

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

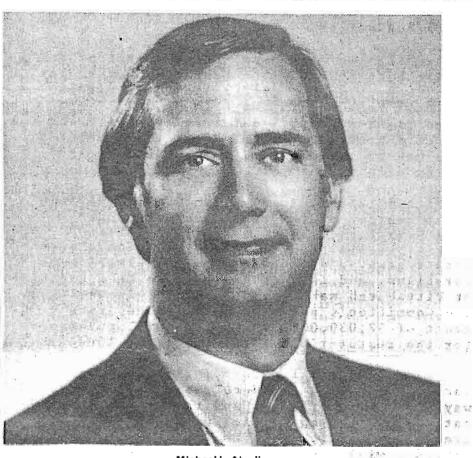
Old Post Office • Allegheny Square West • Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212 Phone 322-1204

NUMBER

MARCH

1981

NATIONAL TRUST PRESIDENT TO SPEAK



Michael L. Ainslie

Michael Ainslie, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will present an illustrated lecture at the Old Post Office Museum on March 16, 1981 at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Ainslie was appointed President of the Trust in July, 1980 and his appointment has launched a new era in historic preservation. He is restructuring the Trust to enable it to meet contemporary problems and he has looked to our programs here in Pittsburgh for ideas. He feels that PHLF's neighborhood and commercial development programs are in the forefront of preservation. that a state of the same of th

owaloes and bease the seoisan Mr. Ainslie is anxious to meet neighborhood residents and leaders in Pittsburgh. After his lecture we invite you to a reception served by Sarah's Yugoslavian Catering to meet Mr. Ainslie.

Separate invitations were mailed to PHLF members and friends for this lecture. If you did not order your tickets you may call Mrs. Emerick at 322-1204 to make reservations!

MANY THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AT THE DUQUESNE MINE SUPPLY COMPANY FOR THEIR GENEROSITY IN SPONSORING THE MICHAEL AINSLIE LECTURE.

Annual Election of PHLF Officers

The annual election of PHLF officers and trustees will be held at 8:15 p.m. on March 16, prior to the lecture by Michael Ainslie.

Nominations may be made by petition in writing to the nominating committee if signed by twenty or more members of PHLF. The petitions should be directed to Chester LeMaistre, chairman of the Nominating Committee.

____I will attend the Annual Meeting

 ${f _I}$ will not attend the Annual Meeting and hereby tender my proxy to chairman of the nominating committee to cast my ballot in favor of the officers and trustees presented by the nominating committee.

ADDRES	S		

SIGNED

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Please return to PHLF, One Landmarks Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Grants Received

We are pleased to report that the H. M. Bitner Charitable Trust has granted \$2,000 to underwrite the general programs of PHLF. The Bitner Charitable Trust has been a strong supporter of our activities, particularly in the South Side and in low income areas. The funds will be used for support of our educational and outreach programs.

We are also grateful to the Fisher Charitable Trust who have approved a grant of \$5,000 to help underwrite the cost of our four-year Allegheny County survey of all the architecture, industrial buildings, sculpture, and archaeological sites. This four year, \$400,000 program, is now into its second year and we have reached \$355,000 of our goal.

"Do You Know Someone to Recommend For a Preservation Award?"

The PHLF Trustees Committee on Preservation Awards will be giving several awards for meritorius service in the field of Historic Preservation and related civic affairs. The awards may be given to individuals or groups.

If you know of individuals or groups whom you think merit such an award, please send your nominations along with detailed reasons for their merit to our committee at the Old Post Office, 1 Landmarks Square, Pgh. 15212. Upon selection by our committee, an individual will receive a medal and a group will receive a check probably for \$100.

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Chairman's Ramble "La Via D'Oro"

It could happen only in Pittsburgh. Just turn off only one block from the intersection of two of the busiest streets in the City, where Baum Boulevard goes up the hill and joins Craig St. and then Bigelow Boulevard. Pass the Theatre Express, one of the town's avant-garde watch-out-if-you're-the-audience post-Pinter playhouses, turn sharp into Gold Way, La Via D'Oro of the Western World.

