

PH LF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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731 Wisteria Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228

DOWNTOWN SURVEY COMPLETED FOR ALLEGHENY CONFERENCE AND CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One of the most intensive surveys of urban architecture in the United States has just been completed by our organization under contract with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, through grant funds from the Hillman Foundation. The results have been forwarded both to the Allegheny Conference and to the Department of City Planning.

The survey consisted of reviewing every building erected before 1930 still extant in downtown Pittsburgh, a total of 480 structures. Each building received a letter grade ranging from "A" to "E" for its architectural significance, the architect, date, style, and general condition were listed as well as building materials and number of stories and whether the building had been mutilated at street level. Each analysis concludes with an architectural and historical description.

The findings show the following:

- 92 "A" buildings of exceptional quality
- 91 "B" buildings which should be retained if possible
- 138 "C" buildings of modest architectural quality
- 135 "D" buildings of no architectural quality
- 24 "E" buildings that are expendable

In addition we defined those areas where groups of buildings constitute a special kind of environment as follows:

- "A" - 11 environments
- "B" - 5 environments
- "C" - 2 environments

In addition we prepared a series of recommendations regarding the preservation of historic buildings downtown. These include recommendations for legislation, private development, and design studies to show how buildings that have been mutilated with refacing at street level could be feasibly restored.

NEW DEVELOPMENT WELCOME

Our report also notes that "We believe that there is ample room for new development downtown without disturbing the delightful qualities of many of our buildings in that area, and that the retention of our architecturally significant buildings and environments need not be an impediment to new development. However, our study does show that new development should occur with sensitivity to the existing fabric of downtown and that much more care should be taken in the design, location, and relationship between new buildings and old so that environments are enhanced and new ones created that are pleasing and support the attractiveness of downtown. It is hard to find a single instance where new development has shown any sen-

sitivity to the existing architectural character of surrounding areas. In fact, the only place that new development has enhanced old buildings is Mellon Square."

RECYCLING

The report goes on to point out: "We would also note that a number of downtown buildings have been or are now being recycled for new uses with considerable sensitivity including the Keenan Building, the May Building, and the Roosevelt Hotel. Much more exploration needs be made of the possibility of adaptive use of these older buildings. For example, we believe that portions of the buildings on Market Street could be used for loft type apartments or other interesting office spaces."

The study which fills six volumes, is available for inspection at our offices. We hope that in due course funds might be found to publish it.

News from the Old Post Office Gift Shop



The fall emphasis in the Old Post Office Gift Shop is PITTSBURGH. We have many new items in the shop featuring the Old Post Office and high lights of the City of Pittsburgh. Start your Christmas shopping early!

OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

- Landmark Limited Edition Plate.....\$10.00
- Old Post Office Pewter Plate.....\$13.00
- Old Post Office T-Shirts.....adult...\$ 3.49
- child...\$ 2.79
- Old Post Office Playing cards.2.50 and \$5.00

BICENTENNIAL

- Platter.....\$ 5.95
- Pins.....\$ 2.00

PITTSBURGH SCENES

- Pgh. Someplace Special Ashtray.....\$ 4.50
- Pgh. Someplace Special Mugs....4.95 and \$6.95
- Pittsburgh Placemats..... ea. 1.50
- Colored photos of Pittsburgh.....\$ 4.00

NEW PUBLICATION

- "The Gothic Revived In Pittsburgh: \$ 1.00
- A Medievalistic Excursion"...J.D. Van Trump

Wrecking Ball In the Future Of St. Boniface

MAYOR TRIED TO SAVE IT

After five years of efforts on the part of PHLF and other people St. Boniface Church is still scheduled for demolition.

This large church in the East Street Valley was designed by A. F. Link in the Romanesque Byzantine style and built in 1925-26; its walls are limestone. Of greatest interest is the fact that the dome and all interior vaulting was done in the Guastavino tile system. The church also has a rich tile floor with liturgical designs and handsome stained glass.

