

PHLF NEWS

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Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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

Number 49 April 1974

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PITTSBURGH Gala Boat Tour With PHLF Members

Because of the industrial history of Pittsburgh and the activities of PHLF, the Society for Industrial Archeology has chosen Pittsburgh for its Third Annual Conference. They will convene at the William Penn Hotel and hold some meetings here at the Old Post Office. Many of the earliest members of the SIA are native Pittsburghers and members of our organization. Two of our active members and hard-working volunteers are co-chairmen of the arrangements committee for the conference--Field Curry and Harold Lyke.

The Conference will be held April 26-28, 1974. The program will include several interesting tours besides the sessions. PHLF members are invited to register for the Conference and be a part of all the activities, or register for separate events. A registration form is included for your convenience.

SATURDAY SESSIONS

Saturday, 27th April William Penn Hotel - Pittsburgh Room

9:00 AM A VISUAL INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY: THE WASH INVENTORS
Eric N. DeLoey, *Historic American Engineering Record.*

PAPERS ON INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY Session I: Sites & Structures

THE BELLE & SOUTH SIDE POWER WORKS
Robert A. Howard, *Geology Museum*

THE ACQUITTAY GRADIENT BRICKS WILL USE
RD-10 A, *National Museum of History & Technology*

THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE TLI VISITORY OUR PICTURES SITE, NEW BRUNSWICK
Robert S. MacDonald, *New Jersey Colony Historical Society*

RECKING-OVER COALING OPERATIONS AT BRICK, WEST VIRGINIA
Emily S. Kemp, *West Virginia University*

12:00 PM Lunch and Annual Meeting of the Society - Terrace Room

2:00 PM SHORT PAGES & PROJECT REPORTS. Included will be: The KANSAS OKLAHOMA CURVE • Report on an IA Course at the Univ. of Pennsylvania • SAGE & SPENGLER Recording • The Realities of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) • "Old Red Hill," Series, Vermont; & Documentary Film

PAPERS ON INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY Session II: IA Sites

Chaired by R. John Corby, *National Bureau of Science & Technology, Ottawa*

INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY AT CURTIS (IRMS) VILLAGE
Vance Packard, *William Penn Memorial Room*

INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY AND THE RECORD OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
Peter B. Selts, *National Trust for Historic Preservation*

DINNER, TOUR ON PITTSBURGH RIVERS, LECTURE BY
KENNETH HUDSON OF BATH, ENGLAND

On Saturday evening, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. the members of PHLF have been invited to join the SIA members for an excursion on the rivers of Pittsburgh and a buffet dinner aboard the Gateway Party Liner. Also featured will be a lecture "The Popularization of Industrial Archeology in Great Britain" by Kenneth Hudson of Bath, England. Mr. Hudson is the author of Europe's Industrial Past, America's Industrial Past (available soon), and is a well-known author and lecturer on industrial history, he has also been appointed to France's Advisory Board for French Industrial Monuments. His lecture will be illustrated with films. The cost of this event to PHLF members is \$12. each or \$20 per couple. Sign up early.

SUNDAY TOUR

Sunday's tour will leave the William Penn at 8:45 a.m. This walking-trolley-incline-bus tour will include: P&LE General Offices & Station; South Hills Jct; Monongahela Incline; Duquesne Incline; Sarah's Restaurant on South Side for lunch; J&L Pittsburgh Works; Washington Boulevard; Lock 2, Allegheny River; City of Pittsburgh Treatment & Pumping Plants, and return to the William Penn Hotel at 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY TOUR - "GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE TOUR"

Monday's tour will leave the William Penn Hotel at 8:00 a.m. It will include: Westinghouse Electric Corporation EHV Laboratory, Trafford; Westinghouse Air Brake Division, Wilmerding; WELCO East Pittsburgh Works; WELCO Research & Development Center Museum; Union Switch & Signal Division Swissvale. Lunch will be "Dutch Treat" at one of the cafeterias, and the tour will return to the William Penn at 3:30 p.m.

I (WE) WISH TO REGISTER AS FOLLOWS:

- _____ Saturday Sessions and Lunch...\$5.00
 _____ Dinner and Tour on Gateway Partyliner
 \$12. each, \$20 per couple Saturday, 6:30
 _____ Sunday Tour and Luncheon.....\$10.00
 _____ Monday Bus Tour (Lunch Dutch Treat)..\$5.00
 _____ Total Enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CLIP AND MAIL WITH CHECK PROMPTLY TO OLD POST OFFICE, Allegheny Square West, Pittsburgh, 15212. For additional information call: 322-1204.

