

PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Old Post Office • Allegheny Square West • Pittsburgh, Pa. 152

PHONE 412/322-1204

NUMBER 60

APRIL 1976

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Pittsburgh, Pa.
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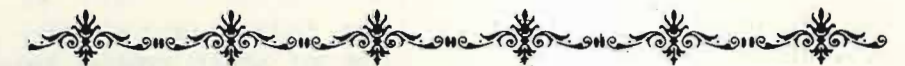
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NEVILLE HOUSE ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED



The house is very handsome with its great sloping roofs and wide trellised verandahs and it is extremely important architecturally. Its style is Virginian Vernacular and demonstrates the strong Virginian influence that existed here when Western Pennsylvania belonged to the colony of Virginia.

The Neville House Auxiliary has organized a fund raising campaign to restore the house and property. The house will be used as a museum of 18th century life and of the Whiskey Rebellion, and will also serve as a community center. The Auxiliary is seeking a large membership and will host a fund-raising fair at the house in September before the restoration begins. Membership is \$5. and contributions of any amount are tax deductible. Please send your check to PHLF at the Old Post Office Museum and mark it "for Woodville".



CARNEGIE PREMIERES AT OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

The American premiere of CARNEGIE by Scottish playwright Ian Brown will open May 7 in the Old Post Office Museum. Produced by Julia Swoyer and directed by Peter Grego, the play is being sponsored by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Pittsburgh Laboratory Theatre, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. James D. Van Trump will serve as dramaturg.

The play was first presented professionally in Edinburgh, Scotland in March of 1973. In addition to CARNEGIE'S historical significance for Pittsburgh, the play was most appropriately written by a descendant of the title character. Author Brown is expected to arrive in Pittsburgh for the occasion in late April and will be here opening night.

In accordance with CARNEGIE'S expressionistic style this production will not be turning the Museum into a theatre but will make use of the Museum as a space in itself. CARNEGIE is a character sketch in the form of a play. Andrew Carnegie tells the story of himself, his family, and his vision. He is also talked to and about as he -- with the help of partners, workers, mother, and wife -- re-enacts the building of his empire. CARNEGIE ought to capture the imagination and interest of any and all recipients of the Carnegie legacy -- whether in the form of a competitive will, a library card, or the gray residue on your windowsill.

CARNEGIE will run Tuesdays through Sundays from May 7 through May 19. Performances will begin at 8:30 p.m. with an admission charge of \$2.00 per ticket.

PHLF in conjunction with the newly formed Neville House Auxiliary has begun a campaign to raise \$50,000 to acquire and restore Woodville, the home of the Neville family for nearly 200 years and Allegheny County's most historic residence. The nation's 200th year is certainly the most appropriate time to focus attention on the house, which is sorely in need of restorative work. Located in Collier township on Route 50, Woodville was built c. 1780 by General John Neville, who lived there for about 8 years until he completed a second house nearby on Bower Hill. At that time Woodville passed to his son Col. Presley Neville.

In 1791 John Neville accepted the position as excise tax inspector for the Pittsburgh area and, by trying to collect the hated tax on whiskey, triggered the Whiskey Rebellion. On July 16, 1794, an angry mob attacked John Neville's mansion on Bower Hill and burned it. The Neville women and children were evacuated to Woodville and from there they watched Bower Hill burn. During the same summer Woodville was threatened and narrowly escaped the torch.

Woodville remained in the Neville family until Mrs. Joseph H. Faucet died in December, 1973. She had been a great great grandniece of John Neville, and her death ended the Nevilles' connection with the house that had continued for 193 years.

Through the generosity of the heirs, PHLF will be able to acquire Woodville for a greatly reduced cash cost of \$25,000. In addition to the main house there are four outbuildings. The property measures two acres. Currently, pending our fund-raising effort, the property is being held in trust for us.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

