

NON PROFIT ORG U. S. Postage PAID Pittsburgh, Pa Permit No. 598

## 1976 Tax Reform Act

## **Provides Incentives for Historic Preservation**

The new Tax Reform Act of 1976 will have significant impact on encouraging and promoting historic preservation.

- 1. The law provides new tax incentives for historic preservation.
- 2. The law corrects deficiencies in the Tax Code that have worked against preservation.
- 3. The law places new responsibilities on the Secretary of the Interior to make these tax advantages available to the public.

#### WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE TAX REFORM ACT?

Owners of commercial or business related structures that qualify as "certified historic structures" are entitled to most of the tax advantages under the Tax Reform Act.

#### WHAT IS A CERTIFIED HISTORIC STRUCTURE?

According to the law a certified historic structure is defined as a depreciable structure which

- 1) is listed in the National Register of Historic
- 2) is located in a registered historic district and is certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being of historic significance to the district, or
- 3) is located in an historic district designated under a state or local government statute, if this statute is certified by the Secretary of the Interior as containing criteria which will substantially lead to the preservation and rehabilitation of buildings of historic significance to the district.

#### WHAT PROVISIONS BENEFIT HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

An owner of a certified historic structure used in a commercial or business related venture may now write-off over a 60 month (5 year) period rehabilitation expenditures which are part of a certified rehabilitation of the property. A certified rehabilitation is any rehabilitation of a certified historic structure which the Secretary of the Interior certifies is consistent with the historic character of the property or the district in which the property is located.

To take advantage of this provision, rehabilitation expenditures must be made between June 14, 1976 and June 15, 1981.

#### ADVANTAGE OF QUICK WRITE-OFF

A taxpayer may now deduct all of his rehabilitation expenditures within 5 years. Before the Tax Reform Act, he was required to spread tax deductions over the life of the property. For most buildings this was generally 20 to 40 years.

This new provision allows larger tax savings over shorter time and provides encouragement for owners to rehabilitate historic commercial properties.

#### DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS DISCOURAGED

In the revised code, the cost of the demolition of a certified historic structure may not be deducted for demolitions beginning after June 30, 1976 and before January 1, 1981.

Any building or structure located in a registered historic district will be treated as a certified historic structure unless the Secretary of the Interior judges prior to its demolition that the building is not of historic importance to the district. In fact, now the non-deductible demolition costs must be added to the value of the land on which an historic structure existed. In addition on any new building constructed, reconstructed, erected or used after December 31, 1975 and before January, 1981 on a site which was occupied by a certified historic structure that was demolished or substantially altered on or after June 30, 1976, an owner is limited to using straight line depreciation rather than the accelerated depreciation allowed on new structures. Thus, an owner who demolishes an historic structure and erects a new building on the site would receive smaller tax deductions over a longer period of time rather than the more advantageous accelerated depreciation allowable on new structures.

#### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Another provision of the Tax Act allows the tax payer to depreciate "substantially rehabilitated historic property" as though the tax payer was the original user of the property. Through this complex provision the tax payer is then entitled to use the accelerated depreciation which previously could be used only for new buildings.

#### CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDUCTIONS

Income, estate, and gift tax deductions are allowed under the Tax Reform Act for the transfer of partial interests in property for conservation pur poses.

An individual may take a charitable deduction from his income tax for a contribution to a charitable organization or a governmental entity of a lease, option to purchase, or easement on historically important land or structures of not less than 30 years if it is made exclusively for conservation purposes. A donation of a remainder interest (a) gift of property, the enjoyment and use of which is to take effect after death) to a charitable organization or governmental entity for conservation purposes may also qualify as a charitable contribution. To qualify for the tax benefits transfers must be made after June 13, 1976 and before June 14, 1977.

#### WHAT NEXT?

According to the experts, the sections of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 need further legal analysis to clarify all of the tax benefits.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Great responsibility has been given to the Secre-

historic structures in National Register Districts,

historic districts and approve certified rehabili-

tary of the Interior in the Tax Act to certify

review state and local statutes which establish

tations. This work is being carried out by the office of Archeology and Historic Preservation in

the Department of the Interior. According to a

recent publication from this Department, they are

now considering the most efficient way to certify

historic structures and state and local ordinances

creating historic districts. PHLF is working, and

established. Already we are assisting the City in revising our local preservation ordinances and we

basis to prepare forms to nominate additional local

will be working to assure that Pittsburgh's Land-

mark Ordinance is certified once guidelines are

have applied to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a contract on a matching

buildings to the National Register.

