

PH LF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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

Number 45 - September 1973

NON PROFIT ORG.
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Pittsburgh, Pa.
Permit No. 598

GARDEN COURT WORK BEGINS

Contractors have moved onto the site to the west of the Old Post Office Museum to do preliminary grading, construct the belgian block walls, and install the underground electrical and water service for the Garden Court designed for this area. The court will contain three areas: a quiet formal area centered around a bubbling pool, a large exhibitions and performing arts area commanded on its southern side by the portal sculptures of the Manchester Bridge, and an artifacts exhibition area.

A long belgian block wall is being constructed along the western side of the court to separate the artifacts exhibition area from the Allegheny Center loop highway and provide a shelf for exhibiting special exterior artifacts. A smaller wall is being constructed to form a gateway be-



A Team of Neighborhood Boys Who Stacked Belgian Block



30,000 Belgian Block Were Dug out of Heaps of Dirt that had been dumped by the Trucks and were Stacked around the Perimeter of the Garden Court

Gifts for the Garden Court (continued)

commemorative present. A permanent plaque listing names of donors and persons designated for a memorial or gifts will be mounted permanently in the garden court.

ARTIFACTS:	
Restoration of vaults of former East Ohio Street Buildings.....	\$3,500.00
Installation of three bells from St. Paul's United Church of Christ.....	\$3,000.00
Installation of one bell from Avery College.....	\$1,000.00
Mounting nine keystones from 4th Avenue Post Office.....	250.00 ea.
Installation of urn from 4th Avenue Post Office.....	250.00
Installation of granite maidens from 4th Avenue Post Office.....	\$2,500.00
Mounting historical relief sculptures from pylons at Ohio River Blvd. one at.....	350.00
one at.....	250.00
Mounting stone horse's head sculpture from stable on Canal Street.....	250.00
Mounting of various ornamental iron pieces (gates, fences, etc.).....	125.00 ea.
Installation of three cast iron eagles from Manchester Bridge.....	\$1,000.00 ea.
Installation of Manchester Bridge medallion.....	200.00
Installation of cast iron lion's head from Manchester Bridge on wall.....	300.00
Installation of Manchester Bridge portal sculptures.....	\$2,500.00
Installation of two cast iron torches from Manchester Bridge.....	\$1,000.00 ea.
Installation of column from McElhany Barn.....	250.00
Installation of stone arch from McElhany house.....	150.00
Entrance wall and gate.....	\$10,000.00
Perimeter iron fence, 31 sections.....	300.00 ea.
Installation of old iron rail at entrance from building.....	750.00
Artifact shelf and wall.....	\$18,000.00
Granite steps to building.....	
Installation of 6,000 Belgian paving blocks from Southern Avenue.....	2.50 ea.
LIGHTING FIXTURES:	
Installation of seven McKees-Rocks Bridge Lamps.....	175.00 ea.
Lighting for Manchester Bridge Sculptures.....	750.00
Lighting for granite Keystones from 4th Avenue Post Office.....	250.00
Lighting for 4th Avenue Post Office urn.....	100.00
Lighting for eagle from Manchester Bridge.....	100.00
LANDSCAPING:	
2 American Linden trees.....	190.00 ea.
4 Ash trees.....	190.00 ea.
2 Crimson King Maple trees.....	200.00 ea.
2 Sugar Maple trees.....	215.00 ea.
2 Purple Leaf Sycamore-Maple trees.....	210.00 ea.
4 Red Oak trees.....	225.00 ea.
2 Tulip trees.....	200.00 ea.
1 Cucumber tree.....	225.00 ea.
1 American Beech tree.....	215.00 ea.
70 Hick's Yews.....	39.00 ea.
4 European Hornbeams.....	59.99 ea.
1,649 Pachysandra.....	.50 ea.
1,310 Purple Winter Creeper.....	.62 ea.
5 Chinese Wisteria.....	7.00 ea.
5 Clematis.....	4.50 ea.
5 Silver Fleece Vine.....	4.50 ea.
45 Canadian Hemlock.....	44.00 ea.
4 large Hemlock trees.....	75.00 ea.