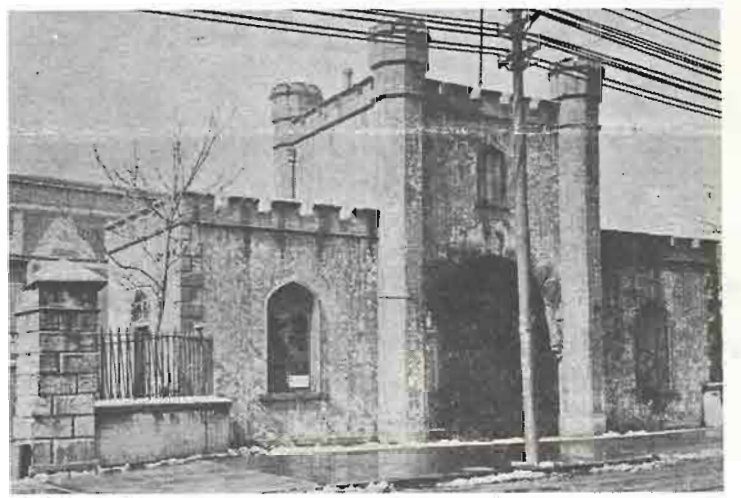
Ten or eleven years ago Mr. Van Trump and I drove to the Allegheny Arsenal property at 40th and Butler in Lawrenceville. We wanted to see the quarters where the citizens of Pittsburgh entertained General Lafayette at dinner in Pittsburgh in 1824. We entered the headquarters of a wholesale food concern which had leased the officers' quarters on the eastern side of the Arsenal. The run-down building still showed evidence of the fine hand of Benjamin Latrobe, the architect of the Capitol of the United States. The exterior, severe, in classic orders, relieved only by a delicate fan light over the door stood as it was. A graceful dome in the hall still let in light from the sky. Piles of food crates and boxes lined the halls. The owner of the food concern was not unsympathetic to the old building--he rented from the County and was proud of his quarters. We looked, marvelled at the importance of the building (if we conceive our history is important) and left. Outside on the stone wall surrounding the Arsenal, we admired the little window on the wall, adorned with a cast iron American eagle and bearing the rubric "Allegheny Arsenal US 1814". We left and returned to our desks.

A year or so later the building was demolished, a giant food store was constructed, the wall was removed for parking, and the little iron window disappeared.

One supermarket failed. Another now takes its place; nothing remains here to be seen of the Arsenal. Cars come and go from 40th Street and from Butler through the old gateway.

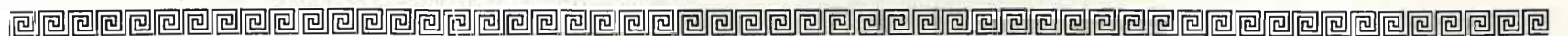
On the other side of the Arsenal, on 39th Street, the mutilated remains of one lone officers' quarters stands along the old stone wall. Here and there parts of the wall are punctured for entrance of trucks. Other parts are simply obliterated. Several other stone structures, probably machine shops, survive along the river bank. The powder magazine, a fascinating structure in itself, still survives, but in the park above the Arsenal. It too, however, shows a fine disregard for history by its neglect and misuse.

The greatest mystery of all in this lugubrious tale of systematic destruction of what could have been (and could be still if reconstructed) a major attraction for Pittsburghers and visitors is what happened to the Arsenal Gateway.



When this picture appeared in the paper the accompanying article stated that the County would raze the gateway, presented by a generous gesture of Howard Heinz to the County, and reconstruct it in the center of a 100 acre plot in South Park to be known as "Arsenal Grove". Thus the historic structure, long a feature of the Pittsburgh scene and occurring many a time on old City postcards, constructed during the War of 1812 by America's then most famous architect, saw the Mexican War, and the panic of pre Civil War days when President Buchanan ordered the transfer of its stores to the south. Pittsburgh citizens rose up en masse to stop the transfer. Next followed the tragic and mysterious explosion of 1862 which killed 78 persons.

The project never materialized for some occult reason, lost in some dusty file in the Commissioners' office -but according to Mr. Joseph Borkowski, a prominent and civic-minded Lawrencevillian the gate still lives. When the gate was demolished, the stones were numbered carefully against the planned reconstruction. When the reconstruction mysteriously failed, half of the stones were carted up to the powder magazine and there today you can see them built into a wall above the little pond. The other half the county buried beneath the parking lot of the supermarket so that they too could not be carted away. Who knows but someday some enterprising commissioners and some patriotic Pittsburgher will reconstitute the gateway and restore what's left of the Arsenal? Certainly no more fitting gesture for the Bicentennial could be conceived than at least a beginning of this task. The gate could be reconstructed on the original site with the original stones. The powder magazine could be used for a worthier purpose than a County storage bin, perhaps as an Arsenal museum. Do not Pittsburghers merit a worthier remembrance of their great nineteenth century history than now exists in these pitiful remains?



PHIPPS REPORT

CONSERVATORY CAMPAIGN RECEIVES MAJOR FOUNDATION AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT.

