

LIFE AND ARCHITECTURE IN PITTSBURGH

By James D. Van Trump — "An Ode to City's Architecture"

It's just a marvel of information given in the most delightfully florid style by a man whose keen observations are Romantically flavored. Pittsburgh doesn't look quite the same after seeing it through Jamie's eyes.

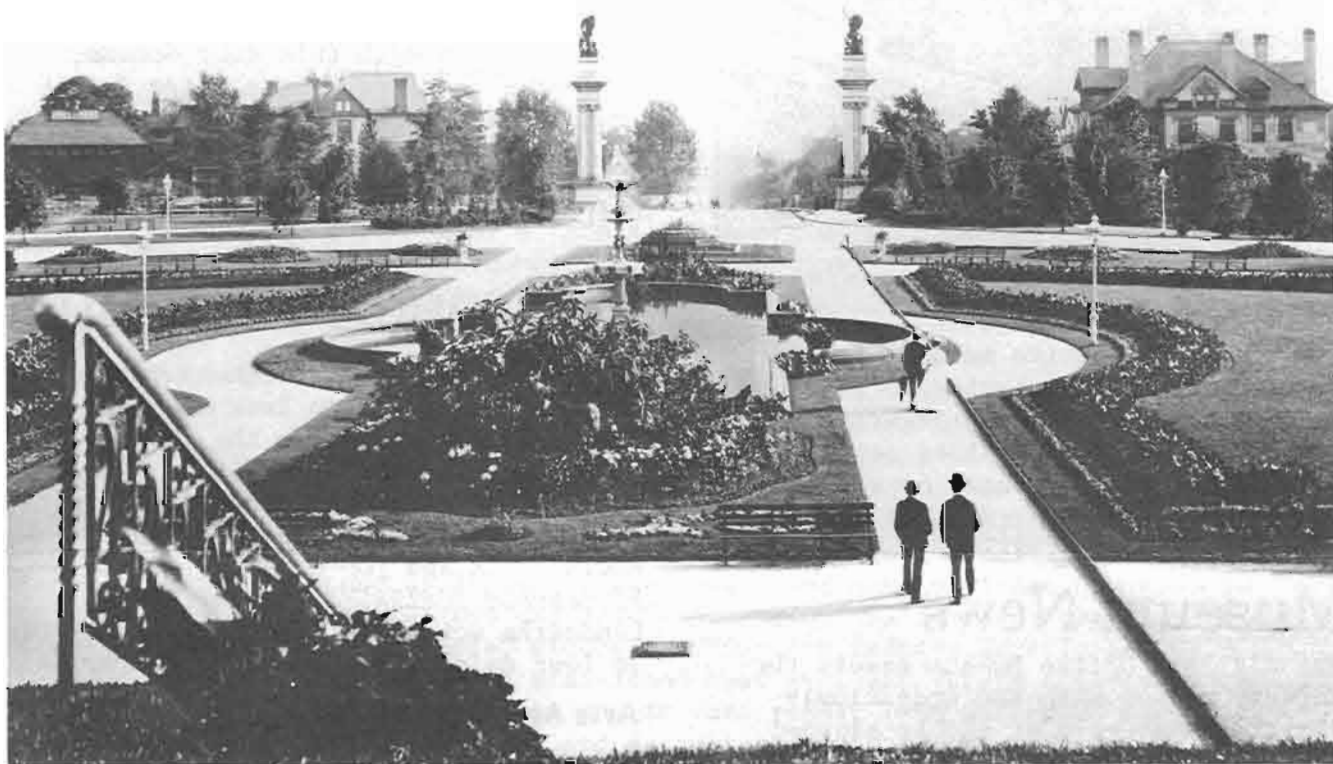
—Ann Daly, *The Pittsburgh Press*

On November 11 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation hosted a reception in honor of Jamie Van Trump, upon the release of *Life and Architecture in Pittsburgh*. The 416-page anthology includes a memorable selection of Mr. Van Trump's scholarly architectural articles and personal essays, an introduction by Arthur Ziegler, and biographical sketch, bibliography and index by editor Walter C. Kidney. Ninety-five photographs are used to illustrate Jamie's vivid prose. *Life and Architecture in Pittsburgh* gives permanence to much of Jamie's work. The 64 essays were first published in now out-of-print magazines, newspaper supplements, radio tapes from WQED broadcasts, and unpublished manuscripts.