#### **Burke's Building Restoration**

The new owners of the Burke's Building, Duff's International, Inc., have begun restoration of the exterior. The photograph shows the building after installation of the new window frames and sash on the first floor; they were milled to specifications prepared by PHLF. During renovation to the interior, the original window shutters of this fine Greek Revival building were discovered sealed behind later wall coverings. Duff's International plans to proceed with restoration of the front as they continue renovation of the interior of this oldest remaining office building in Pittsburgh.





#### **Kudos for PHLF**

At the National Convention for the Society of Architectural Historians which was held in Philadelphia, the keynote address was delivered by Sir Nicholas Pevsner of England, one of the most reknowned architectural historians in the English speaking world. The high point of the speech came when he told the SAH members that they should be doing more to commit themselves to action rather than just pure scholarship in preserving important architecture and said to them "What you need in the United States are more groups like James D. Van Trump and his associates in Pittsburgh."

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

At the annual South Side Chamber of Commerce dinner in November, attended by 550 people, PHLF member John A. Martine received the Community Service Award for his extensive volunteer work for the Birmingham Restoration program. PHLF member William Crawford received a Special Service Award for his 12 years of volunteer work for the Chamber and the Birmingham program. In his remarks he recalled the first time, 10 years ago when Jamie Van Trump and Arthur Ziegler asked him to take a walk along the South Side streets to look at architecture and how the Birmingham restoration effort was then born. Also, Nicholas Stone received the Man of the Year Award for his dedication to South Side, an award that two years ago was given to our president Mr. Ziegler, and has also been given to others who have worked for the restoration of the South Side including Gerald Peckich and Harold Nevin.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

We are pleased to report several honors have accrued to our staff in recent weeks. Our President, Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., was named by the secretary of the Department of Housing & Urban Redevelopment to the National Review Panel of HUD's Innovative Projects Program. The panel distributed \$4,000,000 to urban projects throughout the nation. Mr. Ziegler was also honored at a



luncheon at the William
Penn Hotel by a coalition
of all of the Polish
organizations in Allegheny
County for the various
ways in which he has assisted the Poles in preserving their history and
traditions in this area.
Nancy Hanks, Head of the
National Endowment for

the Arts has named Mr. Ziegler to the Architecture and Arts Review Panel for a third term. . . . . Ellis L. Schmidlapp, restorationist, was one of eighteen persons selected from throughout the North American continent to attend a seminar in Banff, Canada, on Advanced Restoration Technology.

#### Painting by Wall Donated to Museum

One of the most interesting exhibits in the Museum, an oil painting by the Pittsburgh painter W.C. Wall of the Great Fire of Pittsburgh in 1845, which has been on loan from Mr. & Mrs. John Follansbee, has now been given to the Museum by Mr. & Mrs. Follansbee. This brings to our collection, a work by one of the most important of our early painters.

William Coventry Wall (1810-1887) was born in England but came to Pittsburgh at an early age. He sold art supplies and painted portraits and landscapes; he exhibited his work at the oldest of Pittsburgh's galleries - Gillespie's - which is still in existence on Seventh Avenue. His younger brother Alfred S. Wall was also a painter, as was the latter's son. A. Bryan Wall.

The Great Fire of 10 April, 1845, which served more than once as a subject for W.C. Wall's brush, was not the least devastating nor least spectacular of those huge conflagrations that often visited the hastily built and inadequately protected cities of 19th century America. One third of the city, some fifty-six acres was destroyed in a few hours, by the 1845 fire which started in a laundry shed on Second Avenue. Wall's canvas, painted after the event, shows the flaming destruction at its height; in the foreground can be seen the first wooden Monongahela (Smithfield Street) Bridge burning. Thomas Mellon, who witnessed the fire, said that the bridge burned with incredible rapidity -"One span speedily falling into the river after another like a straw-rope on fire." -James D. Van Trump

#### City Council Acts on Historic Designation

The Council of the City of Pittsburgh is designating the following as "Districts of Historic and Landmark Significance":