We were pleased to announce several weeks ago a \$15,000 grant from the Buhl Foundation for the restoration of Phipps Conservatory. The Landmarks Foundation will use this grant on a matching funds basis, on a dollar for dollar match with funds from private individuals, thus encouraging grass roots support in this great restoration effort.

The fund raising campaign for the restoration of Phipps Conservatory is now in its fifth successful month. Over the last four months, the members of the Ad hoc Committee chaired by Mrs. James H. Childs, Jr. have given over twenty slide lectures on Phipps Conservatory to garden clubs and civic organizations. The response has been excellent. Private individuals have contributed over \$16,000 and \$20,500 has been received in grants from the Pittsburgh Foundation, Hillman Foundation, and the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation.

The committee now seeks matching funds from private individuals to supplement the Buhl Foundation grant. All tax deductible donations should be marked "Phipps" and sent to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Old Post Office Museum, 1 Landmark Square, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212.

At the Conservatory, restoration work is progressing steadily. Several display houses have been

reglazed, wood sections of the houses have been replaced, primed, and painted with mildew resistant paints, the glass has been replaced in part of the Palm Court and in over half of the growing rooms, several new concrete benches have been installed throughout the Conservatory, new cypress wood growing tables have been constructed for the orchid collection, and a new storage building has been erected. Your help is still needed, however. The Ad hoc Committee has a goal of \$250,000 to be raised by 1977. These funds are needed to supplement the appropriations already committed by the City for full restoration of the Conservatory.

A special free slide lecture on the history, development, and current problems of Phipps Conservatory is available for groups by calling Patricia Wiley at Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 322-1204.



DO YOU HAVE 3 HOURS A WEEK?

--that you could spare, that is. We are in need of volunteers to work in our Gift Shop. Our workers find this job quite interesting because not only do they get to see the new merchandise coming in, but they have an opportunity to meet other volunteers, make friends, meet and work with our staff, and talk with the many folks who stop in the Shop to browse and buy.

The Shop operates in two shifts: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays; and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you have some time to spare each week and are interested in working in the Gift Shop, please call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204 to arrange for a period of orientation and a spot on our schedule.

OLD POST OFFICE EXHIBITS "GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE"



For a full month prior to the PHLF Christmas party, the main gallery of the Old Post Office Museum was the scene of building a major new exhibition. The Victorian House consists of four main rooms and an entranceway, complete with a horse-drawn taxi waiting outside. The house includes a large parlor, a study, a dining room, and a bedroom. The rooms were furnished from the museum's collection of Victorian furniture, and by loans from members. Chester LeMaistre lent several oriental rugs and Victorian chandeliers in addition to some fine furniture, and generously gave his time to help design the rooms. His associate, Richard Curran aided in arranging furniture and accessories according to Victorian tastes.

Building the exhibit required participation from nearly everyone on the PHLF staff, and the tasks ranged from wallpapering, painting, and wall-building to hanging pictures, laying rugs, and carrying furniture. PHLF volunteers assembled for one entire day to decorate the new exhibit for Christmas. In the process of rearranging the main gallery, a new toy museum was created on the third floor. It presently contains games and toy banks from the nineteenth century and over one hundred dolls from around the world. Although the individual toys will be changed from time to time, the Toy Museum will occupy the Third Floor Gallery permanently.

The Victorian House Exhibit will continue through spring of 1976. It will be replaced by a special Bicentennial exhibit for the remainder of 1976.

OLD PRINTS OF PITTSBURGH

They have appeared in the lower gallery, in halls, and in stairwells. Suddenly every square foot of hangable museum wall has been hung with old prints and lithographs of Pittsburgh. The prints comprise the museum's newly enlarged print collection, which was acquired largely from George and Siegrid Nama. At the moment it is being displayed almost in its entirety. The subject matter is varied, though mostly industrial, and the prints date from 1860 to 1910. Many of the prints appeared originally in Harper's Weekly and provide an excellent pictorial record of the floods and fires, blast furnaces, barges, and yes, even pastoral scenes of the area in its early days. The prints will be on exhibit through 1976.