Essay titles include:

- "Pittsburgh Railroad Stations Past and Present"
- "The Gothic Revival in Pittsburgh"
- "The Skyscraper as Monument"
- "Art Deco"
- "The Old City Hall of Pittsburgh"
- "Lions in the Streets"
- "Temples of Finance"
- "The North Side Market House"
- "Memories of Highland Park"
- "East Liberty, East Liberty."
- "Memoirs of Old Sewickley"
- "Of Temples and Technology"
- "Downtown Restaurants of Yesterday"
- "Chronicles of Old Fifth Avenue"
- "The Buildings of Peter Berndtson"
- "Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr."
- "On Women, Words, and Pittsburgh"
- "Of Castles"
- "Of Christmas Past and Christmas Cards"

Life and Architecture in Pittsburgh is now available at The Cornerstone store in Station Square, in major book-stores throughout the area, and can be ordered by completing the form opposite. The hardbound volume is \$18.95; members of Landmarks who order through the Foundation receive a 10% discount.



Entrance to Highland Park, c. 1900

Contributors

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following for contributing to the publication of *Life and Architecture in Pittsburgh*.

Major Grants from:

The Helen Clay Frick Foundation
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By James D. Van Trump

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6% sales tax for books delivered in PA : \$ _____

Postage and handling; fixed price: \$ 1. 90

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Please make check payable to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation; referenced "JVT BOOK"

1984 Annual Meeting Scheduled

We are designing the 1984 annual meeting to be a historical jamboree on the Monongahela River. Reserve Saturday, May 5 on your calendar, and take part in this riverboat tour-and-meeting in one. The itinerary will be as follows:

- 9 a.m.: Walking tour of Station Square (optional) so members and friends gain an inside view of restoration in progress and new plans to come.
- 10:15 : Board a Gateway Clipper boat and cruise to Monongahela City; box lunch, films, lectures, and annual meeting on board.
- 2:30 : Walking tour of Monongahela City
- 4:30 : Board bus at Monongahela and
- 5:30 : return to Station Square.



Landmarks will invite members from other historical societies to join us on this outing; the tour/meeting price is \$16 per person. Complete details will be given in our next newsletter--in the meantime, reserve this date on your calendar.

Museum News

The Old Post Office Museum greets the holiday season with the endearingly familiar spectacle of richly-adorned Christmas trees, and with an eye-and-ear-opening new exhibition. The trees, donated by Eisler Nurseries, are decorated with colorful ornaments donated by the people of the City of Pittsburgh.

The exhibition features ladies evening clothes of the 1920s, selected from the museum's costume collection. This dazzling apparel from the Roaring '20s is accompanied by taped music of the period.

Plans are also underway, and funding is being sought, to transform the museum's Rotunda Gallery space. The new exhibition calls for installation of two period rooms, redisplay of the toy collection, and the creation of gallery space so the historical prints and paintings from the museum collection, and the student projects being created in our educational programs, can be displayed effectively.

Reorganization of second floor offices will provide new storage space for the costume collection, additional library space, and once again, a slide/lecture gallery.

Museum Gifts Contributed

We thank the following people and organizations for donating gifts to the Old Post Office Museum collection:

Duquesne Light Company, for its gift of corporate seal embossers primarily representing defunct Pittsburgh transit companies; Mrs. Mahlon Lewis, for her gift of lace, and Chinese and Japanese textiles; James M. McCloskey, for his gift of a 1929 Ford Model A; and Francis B. Nimick for the gift of late 19th- and early 20th-century family clothing.