Allegheny Arsenal, 3901 Penn Avenue
Neill Log House, Serpentine Drive, Schenley Park
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 953 W. North Avenue
Calvary Methodist Church, 939 Beech Avenue
Cathedral of Learning, 4200 Fifth Avenue
The Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua, Troy Hill
Woods House, 4604 Monongahela Street
Moreland-Hoffstot House, 5057 Fifth Avenue
Smithfield Street Bridge, spanning the Monongahela:
Southside Markethouse, Bedford Square

## NEEDED...

We have several openings for volunteers to work in the Museum Gift Shop. If you have time available please contact Mrs. Emerick for schedule openings. 322-1204

# **Federal Government Contracts with PHLF** for Study of Penn Central Terminal

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has recently been awarded a grant from the Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study on creating an intermodal transportation and cultural center in the Penn Central Terminal and Rotunda. Unlike the Station Square development which involves ownership by the PHLF, the Penn Central buildings are owned by Conrail and their future rests solely with them.

The Penn Central study will focus on the feasibility of preserving the Terminal and Rotunda by enlarging their transit capacity and adding cultural activities. Located at Tenth and Penn Avenues and built between 1900 and 1902, the Penn Central buildings are of the most significant Beaux-Art structures in Pittsburgh. Finding a new life for these structures will involve meetings with business leaders, transportation managers, city planners, and representatives of the cultural community.

The Rotunda is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Terminal building has been nominated to the Register. They are still used as the central Amtrak terminal in Pittsburgh and house the offices of the Penn Central Company.

Congress is now very interested in the adaptation of railroads as intermodal centers, i.e. ones which combine civic and cultural uses and combine all transportation systems in one central location. Thus through this grant there is hope for the Penn Central Railroad Buildings.

Bordering the Terminal is the site of the Convention Center and hotel which will bring hundreds of conventioneers into this eastern edge of the downtown area, in addition to the business persons who already work in the offices nearby. A restored Penn Central Terminal would not only provide convenient transportation for these people, but could also add stimulus to the redevelopment of this area.

Artists, craftsmen, and other cultural activities may also use the Terminal building and attract the increased population of the area. A portion of the office space in the Terminal building might house the central offices for these performing arts groups.

Transportation, offices, apartments, cultural and craft exhibits, all are in the realm of possibilities that will be explored this coming year by us. We look forward to producing a comprehensive, feasible study for implementation; the fate of the Terminal and Rotunda depends upon it.

## PHLF Asked to Name Rooms at Pittsburgh Hyatt House

Recently Miss Veronica Solly of the Pittsburgh Hyatt House (formerly the Howard Johnson Hotel at Chatham Center) called to ask if PHLF could make any recommendations for the renaming of all the meeting rooms at the new Hyatt House.

We suggested that the rooms be named after important historical personages in Pittsburgh such as those who had been the subject of our Bicentennial Lecture Series, including Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Christopher Gist, John Woods, Jane Grey Swisshelm, and others.

The suggestion was well received by Hyatt House and we look forward to visiting the refurbished and renamed rooms soon.

This Membership is a Gift from

## Survey of Historic Districts in Allegheny County

We just completed another architectural survey of Allegheny County! This time, we were looking to define historic districts, describe their merits, and make recommendations for their preservation and enlivenment.

Completed under contract with the Allegheny County Department of Planning and Development, the survey will be used to inform residents about the distinctive qualities of their area, outline the economibenefits of preservation, encourage the County's support of restoration and adaptive use, and stimulate community participation in preservation through historic zoning and other means. We propose a series of recommendations to the county and local municipalities for implementing preservation.

We defined eight "A" districts, or those areas which contain the most outstanding architecture in the County, whose protection and preservation is important to the Nation as a whole. The eight are

\*Arlington Park

\*Boston

\*Edgeworth

\*Evergreen Hamlet

\*Glenshaw

\*Mission Hills

\*Penn Sait Workers Housing in Natrona

\*Penn Salt Workers Housing in Thornburg

We recommend that all of the "A" districts be nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We listed twenty districts within the County as "B" districts. They are not eligible for the National Register, and although they are important locally, they are either deteriorated in part or are communities which are not architecturally outstanding but deserve preservation for their scale, continuity, sense of "special place", or general architectural character. They are:

\*Aspinwall \*Ben Avon \*Bradford Woods to the state of MEGry 77s Percent \*Borough of Edgewood \*Edgewood Historic District \*Edgewood - Regent Square \*Elizabeth \*Forest Hills \*Fox Chapel \*Glenfield/Haysville/Osbourne \*Homes tead \*McKeesport Historic District \*McKeesport Wooden District \*Oakmont \*Sewickley \*Tarentum \*Werner Camp Historical District \*Wilkinsburg-Edgewood \*Wilkinsburg-Singer Place

The survey will be published by the County at a later date.