MAYOR DONATES BOOKS TO PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS

We are pleased to note a gift of more than two dozen volumes of books dealing with urban design, public policy, and metropolitan concerns, from Mayor Pete Flaherty and his wife. The books have been added to the James D. Van Trump Library and are, together with our now more than 4,500 volumes available to our members for use at the Museum. We remind our members that there is a special Members' Reading Room given to the Museum by the Allegheny County Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

Old Post Office Gift Shop Corner

We would like you to visit and shop the recently "personalized" gift shop. In keeping with the Old Post Office Museum our gift shop nook has its own "look". We've added color and changed displays and are very proud of the way we can now show off the beautiful series of Landmark Plates, pewter accessory pieces and fine brass pieces. We have a separate department for Pittsburgh mementoes including mugs, slides and notecards. Books, as always a fascination, are still a focal point for browsers and serious students. We have many new books, most of which deal with Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania:

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| WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN WESTERN PA.....\$2.75 | PEPPI OF PITTSBURGH..... 7.50 |
| by David B. Freeland | by Adam Serpensky |
| PENNA. PETROLEUM 1750-1872..... 3.50 | "STENWINDERS" IN THE LAUREL HIGHLANDS..... 3.25 |
| by Paul H. Giddens | by Benjamin F.G. Kline, Jr. |
| PENNSYLVANIA ATLAS..... 7.00 | SONNETS FOR AN ANALYST..... 5.95 |
| by Rizza, Hughes, Smith | by Gladys Schmitt |
| THINE IS THE GLORY..... 8.95 | NEIGHBORS, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.....10.00 |
| by Samuel A. Schreiner, Jr. | by Sara Rosenblum |
| PENNSYLVANIA OIL INDUSTRY..... 1.50 | DUFFY'S ROCKS..... 5.95 |
| by Ernest C. Miller | by Edward Fenton |
| PENNSYLVANIA'S BOUNDRIES..... 1.25 | THE ROCKSBURG RAILROAD MURDERS..... 5.95 |
| by William A. Russ, Jr. | by K. C. Constantine |
| THE PENNSYLVANIA CANALS..... .10 | A BEAUTIFUL CITY..... 2.50 |
| by Hubertis Cummings | Pictures to color by Diana Gibbs Richards |
| THE GOTHIC REVIVED IN PITTSBURGH..... 1.00 | Verse by Gloria Ellen Gibbs |
| by James D. Van Trump | ATLAS OF PITTSBURGH..... 2.95 |
| ALLEGHENY..... 3.50 | Newly Revised Edition |
| by Walter Kidney, Arthur Ziegler, Jr. | COMPLETE STREET GUIDE TO PITTSBURGH..... .95 |
| THE FRENCH INVASION OF WESTERN PENNA 1753 .75 | by Geographic Map Co., Inc. |
| by Donald H. Kent | A PITTSBURGH ALBUM..... 2.50 |
| MICHAEL O'CONNOR FIRST CATHOLIC BISHOP 10.95 | by Roy Strykers, Mel Seidenberg |
| OF PITTSBURGH by Rev. Henry A. Izarnicki | DISCOVER PITTSBURGH..... 3.95 |
| HOMESTEAD..... 9.95 | An Area Community Guide |
| by Margaret Byington | |



LANDMARK SERIES CHINA

If you have not been in to see the new Landmark
China we are sure you will want to come
are some of the pieces of the

TOURS

BUS TOUR TO COLUMBUS, OHIO

APRIL 24-25

Our tour will leave the Old Post Office Museum at 9:00 a.m. on April 24. We will arrive in Columbus for lunch at Plank's Garden Restaurant in German Village. The afternoon will be spent with our guide in orientation and touring German Village. Dinner is on your own and a list of the restaurants in the area will be furnished. We will be staying at a motel right in German Village so that everything will be in walking distance.

Sunday morning will see us on our way to Roscoe Village where we will have lunch in the restored Warehouse Restaurant. The afternoon will be given to our orientation and tour of Roscoe Village attractions. Our bus will return to the Old Post Office at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The cost of the tour is \$50. per person based on double occupancy, and includes bus, hotel, admissions, and all meals except Saturday dinner.

Quite a few are already registered for this tour so don't be disappointed, send your reservation soon!