New Momentum for Tour Program

The fall tour season has been a booming success with over forty private tours during September and October. Hard-working and capable docents have guided hundreds of people through the city's historic neighborhoods, business districts, churches, and architectural landmarks.

A special tour for 70 people from Chicago's Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio Foundation was created. Visitors rode the Duquesne Incline and toured downtown; special emphasis was given to buildings designed by Chicago architects. Convention members with the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers toured Chatham Village, the Mexican War Streets, Schenley Farms, and Station Square. A walking tour highlighting the downtown renaissance was conducted for 24 Gulf Oil executive wives--in spite of a fine rainy mist. One tour we want to repeat was that of the Strip District, originally designed for Sacred Heart Ladies auxiliary.

To keep up with this tour demand, Landmarks is scheduling a third docent training course, beginning in February. Call Lu Donnelly, 322-1204, if you would like to be part of this 10-week course; classes are once a week.

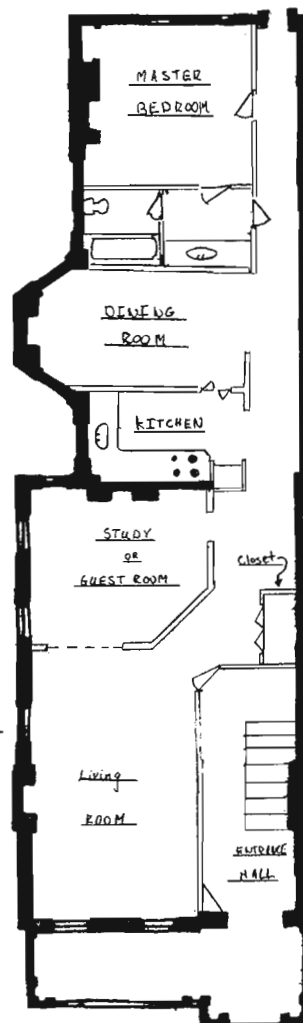
Outreach Through Education

Students throughout Allegheny County stop on the street to look at building details and analyze the floor plans of their houses as a result of Landmarks' educational programs. Educational outreach steadily expanded in 1983 on the heels of *An Eye for Architecture* and *PITTSBURGH HERITAGE*. In September, Landmarks went back to school, involved in four major educational projects:

Arts Apprenticeship

For a second year, Landmarks is collaborating with the Gifted and Talented Education Program of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in a workshop series designed to introduce high school students to the architectural professions. The first day-long session focused on the Manchester neighborhood. Following a presentation by William Thompkins of the Manchester Citizen's Corporation, the 32 eighth through twelfth graders visited the drafting rooms, millwork factory, and sample housing rehabilitations of Tom Mistick & Sons, Inc. Each student then planned a rehabilitation project for a Manchester house. One is pictured here.

Station Square was the site of session two. Ellis Schmidlapp, president of Landmarks Design Associates, explained how an architect chooses building materials and products, plans mechanical systems, and meets building code requirements. Following a tour of The Landmarks



PHLF Receives Education Award

The American Association for State and Local History awarded Landmarks' department of education a *Certificate of Commendation* for its work in preservation education programming. The Association's awards program is the most prestigious competition in the nation for local history achievement. A national selection committee, composed of leaders in the history profession, reviewed 14 nominations submitted by individuals and institutions across the United States and Canada.

Since the creation of Landmarks' education department in the fall of 1981 over 2,500 public and private school students throughout Allegheny County have participated in preservation programs designed to foster an appreciation of the built environment and a knowledge of Pittsburgh history and architecture. The foundation's programs include *An Eye for Architecture*, *PITTSBURGH HERITAGE*, and the *Apprenticeship in Architecture*. Slide shows and curriculum materials created for each of these programs are available on a regular basis for use by public and private school teachers throughout Allegheny County. Many programs are also borrowed by historical organizations and community groups. Call 322-1204 for details.