Five years ago we began working with the parishioners and Father Ambrose to save the church which was then scheduled for demolition for an eight lane expressway as part of the interstate system. However, it was fruitless until Mayor Flaherty took office and he then insisted that the church be saved and the road be redesigned.

One of our trustees, David Lewis, and his firm Urban Design Associates, was appointed by the City to redesign the road and they reduced it to a four lane parkway, preserving the church and building a plaza out over the road in front of the church, a majestic design. The then new Secretary of Highways, Jake Kassab, approved the design as did the citizens in the East Street Valley. It looked as if St. Boniface would be saved.

But then Bishop Leonard of the Roman Catholic diocese insisted that the church needed the nearly two million dollars that PennDOT was to pay for the St. Boniface property and that with the demolition of the neighborhood, too few parishioners would remain to continue the church. The parishioners themselves disagreed and asked PHLF to mark the building with a plaque and submit it to the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission as a candidate structure for the National Register, both of which we did.

But alas, on May 25 Bishop Leonard notified the parishioners that the plans to save the church have been rejected by the Roman Catholic diocese and the church is to be demolished. One hope remains: perhaps another group would wish to use the building. If PennDOT continues with the plan formulated by UDA, the church will be available as surplus property. Anyone interested in the building should contact PHLF of PennDOT.

The Grand Opening of the New Allentown

Sunday, June 22 marked the opening of the Allentown Neighborhood Exhibit prepared by the Hilltop Civic Improvement Association as part of PHLF's Neighborhood Exhibits Program. A special reception attracted throngs of Allentowners who came to see the pictorial description of their neighborhood.

Highlights of the day's events included a kick-off parade and a spectacular ride on the Allentown trolley. The trolley ride was courtesy of the Port Authority.

The exhibit remained open for one month staffed by the Hilltop Civic Association. By the end of the month the storefront in which the exhibit was located, long vacant, had been rented.

A publication entitled "The Grand Opening of the New Allentown" was presented to the community.

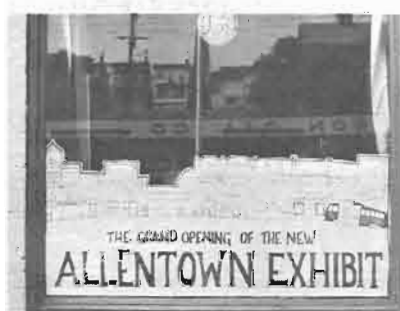
The booklet describes the history of this unique hilltop community and sets forth a plan for action in the coming year. It is a new PHLF publication and is available for purchase in the Gift Shop of the Old Post Office for \$.75; or by mail using the coupon below:

Please send _____ copies of "The Grand Opening of the New Allentown" @ \$.75 per copy.

I have enclosed \$.25 for postage and handling.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



Lightning and Preservation



Some preservation victories are only provisional, as witness the Foundation's recent rescue of the Clark factory chimney. Early this summer it was struck by lightning and badly damaged because it was not properly grounded. The resulting demolition of the tall stack robbed the Northside landscape of one of its salient landmarks, and one that we had persuaded the Clark Company to save only a few months before.

We are reminded that the dome of the Old Post Office was struck by lightning during an autumn storm in 1973. However, little damage was done and lightning protection has since been installed. Not so fortunate was the Administration Building of Duquesne University, a prominent old landmark of downtown Pittsburgh, which was hit during a violent thunderstorm on 3 July, this summer. Perched high on a bluff overlooking the City, the structure was protected by a grounding system. However, the fire from heaven can be capricious, and as a result the roof and top floor burned in a spectacular fire.

All local preservationists were fearful that the "Zebra of the Bluff", the handsome, high, striped building, constructed in 1883-84 after the designs of the local architect William Kauffmann, would be demolished. However, the insurance on the building will carry the cost of restoration and the University wisely decided to reconstruct the roof and top floor of what has become the architectural symbol of the University. We at PHLF commend the action of the Duquesne administration in thus preserving a Victorian building important to Pittsburgh.