PHLF ASSISTS BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Historical Society of Beulah Presbyterian Church in Churchill Borough called on PHLF for assistance with a problem of falling ceiling plaster in their Vernacular Georgian and Greek Revival hall Church of 1837. Warren Schweitzer, supervisor of restoration, and Ellis Schmidlapp, assistant for design programs, inspected the "scissors" truss over the hall of the church and found that the framework of the suspended shallow vault ceiling was pulling away from the roof truss. They were able to suggest a set of metal straps to correct the problem and a plastering contractor to restore the ceiling. The Beulah Historical Society is currently seeking funds to finance the project and other restoration work in the building.

FALL ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

This year our adult education course will be entitled A PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURAL POTPOURRI, and will be offered by Mr. James D. Van Trump. The lectures will be offered on 6 Monday evenings from October 29 to December 3. The classes will be held from 8:00 p.m. to 9:45 at the Old Post Office Museum. The cost for the course is \$25.00 (A minimum of 10 registrations is necessary to conduct the course)

Registration is by mail with tuition check enclosed; registration deadline is October 22, no refunds are available after that date.

The titles of the 6 lectures are:
H.H. Richardson and the Romanesque Revival in Pgh.
Aspects of Old Allegheny: the Lincoln Beech area.
Aspects of Old Allegheny: The Mexican War Streets Interiors and Gardens.
Squirrel Hill and Its Development.
Shadyside and Its Development.
Art Deco in Pittsburgh.

REGISTRATION FORM - 1973 ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

My tuition check for \$25.00, is enclosed.

Funding Campaign Continues

We are pleased to report that our fund raising campaign is continuing to enjoy support from our members and friends. Members have contributed cash, securities, and pledges in response to the challenge loan at 3% interest from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Included recently was a contribution from the Junior League of Pittsburgh given on behalf of its members and for the work of our organization.

We are also pleased to report that four donors, Mrs. William A. Galbraith, The Hunt Foundation, Laurel Foundation, and Robinson Foundation have together contributed \$20,000 to the campaign. The three foundation grants are to be applied to the garden court at the Old Post Office Museum and Mrs. Galbraith's donation is for our general work. Said our president, Mr. Arensberg, "We are deeply grateful to these donors for these gifts of \$5,000 each toward our campaign. They not only will enable us to intensify our general activities but also to develop further the garden court at the museum. We are privileged to enjoy this kind of support."

If you have not yet pledged to the campaign, please use the form provided here.

A GIFT NOW
A PLEDGE FOR 1973-1974

I/We enclose check or securities to be applied toward the fund campaign of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation\$.....

I pledge the following gift for 1973 and again for 1974 (please bill me)\$.....

I would appreciate a call

Please allocate my donation to the general fund campaign

Please allocate my donation to the following program

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

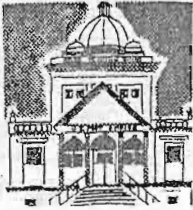
All contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1973

A Challenge for Landmarks Foundation

A \$75,000 grant to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) by the Alcoa Foundation moves this imaginative organization a significant distance toward matching a challenge loan from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



The National Trust made an \$85,000 challenge loan to PHLF on terms that the local organization raise \$6 for each \$1 of the loan to undergird its various programs. The loan is four times as large as any the National Trust ever has made, obviously a remarkable vote of confidence in the work being done by PHLF — such as its preservation of the Old Post Office on the Northside and its community restoration in the Mexican War Streets area, Northside, and the 10th to 29th Streets district, Southside.