Building, then undergoing restoration, students developed projects based on planning issues at Station Square.

Session three addressed basic issues of structure and space in architectural design, followed by an exploration of design issues in downtown Pittsburgh.

The fourth and fifth sessions are still to take place; details will be given in the next issue of *PHLF News*.

Quaker Valley High School

Landmarks is a new participant in the Arts in Education program of the Quaker Valley School District, conducting a series of four "Exploring Historic Architecture" seminars. An introductory seminar for 13 tenth to twelfth graders addressed issues in historic architecture and historic preservation. Field workshops in Sewickley, Pittsburgh's North Side, and the Golden Triangle will follow.

Phillips Elementary School

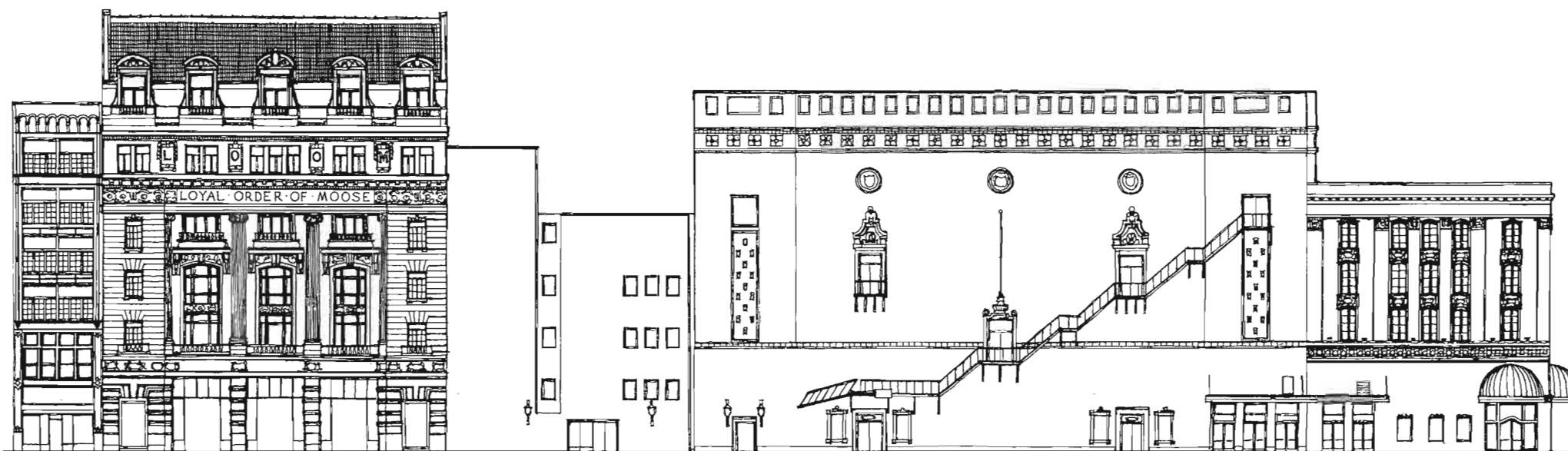
Third graders at Phillips public elementary school, located at 20th and Sarah Streets, studied Pittsburgh life and culture during the Victorian era. Their study culminated in a November 1 visit by Landmarks to lead a walking tour focusing on the Victorian heritage of the school's South Side neighborhood. Students, dressed in period costumes, visited the South Side Market House and old Bedford School, and examined Victorian storefronts and residences. Joining the students were State Senator James A. Romanelli and KDKA-TV, which broadcast a segment of the tour on the evening news.

GATE In-service Program

On December 3, Landmarks presented a session entitled "Architecture Studies for the Gifted" at a Mini-Conference on the Gifted sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Landmarks shared its growing educational expertise and publicized existing educational programs in a forum designed to introduce architectural studies to teachers of gifted students.