Recent Artifact Retrieval . . . The Work Goes On

Three of the most interesting Victorian buildings on East Ohio Street on Northside have recently been demolished as part of the East Street Expressway project and PHLF has retrieved a large assortment of stone and metal ornaments from the buildings. The various urns, window hoods, and cornice ornaments are now on exhibit in the Garden Court.

In addition, the PHLF work crew has been retrieving a number of dormers, porches, and shopfronts from buildings being demolished in Manchester.



The pressed tin faced gable of the Lawrenceville Fire House is unloaded by the PHLF work crew in the Garden Court of the Old Post Office Museum. The gable as well as other items were donated to PHLF by the City of Pittsburgh when the c.1900 fire house was razed recently.



The 1885 section of the Conroy School in Manchester was recently demolished by the School Board, but artifacts from the building were made available to PHLF. The demolition contractor loaded the handsome stone entranceway piece by piece onto PHLF trucks which transported it to the Old Post Office Museum.

PHLF is now working with the School Board to review obsolescent schools for possible adaptive use or, if no use can be found, for historical artifact retrieval.



The PHLF work crew under the direction of Warren Schweitzer (upper right) restores the wooden front porch of 404 W. North Avenue in the Mexican War Streets. The porch floor had pulled away from the building and had to be pushed back and anchored into place.



Pictured here the Flatiron Building Committee stands in front of the entrance to the Sewickley Herald which moved into the restored first floor of this unique Victorian building in Sewickley. Left to Right: Mrs. Nathan Pearson, chairwoman; Mrs. B. F. Jones, III; Mrs. Charles Ramsburg; Mrs. Betty Shields, The Herald editor; William Vezendy, contractor; and Miss Margaret Holdship. The exterior and first floor have been completely restored with funds raised by the Committee, and work is to begin shortly on the second and third floors with mortgage money provided by First Federal Savings & Loan Association.

Staff Changes Announced

As PHLF has grown and our work has broadened, it has been necessary to add more persons to our staff as well as change the job descriptions from time to time for our existing staff. To keep you informed and help you to know to whom to direct your inquiries we felt we should bring you up to date on the PHLF Staff Organization as of September 1, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

President: Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.
Office Manager: Carolyn Emerick
Bursar: Minnie Portnoy
Assistant to the Bursar: David Speer
Administrative Assistant: Gregory Weidner
Secretary and Receptionist: Vicki Acklin

PROGRAM STAFF

History

James D. Van Trump, Architectural Historian & Director of Research

Membership Development and Services (includes newsletter, tours and events, volunteer development), Museum Rental & Museum Management

Carolyn Emerick, Assistant for Membership Development & Services & Museum Rental & Management

Mary Wohleber, Gift Shop
William Franz, Security
June Robinson, Custodian
Everett Shaeffer, Rental properties custodian

Design, (includes restoration planning and execution, exhibitions contents and design, graphic design, landscape design, relations with design community)

Ellis Schmidlapp, Restorationist
Gregory Weidner, Archivist
Thomas Stevenson, Graphics Design and general design assistant
Edward Unterman, Staff Assistant

Community Relations & Development, (includes neighborhood programs, museum development programs. For all events for members & non-members this office works with that of membership services), Property Rental

Ellin Malone, Assistant for Community Relations and Development Programs
Edward Unterman, Staff Assistant

Physical Construction and Maintenance (includes all properties)

Warren Schweitzer, Supervisor of Restoration and Maintenance
Anthony Vennare, Carpenter
Frank Vennare, Carpenter

Bicentennial

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., Chairman, Pittsburgh Bicentennial Comm.
Patricia Wylie, Executive Secretary
Anita Berardi, Assistant for Public Relations and Programs

Special Projects

Nancy Flaherty, Assistant for Special Projects

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October	10-13	PHLF Bicentennial Tour to Boston
October	14	Gallery Lecture 1:00 p.m. Old Post Office Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.
October	21	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OPD J. Judson Brooks
October	28	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OPD James D. Van Trump
November	4	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OPD Mary Wohleber
November	11	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OPD Ellis Schmidlapp
November	18	Gallery Lecture 1:00 OPD Mrs. J.G. Marks, Mrs. J.B. Sutton
December	7	PHLF Victorian Christmas Party

ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL REGISTER

During the past eight months a number of structures in Allegheny County have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's catalogue of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites. Placement on the National Register ensures that these structures cannot readily be demolished or adversely affected by any project involving the use of federal funds, and qualifies the building for federal historic preservation grants.