#### Antique Show Scheduled for Old Post Office Museum October 28-29-30

PHLF will sponsor an antique show at the Old Post Office Museum the last weekend in October. Plans are underway now to gather together a number of dealers from throughout the country to exhibit antiques in the elegant setting of the Old Post Office.

We'll be needing volunteers to assist with the show, look for more information in the next issue of PHLF NEWS.

#### Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Individual ......from \$10.00 ☐ New Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00 Family ...... from \$15.00 Contributing ...... from \$50.00 NAME. Sustaining . . . . . . . . . . . . . from \$100.00 Organizations: PHONE. Active . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . from \$25.00 Contributing . . . . . . . . . . . . from \$50.00 \_\_\_\_MEMBERSHIP. ENCLOSED IS \$\_\_\_\_\_FOR A\_\_\_\_\_

#### 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 spe-
- cial publications on architecture and history.
   Free admission or discount tickets for walk-
- ing and bus tours.
- Free admission to winter lecture series.
   Notification of new exhibits at the Old Post
- Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."

#### The Fabulous Decorators' Show House

The Junior League of Pittsburgh and PHLF joined forces to acquire and restore a noble Italianate-Second Empire House at 841 North Lincoln Avenue in the Allegheny West area, North Side. At the League's request PHLF acquired the house at a cost of \$30,000 and the League set about raising funds to restore it as their annual decorators' show house.

However, this year it was a show house with a difference. Instead of simply inviting the interior designers in to furnish the rooms, the League actually paid the cost of a full restoration of both the interior and exterior including the development of six one-bedroom and one efficiency apartment units to be used as housing for staff, actors, and actresses of the Pittsburgh Public Theatre in winter and, if possible, the same for the Civic Light Opera in summer. The apartments are to be made available to Pittsburgh Public Theatre at a reduced rental reflecting the League's significant contribution.

The house was finished in April and the interior designers of Pittsburgh then decorated the rooms using themes and settings from various plays and musicals as well as historical and victorian settings.

Thousands of people came to see these fabulous rooms, furnishings and designs, and now the house is being prepared for the occupancy of the Civic Light Opera people this summer.

Particular thanks are due to Sally Hardon of the Junior League who had the original vision and who, with her Committee, invested enormous energy in translating vision into reality.

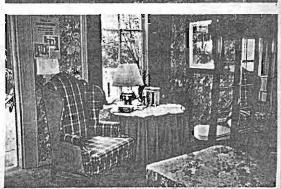












photos by Harry Hull.



#### **Phipps Conservatory Campaign Booming**

The Committee for the Restoration of Phipps Conservatory is experiencing great success as they move closer to their \$1,110,000. goal. Since their founding in September 1975, the Committee has raised more than \$53,000. from individual donations, \$43,000. from corporate gifts, and \$163,000. from foundation grants.

The Committee has also had a donation of \$74,501.25 worth of flat glass to reglaze the conservatory, and an additional \$10,000. worth of materials was donated by an anonymous corporate contributor.

The City of Pittsburgh through the Mayor's office and City Council, has provided more than \$350,000. in manpower and materials.

With all these sources considered, the Committee has raised more than \$695,000. for the restoration campaign.

A large spring mailing drive was just completed. Remember, the conservatory still needs your help. We are just beginning the renovation of the heating and electrical systems.

Please support this project by sending us your check with the blank below.

#### FUNDS FOR PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

I wish to contribute to the renovation of Phipps Conservatory.

Enclosed is my check for \$		
NAME		
Street Address	-	
City	State	Zip

Make checks or money orders payable to:
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Old Post Office Museum
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212 Mark check "Phipps"

Telephone

White Samuel Control of the Control

# PHLF Receives National AIA Award

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and the City of Boston have been awarded 1977 American Institute of Architects (AIA) medals for outstanding urban projects related to architecture.

The landmarks foundation is being recognized for its part in preserving significant city and county architecture and educating the public about its local architectural heritage.