PRESERVATION ISSUES & CONCERNS

Heinz Hall Area Expansion



In the November 19 issue of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, a \$150-million development was announced which included a twin-tower headquarters building for Allegheny International and the renovation of the Stanley Theater. The Howard Heinz Endowment, which transformed the old Penn Theatre into Heinz Hall, has either purchased or optioned all the properties necessary for the Allegheny International buildings.

Landmarks has formulated the following position statement on the Penn/Liberty Avenue expansion in response to a request from the Howard Heinz Endowment:

I. We have asked that the terracotta facades from the Lomakin Building (631-633 Liberty) and the Kingsbacher (637 Liberty) be dismantled and given to Landmarks so they might be re-erected, in all or in part, on another site. Before the proposed demolition of the two loft buildings behind the Stanley occurs, we want to review the Stanley expansion plans in detail.

II. Demolition on Liberty Avenue must not extend beyond Eighth Street. The structures beginning in the eight hundred and nine hundred blocks represent late Victorian loft buildings and typify our early commercial/wholesale district. This building type is becoming increasingly rare. Several owners of these buildings are now pursuing National Register listing.

III. The Stanley Theater will be saved and renovated, which is of major benefit to the city. We applaud the Heinz interest in this undertaking.

IV. The facade of the Moose Building must be saved. The Loyal Order of Moose Building (or Elks Building) is located at 626 Penn Avenue. Built around 1915, the cream-colored terracotta structure is the most extra-

The pen-and-ink drawing above shows the Moose Building at 626 Penn Avenue with Heinz Hall to the right. The 800 and 900 blocks of Liberty Avenue are shown to the right.



gantly designed small building in downtown Pittsburgh. Its elaborate ornamentation and monumental appearance are characteristic of the Beaux-Arts style. Only the Pennsylvania Railroad Rotunda can match this building's level of Beaux-Arts ornamentation.

The building relates in scale and style to the neighboring Heinz Hall. The facade lends a festive, even theatrical character to the area, which complements the functions of the Stanley and Heinz Hall. The facade should be preserved as part of the Heinz Hall environment.

Landmarks has endorsed the Heinz Plan with these provisions because it would result in the creation of an arts fund to maintain the Stanley Theater, and it would result in major economic and cultural benefits for our city. Historic structures, in turn, would become part of a revitalized area, anchored by a new headquarters building for Allegheny International, thereby creating more construction and permanent employment for Pittsburgh.

St. Mary's Church and Priory

On November 30, sealed bids for the purchase of St. Mary's Church and Priory from PennDot were opened. The Church and Priory, appraised at \$240,000, are located in East Allegheny on Lockhart and Nash Streets. At the time of this writing, the outcome of the bidding was not known.

St. Mary's Church is a unique and unconventional opportunity for investment: the Church has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, so the new owner who carries out the restoration in keeping with preservation covenants can qualify for a 25% Investment Tax Credit on the rehabilitation costs, as well as an accelerated 15-year depreciation of those same costs. For up-to-date information, call 321-1204, East Allegheny Community Council, or Barbara Burns at 231-3352.



The Jenkins Arcade



Before demolition of the Jenkins Arcade began on November 2, Landmarks commissioned photographer Randy Nelson to document the interior of the arcade and notable exterior features.

Although the fate of the Jenkins Arcade was a sensitive public issue, Landmarks maintained that the building was not an architectural monument but an important psychological monument because of the popular use of the arcade space. The building was not in compliance with present life-safety standards, and could not easily be renovated within economic constraints. For these reasons, Landmarks proposed to the developer (the Hillman Company) that an arcade be created in the new building so the historic retail corridor would be continued. In this way, the psychological landmark would be venerated, and a more significant architectural structure could be developed. It is still our hope to see that this is done.

Welcome New Members

We welcome the following people and organizations as new members of Landmarks. Your support and participation will help strengthen our programs in education, museum activities, neighborhood restoration, and historic preservation. (Members who have joined after November 21 will be listed in the next issue of *PHLF News*.)

