museum.
2. Free admission to the Neill Log House in Schenley Park.
3. Subscription to "News for Members" and special publications on architecture and history.
4. Free admission or discount tickets for walking and bus tours.
5. Free admission to winter lecture series.
6. Notification of new exhibits at the Old Post Office.
7. Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."



# IT'S HAPPENING IN THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS

JUNE 24, 1973

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This year's tour of Pittsburgh's In-City Historic Residential Neighborhood will include 28 houses and gardens. Open for inspection will be completely restored houses, ones in the process of being restored, ones available for restoration; the "before and after" of preservation in this unique neighborhood.

The cost of the tour this year is \$3.00 and will include a tour of the Old Post Office Museum and free transportation from Allegheny Center to the Mexican War Streets houses.

Special rates for groups of 30 or more can be arranged by calling 322-1204 or 781-6834.

Volunteers are needed to help with the tour, if willing please complete form on this page.

Advanced ticket reservations can be made by using the form provided on this page.

### HOUSES OPEN FOR INSPECTION ON THE TOUR:

408 Taylor Avenue	1224 Resaca Place
1231 Mimosa Way	1233 Resaca Place
1224 Palo Alto Street	1241 Resaca Place
1218 Palo Alto Street	1246 Resaca Place
1205 Palo Alto Street	527 Taylor Avenue
1204 Palo Alto Street	1220 Monterey Street
516 West North Avenue	1218 Monterey Street
412 West North Avenue	1219 Monterey Street
410 West North Avenue	1214 Monterey Street
1201 Resaca Place	1213 Monterey Street
1226 Resaca Place	1200 Monterey Street
1220 Resaca Place	1230 Buena Vista Street
1210 Resaca Place	1228 Buena Vista Street
1213 Resaca Place	1201 Buena Vista Street

### LUNCHEAS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

Allegheny Center Unitarian Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
YWCA  
YMCA

Our thanks to the committee that has worked so hard to make this year's tour all that it will be:

Co-chairman	Mrs. Kenneth Boesel
Co-chairman	Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr
Cover drawing	Miss Martha Ethridge
Publicity	Edward Servick
Program Brochure	Mrs. Barbara Young
	Mrs. Jack Emerick
	Ellis Schmidlapp
Decorations	Gary Meneice
Transportation	Grier Marks
Information	James Young
	Dr. Leroy Indorato

### RESERVATION FORM FOR MEXICAN WAR STREETS HOUSE TOUR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Mexican War Streets House Tour, June 24, 1973, 11a.m.-5p.m. @ \$3.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed. My self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed.

### VOLUNTEER HELP FOR HOUSE TOUR JUNE 24, 1973

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HOURS YOU WILL WORK: \_\_\_\_\_ 11-2; \_\_\_\_\_ 2-5p.m.

I also have a friend who would be willing to help.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

## Old Post Office Museum Garden Court Designs Finished



The designs for the Museum Garden Court have been completed and working drawings are in process with work expected to begin this May. The court consists of three parts: the first is a quiet, formal sitting area with bubbling pool and greenery centered on the southwest pavilion of the Old Post Office and given in memory of Robert Baur; next is a large brick paved plaza for outdoor exhibits and performing arts, commanded at the south end by the great cast iron and bronze portal sculptures of the Manchester Bridge. Towards the street, there is an informal permanent artifact display area. The three areas are connected by two wide paths--one on an axis with the dome and main gallery and the other leading to the entrance plaza of the museum. The wall of iron and belgian block will be heavily planted and offer the passerby a variety of artifacts to enjoy, the primary one being that of the Fourth Avenue Post Office "stone maidens" which will stand in a large niche facing the intersection of Western Avenue and Allegheny Commons West. Interior plantings consist of flowering fruit trees and two groves of beech trees while the perimeter of the court and parking area will contain at least five varieties of trees. A holly hedge and many native shrubs will be included in the plantings. Funding for the Garden Court will come from the general Fund Raising Program.

**DON'T MISS IT !!! FLEA MARKET AND ARTIFACT SALE - OLD POST OFFICE PUBLIC WALKWAY - SATURDAY MAY 19, 1973 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING . . .

At the PHLF Annual Meeting on April 12, 1973, ten Directors to our Foundation were reelected to a second term ending in 1978:

James Bibro	Joseph P. Molony
Mrs. Kenneth Boesel	William R. Oliver
Mrs. Robert Fulton	Mrs. Cleveland Rea
George M. Henderson	William P. Snyder, III
Julian Miller	Gilmore Williams

Other Directors elected for terms ending in 1974, '75, and '76 were:

Honorable Richard S. Caliguiri	1976
Mark S. Gleeson	1974
Jane L. Lehman	1975
Mrs. Lawrence E. Madson	1974
David H. Miller	1974
Mrs. Florence Schwartz	1975

The following officers were elected:

President.....	Charles Covert Arensberg
Vice-President.....	Mrs. B. F. Jones, III
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr
Vice-President.....	Mr. J. Judson Brooks
Vice-President.....	James W. Knox
Secretary.....	Mrs. David Genter
Assistant Secretary.....	Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.
Treasurer.....	Harold L. Tweedy
Honorary Vice-Pres.....	Ralph E. Griswold
Honorary Vice-Pres.....	James D. Van Trump