WILLIAM PENN PRINTS LANDMARK PLACEMATS

The William Penn Hotel recently accepted a proposal from PHLF for Landmark placemats for all of its restaurants. We prepared copy and art for the placemat which features the William Penn, the Old Post Office Museum, Trinity Cathedral, First Presbyterian Church, Allegheny County Court House and Jail, Fort Pitt Blockhouse, and the inclines. The hotel has printed 50,000 of them and began to use them on the day that we had our annual meeting there, March 24, 1974.

Major Grant for Old Post Office

Mrs. Fern Hetrick, Chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, joined by Mrs. Nathan Schwartz, representative on the Commission from Pittsburgh, presented our organization with a check in the amount of \$58,281. to be utilized by the Old Post Office Museum acquisition and restoration fund. The grant money comes from the Department of the Interior of the Federal Government upon the recommendation of the state commission.

The Old Post Office Museum was established by PHLF in the Allegheny Post Office in spite of efforts by the Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh to demolish the building. It now functions as a local historical museum and community cultural center.

In presenting the grant, the members of the commission noted that the Landmarks Foundation had raised over \$750,000 toward this project. PHLF campaigned for over a year to change the renewal plan to allow for the preservation of the building. Then they worked another year to raise funds to acquire and restore it. Total cost of acquisition was \$117,000.

William J. Wewer, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, assisted PHLF in obtaining the money from the Federal Government. He added the Post Office to the priority list in the master historic preservation plan for

Pennsylvania and submitted it for funding to the Federal Government.

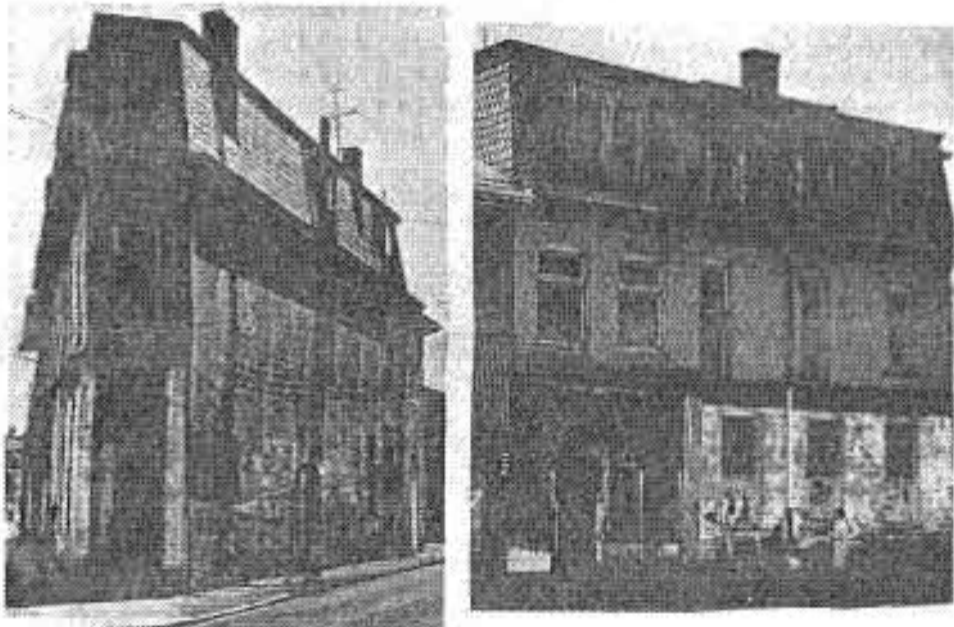
"We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Schwartz, who acted on our behalf with the State Commission," said Charles Covert Arensberg, Chairman. "Mrs. Hetrick and Bill Wewer gave us constant help in moving this application along, and we are grateful to all concerned."

Arthur Ziegler, President of the Foundation, said, "We worked for this grant from 1968 to 1973. First we attempted to obtain the building at no charge from the Urban Redevelopment Authority and when that failed we tried to have a bill introduced in Congress to grant the building to us. That didn't work because federal ownership had already been transferred to the Pittsburgh Redevelopment Authority.