So PHLF has embarked on a \$600,000 fund-raising drive to meet the terms of the challenge loan:

1. To secure ownership of the Old Post Office, which was restored as a community museum under a lease with the Urban Renewal Authority.
2. To raise major local financial support to undergird PHLF programs on a long-range basis.
3. To repay the loan with 3 per cent interest over a five-year period.

To date PHLF members have donated \$22,000, and an additional \$15,000 has come from an anonymous donor. So the Alcoa Foundation grant lifts the campaign above the \$110,000 mark.

We support the current drive for a reason well stated by Leopold Adler II, a trustee of the National Trust: "Pittsburgh without a doubt is conducting the most significant program in the nation today in historic preservation because it seeks to utilize the restoration of historic buildings and neighborhoods as a means to renewing civic pride. Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation saves not just buildings but people."

Kirk Wilson Memorial Fund Created

Recently one of our most faithful members, Kirke C. Wilson, passed away. Mr. Wilson was an archeologist with Carnegie Institute and had headed the team that uncovered over 19,000 objects in the ground at the Neill Log House several years ago. We had conducted this archeology before, we reconstructed the house. Many of the artifacts are now on display at the Old Post Office Museum. Mr. & Mrs. Wilson joined our organization at its inception and worked as volunteers in many ways. After Mr. Wilson's passing, many friends sent memorial checks to our organization, and we are now planning to establish a special memorial in our artifact garden that we are developing at the Old Post Office Museum. Over \$500. has already been contributed.

Patent Model Acquisition Grant Received

We are pleased to announce that Edward Ryan of Ryan Homes has contributed \$1,000. to our organization toward our fund raising campaign, the money to be utilized for the acquisition of patent models that relate to Pittsburgh industry.

For many years in order to secure a patent an inventor had to submit a model to the Patent Office. The practice was discontinued in the late 19th century and several hundred patents were sold off as a group and changed hands several times. Now these patents are being auctioned periodically.

Mr. Ryan contributed \$1,000 last year to enable us to acquire 24 patent models and this second grant is to be used at the next auction later this year.

This is an important collection for us and we are very pleased to have the funds that will enable us to assemble an interesting group of models.

NEW PUBLICATION

Our latest publication "Renovate Don't Relocate", by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. is now on sale in our Gift Shop. This booklet is of great interest to persons trying to make the decision it suggests.

Also of interest is Mr. Van Trump's most recent booklet "Why the H? The History of the Spelling of Pittsburgh".

Please send me _____ copies of "Renovate Don't Relocate" @ \$.35 each. \$ _____

Please send me _____ copies of "Why the H? The History of the Spelling of Pittsburgh" @ \$.50 each. \$ _____

Postage and Handling.....\$.25

Total enclosed.....\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Roll Top Desk Joins Old Post Office Artifacts

An historic roll-top desk has been donated to the Old Post Office Museum. The desk was purchased in 1880 by J. Erastus McKelvy, the senior partner of the prominent law firm of McKelvy and Wright, which had its offices in the St. Nicholas Building on Diamond Street (now Forbes Avenue) across from the present Frick Buidling.

The firm was one of the first tenants in the Frick Building in 1905. After Mr. McKelvy's death in 1915, the desk was used by J. Merrill Wright of the firm Wright, Chalfant, and McCandless and later Wright and Rundle.

Robert A. Rundle became the owner of the desk upon the death of Mr. Wright in 1949 and used it until his death in 1973, still occupying the same offices in the Frick Building as the original firm. The desk has been donated by the estate of Robert A. Rundle.

The roll-top desk is a huge and impressive example of this once common type of desk, and its strong association with Pittsburgh history makes it a particularly suitable acquisition.

Braddock Library Added to National Register

We are pleased to announce that the Carnegie Free Library of Braddock located in Allegheny County has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, our Nation's Catalogue of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites. Entry upon the National Register gives national recognition to the historic and/or architectural merits of the structure.