Donald G. Benjamin
Barbara J. Bogard
Cheryl L. Geist-Brozell
Deadra Cobbs
Virginia DelDin
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Dodgen
Gail L. Erny
Marjorie J. Geitgey
Gretchen Schmertz Jacob
Suzanne Kirchner
Landscape Design Society
of Western Pennsylvania
Langelier Historic
Properties, Inc.
Betty E. Lazear
Claudia F. Lindsey
Lewis E. Linn III
Anna W. Locker
Sandra M. McCardle
A. Walden Moats, M.D.

Mr. & Mrs. James L. Murdy
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Catherine Randall
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The Rust Foundation
Marjorie Schlutz
Dorothy Schnick
Raymond L. Schutzman
Shady Side Academy
Junior School
Mrs. Winifred W. Spear
Sue Ann Whittick



Holiday Shopping
at The Cornerstone in Station Square
Members receive a 10% discount on all
books, artifacts, and gifts!

(Phone: 765-1042)



Capital Campaign Contributors

McCune Foundation

This generous contribution to our Capital Campaign is designated to support, through our endowment fund, four areas of program development within Landmarks: historic buildings development; museums and special projects; revolving fund/endangered buildings fund; and public education. This contribution, and the many others we have received through the Capital Campaign, give our staff new incentive to strengthen existing programs in historic preservation and develop new ones.

Businesses and Individuals

We also would like to thank Bell of PA, Matthews International Corporation, and Mrs. Inez M. Patrick for recent contributions to the Capital Campaign.

Presidential Pictures Bequeathed to Landmarks

Framed pictures of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, William H. Taft, Ulysses S. Grant, John Adams, Benjamin Harrison, James Monroe, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and John F. Kennedy are among the collection of 43 presidential pictures bequeathed to Landmarks by the late Harry M. Epstine. Many of the pictures are autographed, or include letters, documents, or brief notes. The collection will be retained by Mrs. Epstine for the present time.

Canal Plaque Mystery Partially Solved

Our thanks to Richard L. Linder, a member of Landmarks, who provided information about the canal plaque which was described in *The Chairman's Column* (Fall newsletter). The plaque was noticed in a "free-standing cellar of a broken down insulbrick house" on Arlington Avenue. Mr. Linder be-

lieves the canal referred to was the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal which linked Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in the 1830s and '40s. The following description in the *Historical Pennsylvania Leaflet No. 19* identifies three of the gentlemen whose names are inscribed on the plaque: "The railroad [Allegheny Portage Railroad] took three years to build under the general direction of President James Clarke of the Canal Board and the immediate superintendency of Samuel Jones. The engineer in charge was Sylvester Welch, an expert who had done his early surveying along the Erie Canal in New York and had had further experience on the Union and Lehigh canals in Pennsylvania." For nearly two decades, the Allegheny Portage Railroad, which carried the canal boats over the Allegheny Mountain, was the most efficient method of transporting manufactured goods of western Pennsylvania to the east, and the imports and products of Philadelphia to the west.

Board of Canal Commissioners James S. Stevenson, President James Clarke, John Mitchell, Samuel Jones, Superintendents Sylvester Welch, Principal Cap McLaughlin, James McCamey, Cement Engineers James Slam (ian?) D. Milloy Builders

Preservation Tips: The Welfare of Windows

The window is a primary element of nearly every building, with important functional and visual qualities. Historically, it has provided fresh air and ventilation for interior spaces, while admitting light. At the same time, it provides visual linkage to the



"Modernized" windows restored to original

outside world and contributes substantially to the exterior appearance of a building. Given this multi-purpose role, it is alarming that the window is often treated with disrespect.

Every historic (original) window has a precise character derived from the type, period and style of its parent building. With proper maintenance, windows quietly serve their designed purpose for decades. But often, through lack of care, or through major human intervention, the historic windows disappear--and the building is never the same again.