We dropped that and attempted then to obtain a grant under the Federal Legacy of Parks program, but it was suspended by President Nixon last year. Finally through the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission we were able to obtain this grant from the Department of the Interior.

This grant is the largest that PHLF has received from any government agency in its ten year existence.

PHLF to Acquire Flatiron Building in Sewickley



We are pleased to announce that we have signed a sales agreement to acquire the Flatiron building on Beaver Road and Division Street in Sewickley. The building dates from c. 1890 and has only been used for storage for some years.

Because of its near-triangular shape and because the exterior has suffered little change through the years, this building is unique in the Sewickley business district. It is brick, three stories with a slate shingle mansard roof, and has first floor entrances on two sides and at its apex. The upper stories were originally used for apartments and at one time the first floor was an ice cream parlor.

Two years ago in conjunction with the Little Garden Club of Sewickley, the Sewickley Board of Trade, and the Sewickley Planning Commission, PHLF launched a program designed to restore and improve the Sewickley business district. Design studies for moderate restoration work together with improvements of graphics and landscaping were carried out by the PHLF staff for each building in the business area and currently some of the recommendations are being put into use.

The forlorn Flatiron building had remained a critical problem because of its prominence in the area. Various people looked into restoring the building, but no one was able to commit himself to a full restoration.

FOR SALE - Crafton Home. Three Bedroom. Stone. Built 1870. Perfect condition. Delightful. 922-7559.

A group of local residents of Sewickley has urged PHLF to accept the project of acquiring, restoring, and managing the building. The committee has agreed to serve as a local fund raising group.

Anticipated costs will be approximately \$65,000 of which approximately \$25,000 will be covered by a mortgage, leaving a fund raising goal of \$40,000. To date \$16,000 has already been raised. If you wish to consider making a gift to help save the Flatiron building, simply send a check to the PHLF office marked "Flatiron".

PHLF's plans for the building include creating office space on the first floor for the Sewickley Valley Herald, a community exhibition window, an outdoor community bulletin board, and one apartment on each of the upper two floors.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| April 19 | Lecture-Demonstration by members of Pennsylvania Ballet Company
Co-ordinated by Pgh. Dance Council
Hosted by: Allegheny Campus Community College and North Central YMCA
Old Post Office - 8:00 p.m.-Public is invited. |
| April 26-28 | 3rd Annual SIA Conference |
| April 27 | Gateway Partyliner Dinner, Tour, and Lecture 6:30 p.m. |
| May 12 | Concert at the Old Post Office 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. by a group of students from Carnegie-Mellon University. Concert is free with admission to Museum. |
| May 24-
June 8 | Charter Tour to London |
| June 22 | "He Ain't Done Right by Nell"
A turn-of-the-century melodrama to be presented at the Old Post Office as a fund-raising project of the Volunteers...Barber Shop Quartet...Much More... |
| June 30 | Mexican War Streets House Tour 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This year's tour will include 20 houses (most of which have not been included on previous tours) An added feature will be a walking tour of the area, and narration by Mr. Van Trump. We are also planning for some craft exhibits in some of the empty buildings in the area. |

Allegheny County Court House Saved PHLF Triumphs

Recently we completed an analysis of the space needs for Allegheny County administrative and court facilities through 1987. Our findings were published in Newsletter No. 47, dated Dec. 1973.

The results of our studies caused us to believe that a bill in the State Legislature that would have provided funds to erect a new "Hall of Justice" to replace the Allegheny County Court House was unwise. Instead, we proposed that all non-court related offices be removed from the Court House and the City-County building and that all the courts and court-related offices be installed in these buildings. Then all other county offices should be placed under one roof nearby. We believe that our plan would save county taxpayers about eighty million dollars over the "Hall of Justice" plan.

We are pleased to report that the state House has defeated this bill and our Court House is safe once again.

Organizational Structure of PHLF Changed

Recently the National Trust for Historic Preservation conducted a year-long study that resulted in a new set of by-laws for the National Trust that in turn can be adopted with appropriate minor changes by preservation groups throughout the United States.

Our staff conducted a review of these by-laws, and recommended that the National Trust by-laws be adopted with only minor changes in place of our own.