SHALER HISTORICAL SOCIETY FORMED RECENTLY

In September 1972 the Shaler Historical Society was formed. To date there are approximately 100 members. Anyone interested in Shaler Township history is welcome whether residents or not. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Several gatherings have been enjoyed by the group. The next general meeting will be held the last Wednesday of September 1973, at the Township of Shaler-North Hills Library. We are happy to learn of the interest of such groups and encourage them in their endeavors.

BASEBALL SHOW STILL ON

We are still planning an exhibit for next year concerning the history of baseball and the Pittsburgh Pirates in particular. The entire exhibit will consist of items loaned to us by interested Pittsburgh residents. All items will be displayed securely and full credit will be given to their owners. Anyone interested in aiding us through the loan of memorabilia is urged to contact the Foundation at 322-1204.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

(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. 5% discount on purchases at the Old Post Office Museum Gift Shop.
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."

Annapolis: The Background and The Tour

It is a great pleasure for us to be able to announce that Mrs. St. Clair Wright, the founder and director of Historic Annapolis, Inc. which has been so successful in preserving this splendid historic town in Maryland will address our members on October 15, 1973 at the Old Post Office Museum. Mrs. Wright will be the first speaker in our 1973-1974 Lecture Series "Distinguished Lecturers in Historic Preservation."

Mrs. Wright's story is astounding. Operating with very little cash and in the days when historic preservation had less momentum, Mrs. Wright and her group acquired facade easements to many properties in Historic Annapolis so that it could protect the exteriors of the buildings. The group created an historic district in the downtown area and in ten years the property values have risen from 18 million to 38 million dollars! It is also one of the most charming preservation towns in the United States. Mrs. Wright will describe through words and slides the triumphs, the setbacks, and the remaining challenges for Historic Annapolis.

Our members will have an opportunity to view the realities of Mrs. Wright's success on a special fall bus tour to Annapolis departing October 26, and returning Sunday, October 28. We will take a scenic fall ride across the Pennsylvania and Maryland mountains to Annapolis where we will dine in an historic Inn and where we will have several walking tours on Saturday and Sunday, including access to some of the fine houses there. For more details and application form for this tour please see the flap page of this newsletter.

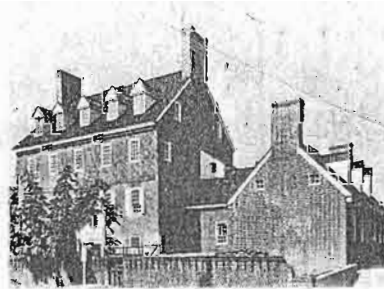
PICTURED HERE ARE SOME OF THE RESTORED AND HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST IN ANNAPOLIS



Chase-Floyde House



Bancroft Hall, Naval Academy



Paca House



Restaurant, Annapolis Waterfront, Market Square



Waterfront, Annapolis Market Square



Traditional Customs House Before...and...After

photos by Carroll Miller, Jr.

The Great Building Search of 1973

The President announces an anonymous prize gift of \$100. to be awarded as follows:

In anticipation of a supplement to the nationally acclaimed survey Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County by Arthur Ziegler and James Van Trump (1967) your directors are seeking information leading to the continued existence in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County of early buildings and visible remains thereof.

Accordingly we offer the following prizes to those who produce information leading to:

(1) Any structure in the City of Pittsburgh of the eighteenth century other than the three mentioned in the survey book (Fort Pitt, The Neill Log House and the Woods House in Hazelwood). First prize will be \$50.00, second prize \$10.00, and third prize a copy of the survey.

(2) Any structure in the County of Allegheny of the eighteenth century not mentioned in the survey. First prize will be \$25.00, second and third prizes will be copies of the survey.

(3) Any structure in Allegheny County authentic before the year 1850 and not mentioned in either the survey or Charles Stotz's classic book The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania. First prize will be \$15.00 and the next 10 prizes will be copies of the survey.