In less severe cases, original windows are merely obscured by ill-fitting or ill-colored storm sash, when weather-stripping, custom storm sash, or careful painting could provide a better solution. In more serious cases, windows are replaced outright, often by windows of radically different size or character. Maintenance problems, efforts for energy conservation, and the occasion of major building "improvements" often provide the excuse. Many a rehabilitated building in downtown Pittsburgh displays ill-conceived modernized window treatment. Many a private residence in virtually any neighborhood has lost its original window type and configuration to a ruthless application of aluminum siding.

Some replacement windows are well-made and cause negligible disruption to a building. The key is to choose windows that resemble the original windows as nearly as possible. But often, new windows are materially inferior to the original and are unavailable in appropriate types and sizes. In either case, it is almost always cheaper to recondition old windows than it is to replace them. And new "efficient" window installations may have inherent unconsidered drawbacks. If, for example, window openings are reduced greatly in the interests of diminished heat loss and energy conservation, more energy use may in fact result from increased electrical lighting loads and decreased passive solar heat gain.

Techniques for the evaluation, repair, and weatherization of historic windows abound. Call Landmarks for helpful book and pamphlet titles: 322-1204.

Neville House News

One of the first floor bedrooms at the Neville House in Woodville, Collier Township, will be dedicated in memory of Virginia Marous, auxiliary board member and garden club chairman. The room will be decorated around an antique child's rope bed which Mrs. Marous donated. You may contribute to the Virginia Marous Memorial Fund by mailing a check to Mrs. Joseph W. Lawrence, 600 Somerville Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

Illustrations by Nat Youngblood of the original log kitchen in the Neville House are available for \$5.00 through the Neville House auxiliary. They were donated by Margaret Woolf, owner of the International Art Gallery. Call Kitty McKee (279-2975) for more information.

Burtner House Slide Show Available

The Burtner House auxiliary has created a 45-minute slide presentation documenting the restoration progress to date and featuring photos of early settlers and donated artifacts. Call Mrs. Joseph Ferree (224-7537) for more information.

The Rachel Carson Homestead

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association continues to raise funds through the sale of Rachel Carson T-shirts (\$5.00 for children; \$6.00 for adults). They can be ordered by calling 274-7408. Throughout the winter, tours of the Rachel Carson Homestead will be conducted by appointment; a 20-minute slide show on Rachel Carson's life and on the Association's activities is also available by calling 274-7408.

Phipps Conservatory Holiday Flower Show

Phipps Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show continues through January 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$1.75 for adults and 75¢ for children and senior citizens with identification.

PAST AND FUTURE: 1983-1984



1983 was a year of significant change and progress for Landmarks.

Changes occurred in the restructuring of our staff and reorganization of offices. The Station Square administrative and real-estate offices, headed by president Arthur Ziegler, recently opened in The Landmarks Building at Station Square. A members' room is being installed there on the fourth floor for the convenience of those who may be shopping at Station Square and would like to rest, read, hold a small meeting, or have a cup of coffee. This room is expected to open in mid-1984.

Louise Ferguson, appointed executive director in March, is overseeing Landmarks' program staff at the Old Post Office. Their work includes publications, education, tours, lectures, museum planning, and historic properties and neighborhood activities.

Progress has been made in many areas of activity: the following summary highlights the most significant accomplishments.

Capital Campaign

In spite of the recession, Landmarks is within reaching its Capital Campaign goal of \$2,300,000. The last phase of the campaign will be initiated in the spring of 1984. To date, we have received over \$1,560,000 thanks to the magnificent support of our trustees, members, Pittsburgh foundations and corporations, and individual donors. We are deeply grateful for this community support.

Neighborhoods

This has been a year of consolidation in our neighborhood programs. We have sold a number of our residential properties to place them back in private hands; these proceeds have been returned to the revolving fund, where they will be used for the next phase of our neighborhood activities. Our greatest disappointment this year has been our inability to sell or rent the two small workers' houses in Natrona which we restored. We hope the market improves!