The new by-laws actually make no substantive changes in the methods of operation or the allocation of responsibilities within our organization. They do call for the following changes:

1. Changing the title of Board of Directors to Board of Trustees and the title of President to Chairman and Vice Presidents to Vice Chairmen.
2. Changing the title of Executive Director to that of President.
3. Enables the organization to appoint neighborhood advisory committees for neighborhoods in which we are working.
4. Assures that we are in conformity with the provisions of the 1969 Tax Reform Act.

On February 28th the executive committee adopted the new by-laws unanimously and on March 24th the Board of Directors accepted the executive committee's report. Therefore, our Board of Directors is now known as the Board of Trustees, Mr. Arensberg is Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Ziebler is President. The annual meeting will continue to be held at the same time of year and all terms for all officers remain the same.

City Zoning Support

We have recently received word from James P. Brown, Zoning Administrator, that because of City Ordinance No. 72 seven more landmarks have been designated as Districts of Historic and Landmark Significance:

Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Station
Byers-Lyons House
B.F. Jones, Jr. House
William Penn Snyder House
Allegheny Library
Monongahela Incline
Old Heidelberg Apartments

This action was approved by City Council and signed by the Mayor on March 15. It gives the landmarks six months protection against demolition or alteration of their exteriors.

National Endowment for the Arts Funds Adaptive Use Study for B&O Stores Building Findings Negative

In March 1973 the National Endowment for the Arts made available a grant of \$3,800 to PHLF on a matching basis for a confidential feasibility study of adapting the huge B&O Warehouse Stores Building on the North Side to residential and commercial uses. The structure is located between Isabella Street and River Road paralleling the northern shore of the Allegheny River between 7th and 9th Street bridges.

The building was erected in two stages, the first, a steel frame structure (1913) and the second, a reinforced concrete five stories (1917). The building is not of great architectural quality but rather is an interesting early example of reinforced concrete construction and a unique example of a reinforced concrete addition imposed over an original structural steel building. It has classical detailing applied over a purely engineered structure.

We had hoped to develop 127 apartment units in the building, a floor of shops and restaurants overlooking the river, and relate the building to the riverfront and the marina. Part of the project called for the relocation of the proposed four-lane River Road, which PennDOT subsequently did reroute.

Unfortunately a year of studies has resulted in the recommendation that no acquisition be planned by PHLF. The primary reasons for this negative recommendation are the size of the building and its structural system. An irregular hexagon, the building at its narrowest point is 50 feet wide, and at its widest point is 100 feet wide. 75 per cent of the building is simply too wide for apartment use even with a central hallway 10 feet wide and balconies set within the structural face of the building.

The bearing system of the building consists solely of its internal columns; no weight bears on the walls. The walls are reinforced concrete, however, and large sections must be removed in order to admit light to the apartments and to permit the development of recessed balconies. The depth of the building and the columns restrict the possibility of alternate apartment layout as well. Construction costs therefore are high, averaging about 25% higher than the most recent new construction of apartments in Allegheny Center. Projected rental rates based on an equitable return would have run 33% higher than competitive units.

PHLF continued to investigate possibilities of alternate uses of the building but to date no feasible alternatives including condominiums, office space and other commercial space have proved feasible.

The study of the B&O was conducted by our staff with consulting assistance from J. Fred Triggs Associates, Architects and Engineers; Navarro, Inc. and Oliver Realty, Inc.

NEEDED...

VOLUNTEERS to help with the fund-raising night June 22. Help will be needed for the refreshment sale; ticket selling and taking; awarding of prizes; setting up and clearing of chairs, and many other duties.

VOLUNTEERS to help with the Mexican War Streets House Tour. Help will be needed for guides, information, etc. The date is June 30, 11 - 4:30.

I (WE) will be willing to help with:

___ Fund-Raising Event, June 22

___ Mexican War Streets House Tour, June 30

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

Please clip and mail to Carolyn Emerick, Old Post Office, Allegheny Square West, Pittsburgh, 15212.

ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL REGISTER



The Union Trust Building at 435 Grant Street has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built as the Union Arcade in 1915-16 by Henry Clay Frick, who had bought the site from the Roman Catholic Diocese, which had located St. Paul's R.C. Cathedral there from 1828-1903, it was originally erected as an arcade building of four floors with office suites on the floors above.

The style of the building is that of late North French and Flemish Gothic of the 15th century. The interior with its superb central rotunda rising through eleven stories is perhaps the finest interior space in the city.