The medals will be presented at the institute's national convention June 5-8 in San Diego.

The institute has cited the foundation for these projects:

\*Birmingham program, aimed at restoring residential and commercial buildings on the Southside;

\*Manchester program, helping low-income families on the Northside to get low interest loans and grants for property improvements;

\*Phipps Conservatory restoration;

\*Station Square, developing the Southside P&LE Railroad station into a facility for shopping, working and entertainment;

\*Old Post Office, Northside being recycled as a community museum and headquarters for the foundation.

The institute said the foundation has led the way nationally in restoring inner-city residential areas for low-and-moderate-income families and that many of its programs have resulted in citizens groups asking for assistance in improving their neighborhoods.

#### The Fabulous D

The Junior League of Pittsburgh and PHLF joined forces to acquire and restore a noble Italianate Second Empire House at 841 North Lincoln Avenue in the Allegheny West area, North Side. At the League's request PHLF acquired the house at a cost of \$30,000 and the League set about raising funds to restore it as their annual decorators' show house.

However, this year it was a show house with a difference. Instead of simply inviting the inte ior designers in to furnish the rooms, the Leagu actually paid the cost of a full restoration of both the interior and exterior including the development of six one-bedroom and one efficiency apartment units to be used as housing for staff, actors, and actresses of the Pittsburgh Public Theatre in winter and, if possible, the same for the Civic Light Opera in summer. The apartments are to be made available to Pittsburgh Public Theatre at a reduced rental reflecting the League's significant contribution.

The house was finished in April and the interior designers of Pittsburgh then decorated the rooms using themes and settings from various plays and musicals as well as historical and victorian settings.

Thousands of people came to see these fabulous rooms, furnishings and designs, and now the hous is being prepared for the occupancy of the Civic Light Opera people this summer.

Particular thanks are due to Sally Hardon of the Junior League who had the original vision and when with her Committee, invested enormous energy in translating vision into reality.



#### **Phipps Conservatory Campaign Booming**

The Committee for the Restoration of Phipps Conservatory is experiencing great success as they move closer to their \$1,110,000. goal. Since their founding in September 1975, the Committee has raised more than \$53,000. from individual donations, \$43,000. from corporate gifts, and \$163,000. from foundation grants.

The Committee has also had a donation of \$74,501. worth of flat glass to reglaze the conservatory, and an additional \$10,000. worth of materials we donated by an anonymous corporate contributor.

The City of Pittsburgh through the Mayor's office and City Council, has provided more than \$350,00 in manpower and materials.

With all these sources considered, the Committee has raised more than \$695,000. for the restorational campaign.

A large spring mailing drive was just completed. Remember, the conservatory still needs your help. We are just beginning the renovation of the heat ing and electrical systems.

Please support this project by sending us your check with the blank below.

#### FUNDS FOR PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

FUNDS TOR	THITTE CONCERNATION	
I wish to contribute to the	renovation of Phi	ops Conservato
Enclosed is my check for \$_	100	
NAME		
Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone		
Make checks or money orders Pittsburgh History & Landma	payable to:	

Mark check "Phipps"

Old Post Office Museum

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

## 5 TOURS

WALKING TOUR OF ALLEGHENY CEMETERY JUNE 12

Our Walking tour of Allegheny Cemetery will gather just inside the Butler Street entrance at 2:00 p.m. We will proceed from there to the site of the Neville graves for the dedication of the restored tombstones. Cost is \$1.00 for members of PHLF, and \$2.00 for non-members. Tickets will be sold the day of the tour at the gathering point, no advance reservation necessary.

WALKING TOUR OF BIRMINGHAM

JUNE 26

Our Walking Tour of Birmingham will gather in front of Sarah's Restaurant on 10th Street at 2:00 p.m. Join us to see the progress of restoration along Carson Street. We will visit shops, antique stores and flea markets. Cost is \$1.00 for PHLF members and \$2.00 for non-members.

#### CONNEAUT LAKE BUS TOUR

We have found it necessary to cancel the tour to Conneaut Lake because we felt the prices were too high to encourage interest in the tour.

#### BUS TOUR TO WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 8 - 11

We will leave the Old Post Office Museum at 2:00p.m on September 8 for our tour to Colonial Williams-burg. We will be staying in a modern motel just one block from the restored area of Williamsburg, dining at colonial restaurants, and taking in all the sights and events possible in our stay. The cost of this tour is \$229. per person for members of PHLF and \$239. for non-members.