Historic Properties

Now that exterior restoration is complete, the Neville House auxiliary is raising funds to complete interior restoration and to obtain furnishings. The Walker-Ewing property is fully occupied. In 1984, we hope to complete a master plan for that property which will provide for a use beyond that of rental. Old St. Luke's is being carefully restored by the auxiliary which continues to raise funds. To date, the pews have been restored, a new concrete floor has been poured, and new bathrooms, heating and lighting installed. Next on the agenda is to plaster and insulate the walls, and to restore the cemetery. Daylight services and weddings continue to be scheduled upon request. The Neill Log House continues to function on a special appointment basis. Educational programs are held on a regular basis at the Rachel Carson Homestead. The auxiliary is now seeking funds for exterior repairs. The Burtner House auxiliary continues each year to conduct further restoration as funds are raised. The Phipps Committee has formulated a master plan for the expenditure of remaining funds to fulfill the interests of the committee and the requests of the City. A new campaign is being planned to build an educational wing and change the unfortunate modern entranceway that was added to Phipps in the '50s.

Museums

Coinciding with some of the staff's relocation to Station Square, we are reorganizing the exhibits at the Old Post Office Museum in the Rotunda Gallery. Now under planning, this reorganization will require special funding. We expect that the new exhibits will be in place for at least two years. The Pittsburgh Children's Museum has had over 50,000 people visit since its opening in June. The museum is located in the lower gallery, and staff offices are on the third floor. Landmarks will continue to occupy the Rotunda Gallery, with staff offices, an expanded library and slide/lecture gallery on the second floor.

Tours/Lectures

Thanks to 12 enthusiastic and knowledgeable docents, our tour program has expanded throughout 1983. Seventy-eight tours for private groups were conducted this summer and fall, as well as our member tours. A total of 118 people attended our slide/lecture series in May at the Old Post Office Museum, and an audience of over 250 attended the 1983 Distinguished Lecture by Walter Beinecke.



Landmarks' Antique Show at Station Square was a great success--thanks to manager Jack Squires, 47 dealers, about 40 volunteers, and 4,000 visitors. PITTSBURGH HERITAGE, funded by the Henry C. Frick Educational Commission, is one of our three major educational programs. Sixty-six students and teachers attended the summer workshop.



Station Square

1983 marked the successful completion of Phase I of the Station Square development project. Launched in 1976 with a risk-capital grant of \$5,000,000 from the Allegheny Foundation, Station Square has set national precedents in development by not-for-profit organizations. The Shops at Station Square are practically fully leased: only one vacancy out of 70 shops and restaurants remains. Commerce Court, The Landmarks Building, the Gatehouse, and the Express House were each renovated this year and leased to office tenants. The Sheraton Hotel has become the most popular hotel in the city, boasting 90.8% occupancy and serving an average of 7,500 people a week in its restaurants. The Gateway Clipper Fleet doubled its business this year and became the largest excursion-boat operation in America. Development plans for Phase II of Station Square will be announced by Landmarks in 1984. Concept design work is well underway.

Publications

Landmarks was pleased to issue *Life and Architecture in Pittsburgh* in honor of Jamie Van Trump's seventy-fifth year. The hardbound publication is a monument to his scholarship and his ability to capture Pittsburgh's past in memorable prose. Over 250 books have been sold in one month; we hope the limited edition sells out soon so we can reprint the anthology in 1984! On a quarterly basis, we continue to publish both *PHLF News* and *ALL ABOARD Station Square News*; please let us know if you would like to be added to the Station Square newsletter mailing list--it is free to members.

Survey of Allegheny County

The fieldwork for the architectural survey of Allegheny County was completed this October--bringing the four-year, \$400,000 project to a successful conclusion. Our staff is now working closely with author Walter C. Kidney to prepare a folio-sized book summarizing the survey findings. The publication date, providing funds are raised, is set for the fall of 1984. Contents will include a 60-page essay describing the architectural heritage of Allegheny County, followed by about 600 site descriptions. Illustrations will include both color and black and white photos.