In 1923 the building was bought by the Union Trust Company and the first four floors of the Fifth Avenue side were remodeled after the designs of Graham, Anderson, Probst and White of Chicago, the successors to D.A. Burnham.



Also placed on the National Register of Historic Places was the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Station on Smithfield Street at Carson Street. The building is the best preserved of the existing large Pittsburgh railway stations and it is a combination of the terminal head-house type station with through tracks on one side toward the river. Designed in 1898 by William George Burns, the building was completed in 1901. On the interior the great waiting room is undoubtedly, after the foyer of the Carnegie Music Hall, the finest Edwardian interior space extant in Pittsburgh.

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of distinction identifying for the people those properties worthy of preservation for their historic value. It is the official schedule of the nation's cultural property that is worth saving.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1974

Views of Mt. Washington

THE scaling down of a proposed Mt. Washington condominium at Grandview and Shinn to 14 stories from 19 should pave the way for council approval. Council Wednesday deferred final action for a week until the new plan could be studied.

The Grandview-Shinn project is one of two high-quality Mt. Washington housing facilities in the mill at City Hall. The other is 1500 Grandview, dubbed the upside-down apartment house because it will have three stories in the air but nine down the sides of the cliff. Necessary zoning changes were approved by the Planning Commission and council. A building permit was granted on the basis of geological studies. The permit grant now is before the board of adjustment on a protest appeal from adjoining residents.

Both projects demonstrate the advantages and hazards of Mt. Washington as a site for luxury housing. They are two of three sites listed in a Planning Commission study of 1971 as suitable for development. The third, an apartment building to enclose the upper end of the Duquesne Incline, just cut because of community protests, particularly on questions of public access to a private building.

Without question the incomparable view of the Golden Triangle from Mt. Washington makes the giant cliff on the south side of the Monongahela a prime location for luxury housing — one of the choicest in the United States.

For a city hoping to attract high income citizens back to the city — or to persuade them against leaving — this consideration is vital.

But there are two counter-arguments. One comes from the community which resists seeing its view cut and also fears the parking and traffic problems a high-rise can cause. This is no mean consideration in a congested area with narrow streets and few alternate routes.

The second counter-argument is that of aesthetics. Pittsburgh's downtown is one of the few in the country in which from almost any street one can glimpse green. To cover this great natural asset of cliff and skyline with buildings to make it another Miami Beach, would be foolish. That's a major reason why the scaling down of the Grandview-Shinn project by five stories, cutting the height to 184 from 234 feet, is an improvement.

The answer is not to swing all one way or the other, however. The city must make a considered judgment, keeping all factors in balance.

Luxury housing of the type planned for the two projects is essential to a healthy Pittsburgh. The Grandview-Shinn project would provide 48 \$20,000 condominium units. The 1500 Grandview project would have 75 apartment units.

It is significant that the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) has not protested the two projects, as it did the Duquesne Incline housing proposal. The PHLF, concerned as it is with aesthetic matters, also recognizes the other needs of a great city, such as housing to attract high income families.

PHLF officials, however, suggest that vigilance should be exercised against "too much of a good thing"; that is, too many such projects along Mt. Washington. Further, they suggest studies be made of other prime cliff and hilltop locations around Pittsburgh property to utilize them for housing with vista opportunities.

On March 10, 1973, we said editorially, "What, then, is needed is the enacting of a policy which would safeguard the natural asset of Pittsburgh's skyline — especially along the rivers — and still make possible luxury towers. Sitting to blend with the terrain plus height restrictions would be key elements."

We still subscribe to this philosophy and see the two Mt. Washington projects falling within it.

PHLF SUMMER TOURS 1974

Plans are underway for the following tours:

Walking Tour - Allegheny West	May 19
House Tour - Mexican War Streets	June 30
Bus Tour to Bedford Springs	July 19-21
Bus Tour to PHLF Properties	Sept. 7
Bus Tour to Washington County for The Covered Bridge Tour	Sept. 21

RESERVE THESE DATES AND MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!

I (WE) would like to register for the Walking Tour of Allegheny West, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. The cost of the tour is \$1.00 for PHLF members, and \$2.50 for non-members. Deadline is May 15.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Please clip and mail to PHLF, Old Post Office, Allegheny Square West, Pittsburgh, Penna. 15212.

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."