Please use the order form below and send with your full payment to PHLF, I Landmarks Square, Pgh. 15212

Please don't delay sending your reservation form, we have quite a long list of persons already, and the tour will be limited to I bus load.

Bry Course Lorence Lorence	tonia Carte Cartenary Superior Cartenary Carte
RESERVATION FORM FOR WILL	LAMSBURG TOUR
NAME: The Committee of	PHONE
ADDRESS	and don't pain the second order to daily new three to be a ZIP
PERSON(S) TO ACCOMPANY MI	The first of the same of the s
ADDRESS	PHONE
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT RE	QUESTED (\$18 additional)
CHECK FOR THE FULL AMOUN	T MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM.

#### COMING TOURS

OCTOBER

FALL FOLIAGE TOUR TO WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS IN BEDFORD COUNTY

NOVEMBER

We are contemplating a tour to Savannah and Charleston in conjunction with a conference in which PHLF will be involved. We would appreciate hearing from our members as to their interest in such a trip.

#### -CALENDAR OF EVENTS-

June 7 Famous Pittsburgher Lecture Old Post Office 8:00 p.m.

June 12 Walking Tour of Allegheny Cemetery 2:00 p.m.

June 21 Famous Pittsburgher Lecture English Room #144 Cathedral of Learning 8:00 p.m.

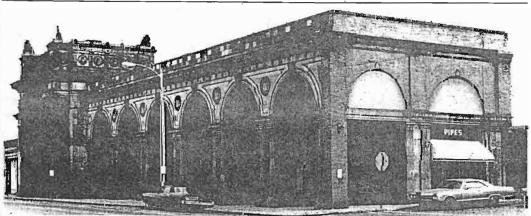
June 26 Walking Tour of Birmingham 2:00 p.m.

And every Friday evening between 6:00 and 7:00 Mr. Van Trump does a spot on Western Pennsylvania architecture on the KDKA-TV evening news.

With the passage of the historic preservation act of 1966, preservation has gained great power in all projects funded with federal dollars. Now, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Wewer, we are able to participate forcefully in the planning process when federal dollars are involved.

In one instance in another City, Columbus, Ohio, demolition occurred of a major Railroad station for a project that involved expenditure of federal dollars. Herewith is a story when Preservation News showed the penalty that Columbus had suffered because of this act.

We were involved in discussions with local citizens and the Ohio Preservation Officer in regard to this project and are glad to see preservation upheld.



olition of this Union Station Arcade in Columbus, Ohio, has meant the loss of a \$6 million federal grant for the city.

#### **Demolition Causes Rejection**

#### Columbus Loses \$6 Million Grant

A \$6 million federal grant requested by the city of Columbus, Ohio, has been denied because the city allowed the demolition of the Union Station Arcade, a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

In a letter to Columbus Mayor Tom Moody in February, Jerome C. Premo, associate administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), said the October 1976 demolition of the Union Station Arcade "violates the spirit of the law and is totally inconsistent with UMTA requirements.

Columbus had applied to UMTA requesting \$6,240,000 in capital grants assistance for the construction of a comprehensive transportation facility on the site of the old Union Station as part of a large-scale plan for an Ohio convention center.

According to Robert F. Crecco of the DOT Office of Environmental Affairs, this is the first time that the department has refused a grant request because of violations of preservation

legislation. "It is quite obvious that the local authorities were ignoring the responsibilities that we have under the law to respond to preservation," Crecco said.

Crecco added that Battelle Commons Company, the company handling the convention center development for the city, had originally included preser-fication of the historic preservation isvation of the Union Station Arcade in their plans. "The brochure they sent in with their proposal included the station arcade in all their plans; it was even the

focal point of the cover," Crecco said: But in October, Battelle Commons suddenly reversed their public position and tore down the arcade. Jeff Darbee of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office said the sudden demolition, which started at six o'clock on a Friday evening, "took us totally by surprise." By the time the preservation office initiated a restraining order through the courts the following day, the central arch was all that remained.

At the present time a fund-raising project is under way to move the historic arch to a nearby park. Judith T. Connor, DOT assistant secretary for environment, safety and consumer affairs, cited the failure to provide for the protection of the remaining arcade arch as one of the grounds for denial of the grant request.