All prizes will be awarded in the sole discretion of James D. Van Trump and Arthur Ziegler. All entries must be received on or before December 31, 1973.

So let's go, architectural buffs! You may not get rich, and you may have to declare the prize on your 1040 for 1973, but you'll have some fun and do us a service!

Friendly Hints



How old is the handsome federal structure in this picture? Was there once a two-story porch along the front? What is the dark stain under the third story windows? Who owned this house? What do the deed records show? Do you know how to run the Ad Sectum Index (reverse index) in the Recorder of Deeds Office?



(Note: these photos may not be used in the competition)

Look now at this house. Is there a log structure underneath this siding? Did the porch overlook the river? Has not the porch survived all other incursions over the years? What evidence of the age of this structure exists on its interior? In its cellar? Are the old beams there, the old stones of the foundation? Who owned this house in 1850, in 1840, in 1830? Did any of the old deeds contain references to the structure as "having thereon erected, etc."?

Here's to the Old Post Office

People throughout Pittsburgh have been drinking to the Old Post Office Museum all summer long. The Iron City Brewery reproduced a very lovely drawing of the Old Post Office Museum on its beer cans several months ago; in cafes, restaurants, homes, picnics, and "who knows where else?" the Old Post Office Museum has been raised in conviviality. We thank the Iron City Brewery for this unusual contribution toward the promotion of the Old Post Office Museum and our work.

NEEDED...

We are anxious to obtain some Victorian lamps for use in our galleries here at the Old Post Office Museum. We are also in need of some upholstered leather chairs for use in the director's meeting room. If you have any of these items that you would be willing to donate to the Museum please call the office. We are always very appreciative of the responses we receive for our needs.

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TOURS

ANNAPOLIS BUS TOUR

OCTOBER 26-28, 1973

Our tour will leave the Old Post Office Museum at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, October 26. We will stop enroute for dinner at the Fort Bedford Inn, and arrive in Annapolis later that evening where we will be lodged at the Historic Maryland Inn right in the historic district. Saturday morning will be free for the group to get acquainted with the area; we will have a luncheon at noon and then a guided tour in the afternoon. Saturday evening will be free for us to dine on our own where ever we choose. Sunday morning we will have another guided tour and a luncheon together, after which we will leave for home. We are really privileged to have this special treatment by the Annapolis Historical Foundation and we hope to have a good-sized group take advantage of it.

RESERVATION FORM ANNAPOLIS TOUR OCTOBER 26-28, 1973

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

ROOMING WITH _____

ADDRESS _____

SPECIFY ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED:

_____ TWIN @\$78. per person; _____ SINGLE @\$83.; _____ \$90. for non-members.

I understand no money can be refunded after October 12, 1973, and I hereby absolve Pittsburgh History & Landmarks from any liability for loss, damage or injury to my person or property due to any cause whatsoever.

Signed _____

LONDON CHARTER FLIGHT

MAY 24 - JUNE 2, 1974

Join us for this, our greatest tour yet! We will have a charter flight from Pittsburgh to London where we will spend 10 days and 9 nights. The cost is only \$419. and includes first class accommodations, tours, entertainment, and some lunches. This is a real bargain, and a chance of a life time. Make your plans now and watch for reservation form in the next newsletter.

Notes on Recent Tours



One of the highlights of the July tour to Washington and Greene Counties was the visit to the recently restored Victorian mansion which is pictured here. The mansion now houses the Greene County Historical Society. To date 28 of its 52 rooms are furnished and open to the public. Our group was very impressed with the restoration work and the unique collections contained in the Museum. We were given a royal welcome and enjoyed the afternoon very much. We also attended some of the festivities at the West Middletown Sesqui-Centennial Celebration in the morning of that day.

Another highlight of our summer tours was the August Walking Tour of Thornburg. Besides viewing the architecture of the area we were welcomed by many residents of the area and permitted to visit their gardens and several houses. Pictured here are just a few of the many points of interest.