Now you're committed. You are on a country road, heading towards Polish Hill. You're on the lip of a great hill; above you roars the ceaseless traffic of Baum and Bigelow Boulevards. Hereafter you pass the first warehouse, and another cultural establishment the indomitable Dance Gallery, just behind the Lion Walk, another mini-theater. You're lucky to meet a single car until you get to the outer reaches of Herron Avenue and the neat God-fearing inhabitants of Polish Hill. In the springtime and early summer on both sides of the road there blooms a beautiful white bush on both sides of the narrow road. Grapevines try to strangle the tiny sumacs, auto carcasses and mountains of cardboard hurled from the enterprises up above on Baum Boulevard. white bloom of the bushes lasts for weeks and only ceases when you pass the tiny houses on the right-two embattled one-story frame 1860 German . Troy Hill transplants, one of which carries the menacing sign "No Hunting, Fishing or Trespassing. Beware of Dog."

Easy around the right, left and right again curve, watch out for a stray car, now past the slumbering farm house on the left, under the doomed iron skeleton of the Bloomfield Bridge, and past the prim neat garden to your left, corn, tomatoes and beans. Now miraculously you have lost Gold Way, which disappears under the Bridge and becomes, presto, Melwood Avenue again. Melwood Avenue first began 100 yards in the ravine to your rear and ended on Bayard Street a quarter of a mile away. Did it tumble into the valley once? What has happened to Gold Way? Why did Melwood Avenue suddenly appear again to wind through the prim orderly Polish houses and end up on Herron Avenue in the heart of Polish Hill?

We'll never know and we don't care. We have avoided the traffic of a great city. We have driven in peace through the tiny countryside, albeit fouled by the superior neighbors on Baum Boulevard but softened immeasurably by God's bush, the flowering tricornata splendiforma.

Don't tell anybody. They might want to widen the road and fix the berm, clean the countryside and destroy the bush. Maybe they'll even change the name of Gold Way back to Melwood Avenue.



Allegheny West Row Houses to be Restored

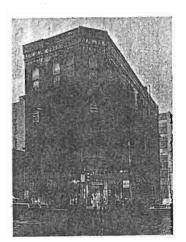


These row houses on
North Lincoln Avenue
have now been burned so
badly that the roof
collapsed, will nevertheless be saved as a
part of the National
Register District of
Allegheny West on the
North Side. Through a
loan from the PHLF
Revolving Fund to the
Allegheny West Neighbor-

hood Association coupled with private financing from Parkvale Savings & Loan, the houses will be restored as five handsome condominium units and sold at prices of between \$70,000 and \$80,000. Interested persons should call Allegheny West at 323-8884.

"New Life" for the Union Bank Building

The Union Bank Building which stood at the corner of Fourth Avenue & Market Street, downtown has been demolished. However, PPG Industries underwrote the costs of rescuing and saving the arch. Also, the stones have been removed, cleaned, and are being held in storage for reuse by the McKeesport National Bank in building a new bank structure.



Phipps Fall Gala

The Annual Fall Flower Show Gala was held at Phipps Conservatory in November. It was a great success, raising over \$6,000 for the restoration effort.

The theme of the event was, "Come to Phipps and Feed the Alligators." The Committee worked for months to create huge papier mache alligators which were featured in the Palm Court. They sported signs saying "I eat \$ for Phipps," and received a generous response from the guests: by the end of the evening, their mouths were brimming with green!

Since its formation in 1975, the Committee for the Restoration of Phipps Conservatory has raised over \$1 million for the restoration effort. Private donations, foundation and corporate grants, donations of materials from corporations, and labor and materials from the City of Pittsburgh make up this total. In addition, the Committee's activities helped generate a grant of \$2,030,000 from the federal government for the restoration of this historic landmark.

Donations are still needed. The Committee is currently raising funds to restore the entrance-way added in the 1960's and replace it with an entrance more sympathetic in design to the great greenhouses designed by Lord and Burnham. The entrance will contain a special educational room for classes and meetings.

Neville House Progress

Plans and specifications have been drawn for extensive interior work at the Neville House, utilizing a \$25,000 CD grant as administered by the Allegheny County Department of Development. The money will be matched by \$3,000 in funds from the Neville House Auxiliary. The work will include safety and mechanical updating of the structure including a new heating system and an electrical system as well as features making the building more usable for events including a new bathroom and kitchen. Also, the four principal rooms on the first floor will be completely restored to their original finishes and colors.