The denial of the grant request also raises the question of future federal aid applications for projects on the site. In his report to the DOT director of environmental affairs, Crecco concluded that the Battelle Commons Company had "prejudiced this application and future DOT applications on this site."

Battelle was also cited for failing to answer UMTA requests for clari-

sues involved in the Union Station project and for failing to seek preserva-tion funds from the "most obvious sources: the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Endowment for the Arts, Interior, etc.

Following the letter from DOT to Columbus Mayor Moody announcing the rejection of the \$6 million proposal, William J. Murtagh, keeper of the National Register, wrote DOT saying, "It is highly regrettable that the Union Station Arcade has been demolished, but with the cooperation of agencies such as the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, future attempts to identify and preserve historic sites and structures which may be affected by federal projects will be facilitated.'

The Union Station Arcade itself was an ornate railroad entryway designed by Daniel H. Burnham and built in 1897. It consisted of a series of columned stone arches leading to a central grand arch of large Corinthian columns. Decoration of the structure included friezes and carved medallions.

> -reprinted from PRESERVATION NEWS May 1977

#### Arensberg Elected National Trust Advisor

We are pleased to report that our chairman has been appointed to the Board of Advisors by the National Trust for Historic Preservation by the chairman of the Trust. The Board of Advisors is composed of two representatives of each of the fifty states and advises the Trust on all of its programs particularly those that relate to the grass roots regional organizations like our own.

This appointment confirms a recognition by the Trust both upon the value of our work and the proad experience of our chairman in architectural preservation. His term of office begins with the National Trust Convention in October.

#### Survey of Historic Districts in Allegheny County

We just completed another architectural survey of Allegheny County! This time, we were looking to define historic districts, describe their merits, and make recommendations for their preservation and enlivenment.

Completed under contract with the Allegheny County Department of Planning and Development, the survey vill be used to inform residents about the disting tive qualities of their area, outline the economi penefits of preservation, encourage the County's support of restoration and adaptive use, and stimlate community participation in preservation through historic zoning and other means. We prooose a series of recommendations to the county [1] and local municipalities for implementing preser-

Ve defined eight "A" districts, or those areas vhich contain the most outstanding architecture in the County, whose protection and preservation is mportant to the Nation as a whole. The eight are

\*Arlington Park

\*Edgeworth

\*Evergreen Hamlet

\*Glenshaw

\*Mission Hills

\*Penn Salt Workers Housing in Natrona

\*Penn Salt Workers Housing in Thornburg

le recommend that all of the "A" districts be ominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

le listed twenty districts within the County as 'B" districts. They are not eligible for the lational Register, and although they are important locally, they are either deteriorated in part or are communities which are not architecturally outstanding but deserve preservation for their icale, continuity, sense of "special place", or jeneral architectural character. They are:

\*Aspinwall

\*Ben Avon

\*Braddock nc\*Bradford Woods to the first the state of the state of

\*Borough of Edgewood

\*Edgewood Historic District \*Edgewood - Regent Square

\*Elizabeth

\*Forest Hills

\*Fox Chapel

\*Glenfield/Haysville/Osbourne

\*Homestead

\*McKeesport Historic District

\*McKeesport Wooden District

\*Oakmont

\*Sewickley

\*Tarentum

\*Werner Camp Historical District

\*Wilkinsburg-Edgewood

\*Wilkinsburg-Singer Place

he survey will be published by the County at a ater date.

#### **Antique Show Scheduled for Old Post Office** Museum October 28-29-30

HLF will sponsor an antique show at the Old Post ffice Museum the last weekend in October. Plans re underway now to gather together a number of ealers from throughout the country to exhibit ntiques in the elegant setting of the Old Post ffice.

e'll be needing volunteers to assist with the how, look for more information in the next issue f PHLF NEWS.

#### arks Foundation

#### MBERSHIP DUES:

..... from \$10.00 .....from \$12.00 ..... from \$15.00 ..... from \$50.00

..... from \$100.00 .....from \$500.00 ......from \$1,000.00

..... from \$100.00

..... from \$500.00

..... from \$25.00 ..... from \$50.00

#### 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 spe-
- cial 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
- 7. Participation in an organization given na-

tional awards "for the vigor of its programs."