Our most recent trip was to Titusville, Pa. and the Chautauqua Institution in New York. Features of this trip were a personally conducted tour of some of the sites around Titusville by Mr. James Stevenson, former chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission and now resident of Titusville. Also of interest on the tour were the symphony concert and the boat cruise on Lake Chautauqua.



Tourist Rack a Success

Our Tourist Information Rack located in the lobby entrance of the Old Post Office Museum has proved to be a focal point, not only for out-of-city visitors, but to many local residents of Pittsburgh and the surrounding districts. Comment indicates that "even though we live here we didn't know of the many varied opportunities for pleasure, interest and relaxing right here in the area".

The rack, which was funded by the Junior League, offers information consisting of circulars and brochures which are continually being up-dated. Information about local dams, waterways, conservation areas, picnic and camping areas provided by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers have been very popular. "The History of PPG Industries", a brochure offered by the Pittsburgh based company of that name is a most interesting booklet. Maps of Allegheny County furnished by the Board of Commissioners are available as well as the Gulf Oil map of Pittsburgh.

Among the numerous other publications, you will find information on all of the County Parks, Carnegie Library, Carnegie Museum, area universities, museums, The Pittsburgh Zoo, Duquesne Incline, PAT Transit Guide, river boat rides, sightseeing trips, The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, historical rehabilitations, museums and many other features including programs at Heinz Hall, Buhl Planetarium, Carnegie Lecture Hall and the Garden Center. Things to do in Pittsburgh and a schedule of Pennsylvania events is also available as well as a Pennsylvania Turnpike folder.

DEDICATION



On Wednesday afternoon 25 June the Foundation dedicated a historic landmark plaque at the Koppers Building. Shown accepting the plaque from our President, Charles Arensberg is Douglas Grymes, President of Koppers Company, Inc. The Koppers Building is one of the great monuments of "Art Deco" architecture in the city.

FALL FLOWER SHOW COMING TO NORTH SIDE

This year the Fall Flower Show will be held in Allegheny Center Mall. Watch your local news papers for details of special events on the North Side during the Show. November 4-16

COMMITTEE OF 200 SHORT OF GOAL!

The quota of 200 persons to give \$100 in order to save the Anitue Toy Museum needs you! If we fail to reach our goal we cannot buy the Toy Museum. Let's not be short! Send your checks to Toy Fund, Old Post Office Museum, Allegheny Square West, Pgh., Penna. 15212

Drawing for Sterling Silver Miniature Kitchen to be held at the Old Post Office, Dec. 12th. Kitchen is on display at the Museum. Donation \$1.00 - proceeds to benefit Toy Museum.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 15 8:30 p.m. Lecture at Old Post Office by Mrs. St. Clair Wright of Historic Annapolis

October 26-28 Bus Tour to Historic Annapolis

November 4-16 Annual Fall Flower Show Allegheny Center Mall

Top Desk Joins Post Office Artifacts

A historic roll-top desk has been donated to Old Post Office Museum. The desk was purchased in 1880 by J. Erastus McKelvy, the senior partner of the prominent law firm of McKelvy and Wright, which had its offices in the St. Nicholas Building on Diamond Street (now Forbes Avenue) and later the present Frick Building.

The firm was one of the first tenants in the Frick Building in 1905. After Mr. McKelvy's death in 1915, the desk was used by J. Merrill Wright of the firm Wright, Chalfant, and McCandless and later Wright and Rundle.

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Foundation

SHIP DUES:

.....from \$10.00
.....from \$12.00
.....from \$50.00
.....from \$100.00
.....from \$500.00
.....from \$1,000.00
.....from \$25.00
.....from \$50.00
.....from \$100.00
.....from \$500.00

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Free admission to the Old Post Office, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Museum.
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3. Subscription to "News for Members" and special publications on architecture and history.
4. Free admission or discount tickets for walking and bus tours.
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