St. Luke's Church Progress

Our St. Luke's Church Auxiliary has recently completed the plastering of the interior walls and ceiling as done by the D. M. Bailey Co. The work was done at reasonable cost, partially due to the contribution of the Bailey Company and has created dramatic change in the interior. The original Chapel did have plaster walls which had been removed some years ago in an ill-fated restoration attempt. The new item for work is the installation of plumbing and bathrooms in the basement to make the Chapel more useful for events. A donation of new, reproduction light fixtures means that we also have good lighting for the interior.

The Van Trump Archive

Nothing is more delightful or more ephemeral that a garden. Lacking documentation, once a garder has vanished, only its memory lingers like the fragrance in an old pot-pourri jar.

To remedy the paucity of documented material on important gardens of the past in Allegheny Coun available in public institutions, the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation at Carnegie-Mellon University has agreed to establish and maintain such a collection to be known as the Van Trump Archive of Information on Gardens of the Pittsburgh Region. It is intended that it be a place of deposit for any historical documents, graphic material, or other information concerning important local gardens, public or private, past or present. The Hunt Institute has agreed to reproduce and return to donors any original material that they may wish to retain. Anyone who wishes to donate such material shoul contact Miss Bernadette Callery, Librarian of the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation.

Mr. Van Trump has been appointed an honorary curator of the Archive at the Hunt Botanical Institute.

Year-End Donations

We thank the following for their 1980 yearend contributions to PHLF:

Dr. & Mrs. J.P. Adamchic Ms. Bertha M. Bailey Hiram P. Ball Dr. & Mrs. C. F. Beall Ms. Roberta Beaudway Mrs. Kenneth Boesel Ms. Naomi Bosmyer Ms. Elizabeth R. Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. W. Theodore Brooks
Dr. & Mrs. Edwin B. Buchanan
Mrs. Guy Burrell Mr. & Mrs. Newton Chapin, Jr. Clinton L. Childs Ms. Deborah L. Clark John and Janet Clever Frederic L. Cook Ms. Nancy L. Davis Ms. Jean H. Davis John P. Davis, Jr. John H. Demmler Ms. Barbara C. Devens Mrs. Carson S. Dimling Thomas J. Donnelly Miss Evelyn Evans
Ferry Electric Company
Ms. Edith Hall Fisher
L. B. Foster Co. C. B. Foster Co.
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Ms. Sallanah H. Golden Mr. & Mrs. O. Harry Grunner, II
Mr. & Mrs. J. Barr Haines
Ms. Juanita I. Hartman Leon E. Hickman Mr. & Mrs. James H. Higgins Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher Hodges, Jr. Max R. Janairo, Jr.
Johnson & Higgins Co.
Stanley Karas, Jr.
Robert N. Kirkland
David A. Kleer Ms. Anna E. Kunsak Catherine H. Lamb Richard L. Linder Mr. & Mrs. Paul Long Mr. & Mrs. David J. Mahrer

Ms. Gertrude Mallet Mariani & Richards, Inc. Ms. Marjory Aronson Marks Bernard M. Markwell Marshall Elevator Co. Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Mason William A. Meyer, Jr. Julian Miller W. McCook Miller Mr. & Mrs. Edward A. Montgomery, Jr. Joseph W. Moore P. F. Muck Mrs. Mary K. McCann
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Mr. & Mrs. Paul W. Nettrour, Jr. Mrs. Hugh G. Nevin North Side Deposit Bank Mrs. Henry Oliver, Jr. Milton & Adrienne Porter Wesley W. Posvar Mrs. Margaret K. Rea Mrs. F. E. Richardson, Jr.
Mrs. F. E. Richardson, Jr.
Mrs. Florence B. Riley
Ruthrauff, Inc.
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Mercedes G. Shoemaker
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Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Stone, Jr.
Frank R. Stoner
Ms. Elizabeth R. Studt William S. Tacey Ms. Helen H. Tapparo Tot 'um Lumber & Supply Co. John Troan Wythe and Ellen Weathers John E. & Margaret T. Weir Williams/Trebilcock/Whitehead John S. Williams Ms. Annie D. Wilson James L. Winokur William Witte Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Ziegler