RESERVATION FORM FOR COLUMBUS TOUR

APRIL 24-25

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

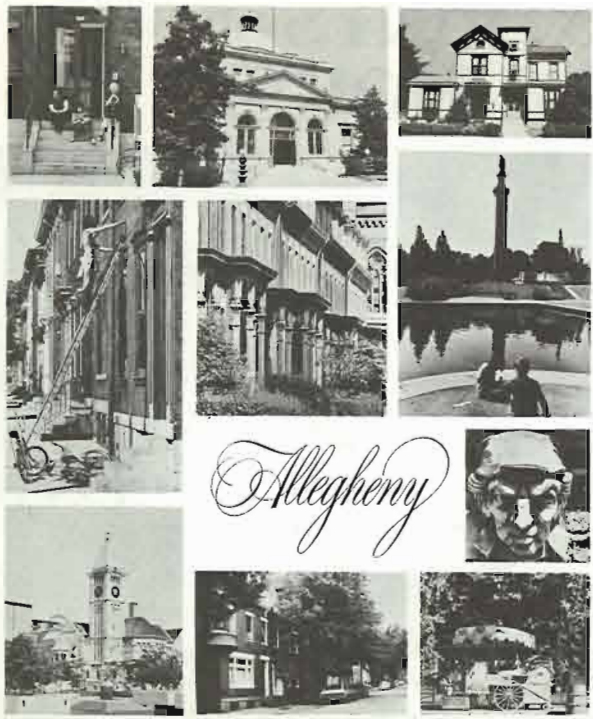
NAME OF PERSON ROOMING WITH ME _____

_____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$50. per person)

_____ SINGLE SUPPLEMENT REQUESTED (\$10. additional)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 21



PHLF's long-awaited book, Allegheny is now available for sale. The publication, authored jointly by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. and Walter C. Kidney is an historical and photographic essay on Allegheny, Pittsburgh's North Side.

Illustrated with many old photographs, maps and drawings, the book traces the rise of Allegheny in the late 18th century through its expansion, decline and subsequent rebirth as a new town/old town in the late 1960's. It brings into sharp focus the people and the fine historic architecture of the area through 20 pages of recent photographs taken by Joe Rosen.

Each of the unique communities that make up Allegheny receive special note in the publication: The Allegheny Commons Communities of Central Northside, Allegheny West, Mexican War Streets and East Northside, the North Shore, Manchester, Fineview, East Street Valley, Troy Hill and Spring Hill.

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FORT WAYNE RAILROAD BRIDGE SAVED

PHLF is pleased to announce that under the new Conrail System adopted by Congress, the threatened Fort Wayne Railroad Bridge crossing the Allegheny River at 11th Street has been saved and will be retained for the foreseeable future.

Dating from 1901-04, this bridge is of double-decked through truss construction and was designed by the Pennsylvania Railroad's engineers. The bridge described in LANDMARK ARCHITECTURE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY as "the most rugged and powerful of Pittsburgh's river bridges" is seen by PHLF to be an important visual asset to the downtown riverscape.

In addition, PHLF has long supported the continuation of rail service to downtown Pittsburgh and the inclusion of the Bridge in the Conrail plan assures this. The Bridge serves Amtrak trains to Chicago.

The publication is the result of PHLF's Neighborhood Exhibit/Self-Planning Program in Allegheny funded through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Hillman Foundation. The program provided the means for four older neighborhoods to engage in self-planning and to develop an exhibit and publication about their communities. The structure and content of Allegheny were developed originally by a committee of representatives from Central North Side Neighborhood Council, the Mexican War Streets Society and the Allegheny West Civic Council.

Order Form for ALLEGHENY
Send with check or money order to:

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
The Old Post Office
Allegheny Square West
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15212

Please send me:

_____ copy(ies) of ALLEGHENY @ \$3.50 paperback or \$10.00 hardbound (Hardbound will be ready very soon and shipped as soon as we receive them)

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Sub total..... | \$ _____ |
| "Members only" 5% discount..... | \$ _____ |
| Pennsylvania sales tax 6%..... | \$ _____ |
| Postage and handling..... | \$ _____ .50 |
| TOTAL..... | \$ _____ |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

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HISTORIC LANDMARK PLAQUES

The Plaque Committee of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation announced today that in honor of the Bicentennial it plans to honor an increased number of architecturally significant buildings in Allegheny County with Landmarks plaques.

The Landmark plaque program begun in 1968 has awarded seventy-two plaques to distinguish architecturally valuable structures throughout the area and to encourage their preservation.

Local communities and owners of architecturally significant structures are encouraged to submit entries and suggestions to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

The qualifications are: 1. the building must be of architectural significance rather than historically significant. That is it must be distinguished in its own design rather than by historical events. 2. The building must be extant and its integrity must be unaltered. Plaques are not given to historical sites, only existing buildings. All entries should contain a brief description of the building and a photograph of it.

For information: contact PHLF office, 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:

Individualfrom \$10.00
 Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00
 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."