The recent entries are as follows:

ALLEGHENY LIBRARY - located in Allegheny Center, this building was constructed of stone in the Richardsonian Romanesque style in 1889. It is the first Carnegie Library commissioned in the United States.

BYERS-LYONS HOUSE - Ridge Avenue, Northside. A double house of brick and brownstone constructed in 1898, this is one of the few surviving millionaire houses of Ridge Avenue.

DUQUESNE INCLINE - Scaling Mount Washington, this incline is the best preserved of Pittsburgh's only two remaining inclines. It was constructed in 1877 and rebuilt in 1888.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH - North and Allegheny Avenues, Northside. Designed by the great American architect, Henry Hobson Richardson and built 1885-86 this is considered to be one of his best later works.

ERKMAN-MUSE HOUSE - Third Street, McKeesport. Built in two sections this early western Pennsylvania vernacular stone house is one of the few surviving buildings in the McKeesport area dating from the 1820's.

EVERGREEN HAMLET - Four of the five original houses remain in this mid-nineteenth century communal experiment in suburban living. The community in Ross Township was founded in 1851 and all of the houses are excellent examples of the eclectic vernacular housing style of that time.

GARDNER-BAILY HOUSE - W. Swissvale Avenue, Edgewood Borough. This is one of the last surviving mid-Victorian frame houses in the Pittsburgh area. It was built in 1864.

HEATHSIDE COTTAGE - Built c. 1855-60, and located in Fineview this is an exceptionally rare Gothic Revival cottage made of brick with stone trim and a slate roof.

MAIN BUILD, U.S. BUREAU of MINES - Forbes Avenue, Oakland. Designed by Henry Hornbostel and built 1904-1913, this building represents a marriage of the neo-Renaissance tradition and the demands of new technology.

MILLER HOMESTEAD - South Park. A good example of the Western Pennsylvania Vernacular Stone House, this building was built around 1808 and figured in the Whiskey Rebellion.

MONONGAHELA INCLINE - Chartered in 1867, this was Pittsburgh's first incline. Its success led to the construction of 16 additional inclines, only two of which survive today.

SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST UKRANIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - Built in 1895, the turquoise Byzantine domes of this church dominate the skyline of the South Side.

SHADYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Located on Amberson Avenue in Shadyside, this Romanesque church was designed by Shepley, Rutan, & Coolidge (H.H. Richardson's successors) in 1889-90.

JOHN F. SINGER HOUSE - Wilksburg. This is probably the largest and grandest surviving example of the medievalistic "Gothic" manor house of the mid-nineteenth century in the Pittsburgh area.

SMITHFIELD STREET BRIDGE - Designed in 1883 by Gustave Lindenthal, this double lenticular truss is Pittsburgh's oldest extant bridge.

SOLDIERS and SAILORS MEMORIAL HALL - The mausoleum of Halicarnassus was used as the architectural inspiration for this building by Palmer and Hornbostel in 1907-11.

* * * * *

SPECIAL ENTRY

* On June 3, the City of Pittsburgh was notified *
* that the Mexican War Streets Historic District *
* has been placed on the National Register of His- *
* toric Places. The district was recognized for *
* its variety of later 19th century domestic ar- *
* chitecture and homogeneity of scale as well as *
* its being a pioneer effort in historic preser- *
* vation for all income levels. The Mexican War *
* Streets thus becomes the first District in *
* Western Pennsylvania to be placed on the Nation- *
* al Register and one of a very few Districts in *
* the nation to be so designated. *
* * * * *

TOURS

The PHLF Bicentennial Tour to Boston, October 10-13, 1975 at this time is more than half full, and promises to be a most interesting and enjoyable weekend in New England. If you are thinking about going, do not risk being disappointed. . . send in your completed reservation request now! Lots of things have been happening and events have been planned for special hospitality combined with the well-known Fall Foliage time will make the trip a great experience. Below is a list of included events:

- Accommodation at the traditional Copley Plaza Hotel
- Round trip air via Allegheny Airlines jet flights
- "dinner" at Durgin Parks Restaurant, Faneuil Hall Market area
- Special reception at Museum of Fine art & viewing of Revere Silver Exhibit
- Tour and lunch at Wayside Inn, Sudbury
- Visits to Concord and Lexington
- All-day outing to Sturbridge Village
- Walking tour to many Freedom Trail highlights and newly developed areas
- Fully escorted tour program with planned local lectures
- Exclusive motorcoach for all drives and transfers
- Three continental breakfasts

COMPLETE TOUR RATES ARE:

\$97.50 for children under 14 years, sharing same or adjoining room with parents
 \$130.00 per person for adults, sharing twin bedded accommodation
 \$47.00 for single supplement
 PLUS: \$76.73 per person for round trip group airfare via Allegheny Airlines (return may be via any Boston/Pittsburgh Allegheny flight and group airfare may be purchased independently from tour program)

To be sure of your reserved place...on this Fall Weekend in Boston, complete and mail application below together with your deposit of \$25.00 to:
 Mrs. Betty Schloss, Ponzio Travel, 535 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219
 telephone - 471-7800

Please Note: reservations are limited to one motorcoach and acceptances are on a first come, first serve basis. Brochure mailed on request.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 NAMES OF PERSONS ACCOMPANYING ME (Indicate children under 14) _____

Deposit enclosed \$ _____ Check items required: _____ Airfare & Tour Program, Oct. 10-13, 1975 for adults; _____ for children.

_____ airfare only to Boston and return, \$76.73 per person
 _____ single supplement, \$47.00 additional per person

GALLERY LECTURE SERIES

The PHLF Fall Lecture Series for 1975 will feature a variety of subjects about the Pittsburgh area. The lectures will be given at 1:00 p.m. on six consecutive Tuesdays at the Old Post Office Museum, beginning October 14, 1975.

The cost of the series of six lectures to PHLF members is \$10. or \$2.00 for separate lectures. The cost to non-members is \$15. for the series, or \$3.00 for separate lectures. You may pre-register using the form below or you may register at 12:30 on the days of the lectures.

The schedule of lectures will be:

- October 14 Residential Architectural Styles in Western Pennsylvania.....Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.
- October 21 History & Architecture of Sewickley
.....J. Judson Brooks
- October 28 Pittsburgh River Bridges of the 19th Century
.....James D. Van Trump
- November 4 Pittsburgh's North Side
.....Mary Wohleber
- November 11 Landscape Planning of the Garden Court
.....Ellis Schmidlapp
- November 18 Phipps Conservatory
...Mrs. James G. Marks & Mrs. John B. Sutton

Please register me for the series of Fall Lectures 1975.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

_____ I am a member of PHLF and have enclosed my check for \$10.

_____ I am not a member of PHLF and have enclosed my check for \$15.

NEEDED...

Recently we acquired the great Neville House on Route 50 between Heidelberg and Bridgeville. On the property of 3 acres is a small cottage of two rooms and bath. A portion of the basement could be converted to a kitchen and dining room. We need someone to live in the house, maintain the lawn, and open the Neville House from 1-5 p.m. Sundays and by appointment. The caretaker will need to install his own kitchen, maintain his cottage, pay his own utilities, and pay PHLF \$120 per year toward taxes. Call Mrs. Malone at 322-1204.

Exhibit News

Dental artifacts dating from the 19th century are on display at the Old Post Office from September 9 until September 22. The exhibit prepared by the National School of Health Technology includes 19th century dentures, gold plate dentures from the early 20th century, 18th century carved ivory dentures and large carved sperm whale teeth, all borrowed from the Smithsonian Institute.

David Lowry's architectural drawings of Pittsburgh continue on display at the Old Post Office until October 13th in the Basement Gallery.

The Old Post Office Museum's fall exhibits are being selected from the community submissions this week and will be on display in mid October.



Old Honesty Soap was manufactured in Spring Garden from 1890 to 1970. Now the Falck family who owned and operated the soap factory has given the brightly painted pony-drawn soap wagon which peddled Old Honesty Soap through the streets of the City, to the Old Post Office Museum on a one year loan. In addition they have donated to the Museum a number of photographs and other memorabilia of this Pittsburgh enterprise.

Cram Drawing Donated to Museum

The plans used for the construction of Calvary Episcopal Church in East Liberty in 1906-07 have been donated to the Old Post Office Museum. The church was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, one of the leading architects of the time in a chaste, handsome rendition of the early English Gothic style. PHLF is appreciative of this donation, and thanks the Rev. John Baiz and the vestry of Calvary Church.

Additional Gifts to the Garden Court

We have received a signature stone from Osceola School as the gift of Mrs. William F. Allison.

In addition to the other gifts to the garden court, a number of garden clubs have contributed plants and energy to various areas of the court. The Kindergarten Club has planted spring bulbs in the Robert Baur Green Garden; the Rockledge Garden Club has recently planted a variety of summer flowers in the Permanent Artifact Area and Wisteria along the iron fence; and the Edgewood Garden Club has planted marigolds and iris along the arc behind the Fourth Avenue Stone Maidens. Many thanks for these gifts and hard work.

RECENTLY RECEIVED

Many thanks to the following members and friends who have donated artifacts for use in the Old Post Office Museum.

Allegheny High School
 Mrs. John H. Allison, Jr.
 Letitia Brown Mahaffey Andree
 Rev. John Baiz
 Sister M. Carolyn
 Mr. Douglas Chambers, Pittsburgh National Bank
 Glen Currie
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Deganhart
 Raymond Fisher
 Fox Chapel Boro
 Clarence Gerst
 Ms. Mae M. Gleich
 Mrs. Hope Goldstein
 Mrs. Robert M. Grace
 Terry Gouchnour
 Mrs. Mary M. Taylor Guckert
 Mrs. F. Ralph Hageman
 Henry Hegerle
 Mrs. Antoinette Heiskell
 Ms. Marian Hess
 Albert J. Hickel
 Col. Max J. Janairo, Jr.
 Mrs. C. Christy Jones
 R. T. Kintzing
 Mrs. Joseph Kissaine
 Mrs. Hazel Kramer
 Mrs. Justina Lang
 Mrs. J. H. F. Leonard
 Richard Linden
 Lyn Margolis
 Ms. Ruth Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. George Nama
 Mrs. Hugh G. Nevin
 Edward Nied
 Mrs. Leonard Porgorzelski
 Port Authority Transit of Allegheny County
 Mrs. C. J. Ramsburg
 Mrs. Marion Reese
 Mrs. Alice Roberts
 Charles Samaha
 Ms. R. W. Scott
 Mrs. Ethel Sosinski
 Wayne Stan
 Miss Annie Swan
 Homer Spinnenwever
 Pittsburgh Postal Service; Mr. Fisher, Mr. Kraf
 Hugh E. Weber

Thanks also to the Hunt Foundation for their recent gift of \$250.

With thanks

We were pleased recently to read an article in the Washington Post by the famous architectural critic Wolf von Eckardt called "Rational Recycling of Urban Landscapes" (August 30, 1975). In the article he says: "The most intelligent effort of this kind may be that of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation." He goes on to describe some of the programs that we have developed and quotes our president as follows: 'The people of the neighborhood must get together,' says Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. 'draw up their own specific plan and go to the city government and say: Serve us. Don't tell us.'

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

(Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individualfrom \$10.00
 Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00
 Familyfrom \$15.00
 Contributingfrom \$50.00
 Sustainingfrom \$100.00
 Patronfrom \$500.00
 Lifefrom \$1,000.00
 Organizations:
 Activefrom \$25.00
 Contributingfrom \$50.00
 Sustainingfrom \$100.00
 Patronfrom \$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."