Landmark Plaques Awarded

At the annual meeting of the Historic Landmarks Plaque Awards Committee in January, the following buildings were awarded plaques:

Arthurs-Johnson House, 6925 Ohio River Blvd.
D'Arlington Apartments, Neville St., Shadyside
Buhl Building, 204 Fifth Ave., Downtown
First United Methodist Church, Braddock
Hendricks-Murray House, Lexington Ave., [Squirre
Rankin House, Rankin Rd., White Oak Hil
Jacob Witzel House, Evergreen Rd, Ross Twp.
Chalfant Hall, Ridge Ave., Allegheny West
Kaufmann's Department Store & Clock, Downtown
Kramer House, Kramer St., Sewickley
Old Allegheny County Airport

TOURS

1981

The PHLF Tour Program and the Ethnic Church Tour Program will join together in 1981 in an effort to offer an interesting tour package for the year which we hope will be of interest to many of our members and friends.

Saturday - April 4, 1981 - Bus leaves OPO 1:00

The April tour to two Orthodox churches will emphasize their celebration of the traditions of the Lenten season.

Overlooking the industrial "Bottoms" of McKees Rocks sits a cluster of domed and towered churches. Participants will view the elegant interior of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church with its glowing iconostasis and crystal chandelier. A short walk from St. Nicholas is St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, noted for its elaborately frescoed interior. Of special interest will be a sampling of the many Lenten foods and a demonstration of the art of "pysanky", the painting of the Ukrainian Easter egg.

The cost of the tour is \$12.00 for PHLF members; \$15. for non-members. Reservations must be made before March 30. Call PHLF at 322-1204.

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Saturday - May 2, 1981 - Bus leaves OPO 1:00

Tour includes: St. Wenceslaus Bohemian Church North Side - Czech folk art and guilding

Walking tour of Strip District Pittsburgh's wholesale food mkt.

St. Patrick's Chapel

St. Elizabeth's Hungarian Church Call for reservations: 322-1204 Cost: \$8.00 PHLF members; \$10. non-members

Saturday - June 6, 1981 - Bus leaves OPO 9 a.m.

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Fort Ligonier - reconstructed 1758 Fort, featuring period furniture and French and Indian War artifacts

The Compass Inn - restored stagecoach inn

Call for reservations; cost to be announced

Thursday - July 23, 1981 - Bus leaves OPO 8 a.m.

Tour of Governor's Mansion - Harrisburg, PA Tour of The Capitol Architectural Walking Tour

Saturday - September 12, 1981

Southern Suburbs Historical Homes Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church

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Saturday - October 3, 1981

Sewickley Area History along the waterfront Historical Church Old Economy Village

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Saturday - November 7, 1981

North Side Calvary United Methodist Church Emmanuel Episcopal Church "Before and After View" of North Side

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Saturday - December 5, 1981

Oakland area churches Nationality Rooms at the University of Pgh.

PHLF NEWS & NOTES

PHLF Trustee, Reed Albig has been named citizen of the year by the Greater McKeesport Jaycees; congratulations!

The NEW YORK TIMES on December 28, 1980 ran an extensive article called, "Housing Scarce For Touring Actors", and cited the excellent arrangements our organization has with the Pittsburgh Public Theatre in which we acquired the house at 841 North Lincoln Avenue in the North Side; the Junior League restored it as part of the Decorator's Showhouse, and we now lease it at low rates to the Pittsburgh Public Theatre.

Again this past Christmas Season PHLF was offered a space in the downtown Joseph Horne department store to set up a gift shop. The 1980 shop featured exclusively handcrafted items from Meadowcroft Village. We thank Joseph Horne's for this opportunity to make over \$1,000. for Meadowcroft Village programs.

We are looking for a volunteer who would like to assist the curatorial staff in developing exhibitions deriving from the Pittsburgh Community. The Old Post Office Museum welcomes exhibits of the work of local artists, crafts persons, and collectors. We would like to have someone assist us in getting the word out to various groups and individuals about the opportunities to use the Old Post Office Museum for exhibitions.

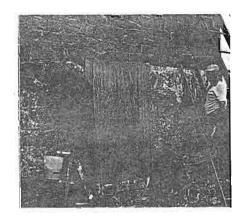
Anyone interested in assisting members of the Pennsylvania Railroad and Technical Historical Society in sorting out Pittsburgh regional scenes from a recently retrieved collection of P.R.R. glass negative plates, please contact Greg Weidner at the Museum.

Burtner House Progress



This picture is a southside front view after pointing, painting and restoration of the steps. The pointing and other masonry work was contracted. The mortar mix was the same as that used in 1820. The outside woodwork was painted by a crew of community volunteers under the supervision of a retired professional painter whose services were donated.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Tarentum are removing whitewash from the stones where the summer kitchen was once attached to the house. This community service project had to be finished before the pointing of the stones could be accomplished. Workers handfashioned wooden tools to prevent scratching the stones.







PHLF PERFORMING ARTS SERIES WILL FEATURE "THE BOYFRIEND" MARCH 27, 1981 AT 7:30 AT

THE OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

The play will be presented by grades 7 and 8 of the Rogers School for the Creative and Performing Arts, under the direction of James Wright.

Admission: Adults \$2.00 Children \$1.00

PHLF Offers Houses for Sale

Several of PHLF's houses in the Mexican War Streets and Manchester are now available for sale. Most of the houses have been completely restored, however those at 512, 514 Eloise and 1238 Monterey offer the opportunity for restoration. For information: call 322-1204.

FOR SALE

1201	Buena Vista	5 Units	\$150,000
512	Eloise		25,000
514	Eloise		25,000
1200	Monterey	2 Units	80,000
1220	Monterey	2 Units	60,000
1238	Monterey		30,000
1330	Liverpool	2 Units	74,900
1305	W. North	2 Units	70,000
1137	Sheffield	3 Units	73,000

Construction Guidelines for Manchester

Guidelines for New Construction in Manchester, prepared by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in conjunction with the Manchester Citizens Corporation, is now available through the Manchester Citizens Corporation. These guidelines define eleven design criteria which will assure the preservation of the architectural and historic character of the Manchester area. All new construction including extensions beyond present perimeters of existing structures, will be subject to these regulations and will be evaluated based on the contents of this problem.



Nestled on the hills and in the valleys, Pittsburgh's Old European Churches and neighborhoods await your discovery.

For information on PRIVATE TOURS, SLIDE/LECTURE PROGRAMS, PUBLIC TOURS: Call 322-1204

marks Foundation

TEMBERSHIP DUES:

00 from \$25.00 .00 \$100.00

ON OR CORPORATION

3 \$50.00 3 \$50.00 3100.00

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

- Free admission to the Old Post Office, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Museum.
- 5% discount on purchases at the Old Post Office Museum Gift Shop.
- 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.
- Notification of new exhibits at the Old Post Office.
- Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."

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Jacob Witzel House, Evergreen Rd, Ross Twp.
Chalfant Hall, Ridge Ave., Allegheny West
Kaufmann's Department Store & Clock, Downtown
Kramer House, Kramer St., Sewickley
Old Allegheny County Airport

1980 Donors of Artifacts to Old Post Office Museum

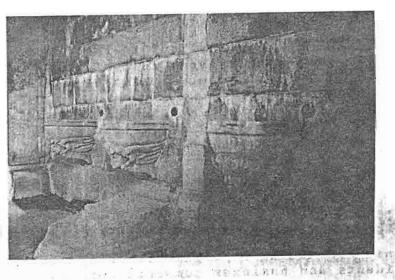
Many thanks to those who donated artifacts to the Old Post Office Museum during 1980:

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Aldrich Mrs. Agnes Ball William C. Ball, III Mrs. James Bell George A. Birx, Jr. H. J. Blumenshine Bridgeville Community Association Mr. & Mrs. J. Donald Cannon Russel Cashdollar Mrs. Harriet Coulson Duquesne Light Company Lou Frank Joseph Horlacher Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Jones, III Lane Medical Library Edward B. Lee, Jr. Chester LeMaistre Miss Ruth Marshall Mrs. John C. Miller

Mrs. Anne W. Montecastle Harry D. Morris Mrs. Royce McCutcheon Mrs. John C. Oliver, Jr. Miss Lucille Pomeroy Tom Regan Mrs. Betty Reukauf Mrs. Allen B. Schall Mrs. J. Paul Scheetz Mrs. Frank Schroeder Miss Jeannette Seneff Charles H. Shirey Nelson Slater Mrs. Ervin J. Smith Mr. & Mrs. S. William Stouffer Nat V. Tacchino, Jr. Mrs. Harry Unangst Mrs. Katherine Walker Dr. Walter L. Winner

SURVEY STUMPER

Do you recognize these cherubs, located along a major Pittsburgh thoroughfare?

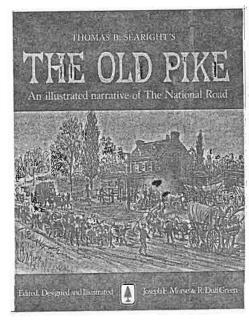


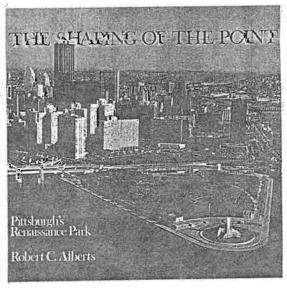
The cherubs support the basins of Howe Spring, on 5th Ave. at S. Highland Ave. Built as part of the Antebellum estate of Thomas M. Howe, the springs are all that remains of that estate. They were a favorite drinking fountain in the late nineteenth century. M.L. Benedum bought and demolished the old house in 1911, replacing it with his house, Greystone, now Benedum Hall of Chatham College.



New At the CORNERSTONE

Among many new and interesting items at the CORNERSTONE in the Freight House Shops at Station Square are two books about our area:





Be sure to browse THE CORNERSTONE often for new books, additional artifacts, and gifts!

-CALENDAR OF EVENTS-March 16 8:15 p.m. Old Post Office Distinguished Lecturers in Historic Preservation Series Michael Ainslie, Lecturer Members free; Non-mem. \$2.00 Details on page 1. March 27 7:30 Old Post Office Performing Arts Series Rogers School for the Creative & Performing Arts present: "The Boyfriend" Adults - \$2.00; Children- \$1.00 April 4 PHLF - Ethnic Church Tour 1:00 p.m. Bus leaves Old Post Office. Details under 1981 Tours April 22,24,25 Arbor Day Activities at the Burtner House, Route 28. PHLF - Ethnic Church Tour May 1:00 Bus leaves Old Post Office Details under 1981 Tours Plant Sale for Mother's Day and May Tour of Burtner House PHLF Bus Tour to Fort Ligonier June Bus leaves Old Post Office at 9:00 a.m. Details under 1981 Tour

Neighborhood Preservation Training

12 noon - 7 p.m. Strawberry

Festival at Burtner House Rt. 28

We are conducting a program to inform the residents and business community of East Allegheny about the practical benefits of historic preservation, and how communities are revitalized through restoration and rehabilitation.

June

The program is funded through grants from the Hillman Foundation of Pittsburgh and the Office of Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg.

Sessions to date have included an orientation meeting, an evening on identifying architectural styles and details, a walking tour of the neighborhood, and a Holiday Tour of churches.

The Holiday Tour was held on December 13, and in less than three hours the tour participants had viewed several of the oldest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in Pittsburgh. Included were St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1853-59) with its twin towers, St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church, St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church, and Voeghtly Memorial. Each of the churches is important to the community, a must for preservation.

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Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
□ New
NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
ENCLOSED IS \$FOR AMEMBERSHIP.
This Membership is a Gift from

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

INDIVIDUAL

- ☐ Active from \$15.00
- ☐ Husband & wife from \$25.00
- ☐ Family from \$30.00
- □ Sustaining from \$100.00
- □ Patron from \$500.00

ORGANIZATION OR CORPORATION

- ☐ Active from \$25.00
- ☐ Contributing from \$50.00
- ☐ Sustaining from \$100.00
- ☐ Patron from \$500.00

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- 5. Free admission to winter lecture series.
- Notification of new exhibits at the Old Post
- 7. Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs."