

Number 93 Winter 1985

National Register Primer

livan, Montour, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, Carbon, Union, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Fulton, and Franklin. This is too bad because many architectural landmarks are still extant in these counties and worthy of documentation and preservation. Mercer, Somerset, Montgomery, and Cumberland are just getting started, and Indiana is making a new start after a four-year lapse.

Philadelphia, architecturally the richest of all 67 counties and contributing *half* the sites in the Pennsylvania part of the Historic American Building Survey, is about one-third recorded, with work continuing. Its suburban neighbors have a mixed record: Bucks is about one-quarter recorded, with no activity since 1981; Chester is fully recorded; Delaware is two-thirds recorded, with no activity for about a year now; Montgomery, we repeat, is just starting. All these counties will have plenty to offer. Adams County, with 526 square miles, has a mere 2.1 square miles to go, but this tiny area has been waiting since 1979. Dauphin County, which should be setting the example, has recorded 11 of its 518 square miles and has done nothing since 1981.

All things considered, PHLF has done very creditably for Allegheny County, especially considering the complicated terrain over which our historic resources are strewn and the sheer number of them we have. Let us hope for a completed state survey some day. The cutoff in the 1930s is arbitrary, but allowing for this, we could have a fine overview of the physical evidence of the ways in which the people of Pennsylvania have lived.

The National Register identifies worthy properties and encourages individuals and governments to value them. Listing on the National Register:

- assures that state and federal government actions will, if at all possible, benefit and not harm listed properties.

- involves no constraint of private action. A property owner may do whatever he/she chooses with a listed property if no state or federal assistance is involved. There are no requirements for public access.

For further information regarding National Register nominations, call Martin Aurand (471-5808).

We are now inviting our members to contribute to this landmark publication. All contributors will be acknowledged on an introductory page in the book. We welcome your contribution in any amount, payable to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and referenced "Survey Book."

Please detach this form and mail to PHLF, 450 The Landmarks Building, One Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Your canceled check is your receipt.

Welcome New Members

We welcome the following people into membership and look forward to their participation in our programs and historic preservation projects. PHLF would not be 21 years old without the dedicated support of our members. Thank you! (Members who joined after December 26 will be acknowledged in the next issue.)

- Nancy J. Alderson

Mr. & Mrs. Harter Banks, Jr.
& Family

Don Baratie

Dr. & Mrs. James A. Barter

Gretchen L. Bohna

Nina Bridenbaugh

Cold-Comp

H. Howard Cusic

Elizabeth Dow

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Edmunds

Nancy Ewing

Mr. & Mrs. M. P. Garfunkel

Hon. & Mrs. Daniel Goldstein

Frank P. Hess Company

Alice F. Hills

Alice Johnson

Judith Knapp

Edward S. Koppelman
- Frank J. Kurtik

Paula Lawley

John M. Maddigan

Mr. & Mrs. Fiori Magnotti

Shari Maloney

Elizabeth Mathinson Lind

Shirley McMaster

Cynthia L. Mengel

Judith A. Merritt

Jeanne Mulert Interiors

Robert Odland

A. J. Puntereri

Ellen M. Rosenthal

Phil F. Sauereisen

Bruce R. Schorr

Mrs. Jo Tau

Lisa Scheetz Todd

Rose F. White

Museum Donations

We are pleased to recognize the generosity of the following people who donated artifacts and costumes to our collection:

- Ms. Emma C. Barth*, for a white embroidered net apron c.1900.

Mrs. Elizabeth Muller Bates, for two 1860s shawls and a linen christening gown, c. 1880.

Mrs. Charles Beck, Jr., for a 1950s satin damask sheath dress and two china gruel bowls.

Mr. Gerald Kummer, for a selection of mid 20th-century ladies' fashions and accessories.

Ms. Ethel McCrady, for a beige, silk-accented dress with a bustle.

Mr. Robert H. Meyerjack, for 17 ensembles from the 1880s to World War I belonging to Mrs. Rachel McClelland and her daughters Sarah and Rachel.

Mrs. Vanita Parker, for a dress made of fabric printed especially for the Joseph Horne Company Centennial in 1949.

Mrs. Wilson K. Ray, for a brown seal skin capelet and patterned evening wrap.

Mrs. John H. Richetson, Jr., for an ivory satin wedding gown belonging to Anna Scaife Richetson and the accompanying 1899 wedding portrait.

Miss Jeanette Seneff, for a c.1860-bound booklet entitled "The Christian Minister's Advice to a Married Couple" and a 1922 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania teaching certificate.

Mrs. John P. Truxall, for 40 items of women's costumes and accessories dating from the 1850s to the 1950s.

Mrs. Imilda Tuttle, for a fully functional 14-stop Estey organ from the 19th century.

Any members or friends who wish to make a donation to PHLF should contact Tamara Dudukovich (471-5808).

Historic Property News

The Burtner House, Natrona Heights, Harrison Township

The Burtner House held its yearly reorganization meeting on Monday, January 29. Plans for popular annual events such as the summer Strawberry Festival were discussed and interior restoration goals were outlined. Since significant work--including reproduction of a c. 1821 chairrail--was performed in the living room of the Burtner House during 1984, the Society now hopes to bring in several major pieces of furniture to complete the room in 1985. Mrs. Joseph Ferree (224-7537) can provide more details regarding activities.

Old St. Luke's, Washington Pike, Collier Township

A new vestibule area is the next major project targeted by the Auxiliary of Old St. Luke's in Collier Township. The last year saw the installation of a new floor for the historic chapel which was displayed to the public on December 9 during Old St. Luke's annual Christmas candlelight tour. The Auxiliary continues to raise funds in order to continue restoration and someday open the chapel for services on a regular basis.

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NEWS

PHLF NEWS is a quarterly publication of
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. . . . President

Louise King Ferguson . . . Editor

Martin Aurand

Tamara Dudukovich . . . Contributing Editors

Walter C. Kidney

Jean Hodak Artist

Neville House Undertakes Fund-Raising Campaign



Since 1976, the Neville House Auxiliary has been working to restore Allegheny County's most historic residence--the Neville House in Collier Township. Built in 1785 by General John Neville, the Virginian Vernacular frame house was recently designated a National Historic Landmark. Only the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail, Smithfield Street Bridge, and Point State Park share this distinction in the Pittsburgh region.

Now that the Neville House has received national recognition, the Auxiliary is eager to raise funds for the continuing restoration work and move forward with a comprehensive plan to establish the Neville House as a museum and community center for generations to come. A capital fund raising campaign began in October 1984, under the leadership of Mrs. Derek Martin and it is proceeding with great success. More than 2,000 letters requesting contributions have been sent to individuals and businesses throughout the Chartiers Valley. Although this first effort has concentrated on near neighbors of the Neville House, volunteer members of the fund-raising committee are now contacting a broad segment of businesses, individuals, and foundations to request their support of this County landmark. We would like to encourage the membership of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to donate to this worthy restoration campaign. A campaign goal of \$50,000 has been set and contributions in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Checks may be made payable to: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and referenced for the Neville House.

Funds raised through the campaign will be used to:

1. Decorate and furnish The Neville House with authentic period pieces;

2. Create a master landscape plan including a parking area for visitors;

3. Restore the original kitchen and log section of the house;

4. Create educational and tour programs so the Neville House can serve as a community center.

During the past nine years, the Neville House Auxiliary has been successful in raising funds for all exterior repairs. The roof has been replaced, woodwork and finishings repaired, and the exterior painted a sunny yellow color. With a renewed commitment from their neighbors, members of PHLF, and others, the Auxiliary can proceed with this second phase of restoration. If you would like to talk directly with a member of the fund-raising committee, call Betsy Martin (276-5502) or Mary Ann Bigham (279-4049). We look forward to your help!

Neville House Campaign Contributors

The Neville House Auxiliary wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the following persons who have contributed to the campaign. (Those who have made contributions since December 1, 1984 will be acknowledged in the next issue of *PHLF News*.)

- Mrs. & Mrs. Edward S. Adams

Mr. & Mrs. E. P. Additon

George & Sonya Bayla

Mr. & Mrs. William Bechtol

Mr. & Mrs. John Bigham

Emily Stewart Bossert

Bridgeville Savings & Loan Assoc.

Elizabeth V. Brill

Diana Caplan

Ronald C. Carlisle

Wallace P. Cathcart

Rev. Gordon N. Craig

Mr. & Mrs. John P. Davis, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert J. DeMarrais

Theodore Craig Diller

Lucille Federoff

Fi-Del, Inc.

Mrs. Victor J. Firth

Mrs. Lawrence Fodse

In Memory of Ruth Graham Gibson

Margaret Gilfillan

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Glance

Juanita Graysay

John J. Green

Alma C. Hall

Helen Hussing

Mrs. Jeanne Wrenshall Jackson

Alf H. Johnson

Edith C. Jones
- Mrs. B. F. Jones, 3rd

Mr. & Mrs. G. F. Kesel

William Manby

Orpha J. McCarvey

Robert B. Meneilly

Samuel C. Mines, M.D.

Barbara Moore

Raymond Moretti

Mrs. Guy Oliver

Mrs. William M. Parrish

J. C. Penney Co., Inc.

Capitola Poellet

Helen Powell

Mary F. Schneider

Jane Shepard

Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Shuck

J. B. Smith

Mrs. Henry Stein

Mrs. John A. Stuart

TEDCO Construction Company

Elizabeth Guy Tranter

S. Trbovich

Margaret M. Vance

Verna Engineering, Inc.

Alma H. Weise

Oliver F. Weiss

Mrs. Arba G. Williamson, Jr

Thomas O. Yoder

Sam Zacharias

1985 Plans for Education Department



Susan K. Donley, Director of Education

Looking back, it seems only natural that the career paths of Susan K. Donley and Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation should meet. Thanks to a major grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Susan Donley is now director of education for PHLF. During the past three years, while PHLF was piloting its first major educational programs-- *An Eye for Architecture*, *Pittsburgh Heritage*, and the *Apprenticeship in Architecture*--Susan was designing and teaching a ten-week museum and local history project at the Riverview Children's Center, serving as the education director of the Society for Art in Crafts in Verona, and completing graduate work at the University of Oklahoma toward the degree of "Master of Liberal Studies with Museum Emphasis."

Susan's talents and experiences make her an ideal choice for PHLF's education department. The curricula she has designed reflect her knowledge of local history, architecture, and art, and her ability to create educational programs that will enrich the traditional school curricula.

Susan is widely respected in the Pittsburgh educational community, and she has already met with key administrators of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and Community College of Allegheny County, to discuss our hopes for cooperative programming. This year we can look forward to:

➔ **IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS** sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for public school teachers. Two programs will be offered: "Exploring Your Community Through History & Architecture" on April 13 & 20; "Exploring Your City" on May 18 & 25.

➔ **TWO TRAVELING EXHIBITS.** The first, funded by the Henry C. Frick Educational Commission in honor of its 75th anniversary, is a photographic exhibit highlighting the architectural heritage of Allegheny County. The second, funded by a grant from PPG Industries Foundation, will be a "hands-on" exhibit, designed by The Pittsburgh Children's Museum, which defines architecture in terms of "Commodity, Firmness and Delight."

➔ **PITTSBURGH HERITAGE** sponsored by the Community College of Allegheny County, the AIU, and Pittsburgh Public Schools for students and teachers. Two sessions will be offered. The dates are July 8 - 19 and July 22 - August 2.

➔ **ARCHITECTURE AND MUSEUM STUDY APPRENTICESHIPS** sponsored by the AIU and offered to students in the fall.

➔ **FOR DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS CALL SUSAN AT 471-5808.**

Revolving Fund Established for the Department of Education

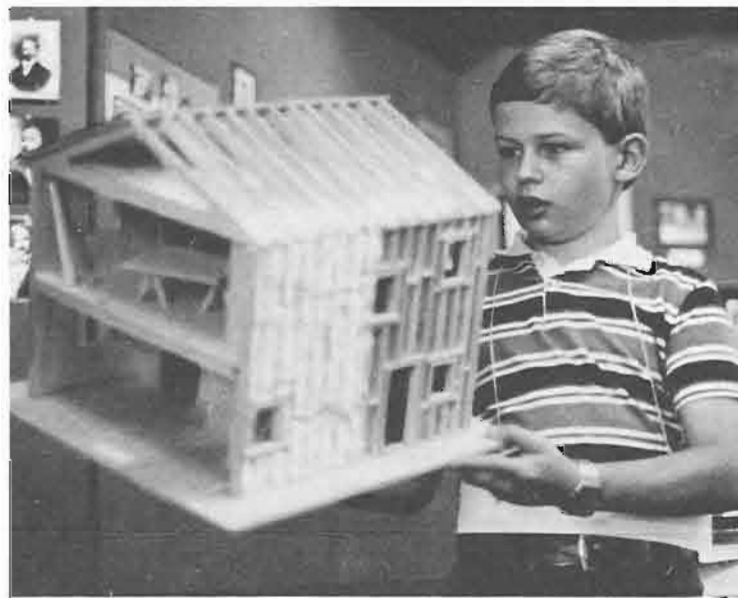
On December 20, 1984, more than 65 of our Board members and friends in the historical, educational, and foundation communities attended a press conference at the Station Square Sheraton. The event was a very special occasion for PHLF, and a milestone in our 21-year history. Louise King Ferguson, executive director of PHLF, announced that the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation had awarded a grant of \$200,000 in support of our Capital Funds Campaign for the purpose of establishing a revolving fund for the department of education.

The concept of a revolving fund was first used in our neighborhood restoration programs, and we believe it is a funding strategy that can be successfully applied to our education department. Our goal is to design a series of educational programs over a period of years which will generate revenue that will be returned to the revolving fund. While it is anticipated that this revenue will meet a portion of our program costs, it will still be very important for us to raise funds in support of specific educational programs from other private foundations. The lead grant from the Benedum Foundation will help us leverage additional funds which are vital to the continuing life of the revolving fund. We are now able to formulate a comprehensive program plan and implement these programs in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and local historical and educational institutions.

The Benedum Foundation grant will support the development of five major program areas: publications, tours, lectures, traveling exhibits, and student/teacher workshops. We expect to bring much greater visibility to the work of our education department because of this grant, and we are confident that in the next several years we will have exciting news and projects to report to our members. This is a unique opportunity, and we plan to make the most of it!



Paul R. Jenkins, executive vice-president of the Benedum Foundation (above right) talks with Susan K. Donley at the press conference. The teaching of architecture and local history enriches the traditional school curricula, and is thoroughly enjoyed by students of all ages



Campaign Nears Successful Conclusion

As we enter 1985, PHLF's Capital Funds Campaign draws near a successful conclusion. Begun in 1982 with a fund-raising goal of \$2.3 million, this public appeal for support will provide PHLF with a firm operating base for the first time in our 21-year history. A total of 336 businesses, foundations, and individuals have pledged their support to help us continue and expand our work in neighborhood restoration, historic properties' development, and education.

We wish to thank all who have expressed their commitment to PHLF's goals through campaign contributions, and we especially wish to acknowledge the capable leadership of Board Trustee Richard D. Edwards who served as general chairman for the Capital Campaign and supervised our successful strategy. We are also indebted for the help and advice of the many volunteers who worked on behalf of PHLF throughout the phases of the Campaign.

The most recent contributors, who pledged during the fall 1984 fund drive, include:

Bessie F. Anathan Foundation
Babcock Charitable Trust
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
Economy Heating & Air Conditioning
Eichleay Foundation
Fairbanks-Horix Foundation
First Seneca Bank & Trust Company
Guest Trailer Rentals
Gladys Harper
Richard McL. Hillman Charitable Trust

M. G. Hulme Charitable Foundation
Ketchum Communications
Mine Safety Appliance Company
Pannier Corporation
Donald & Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation
Rust Foundation
Ryan Homes
W. P. Snyder Charitable Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Ira Wood

A Restoration Worth Noting: The Ewart Building



The western end of Liberty Avenue awaits Hillman/First Federal and Allegheny International office tower developments. The eastern end of Liberty Avenue, downtown, awaits Liberty Center hotel and office complex development. The intervening blocks of Liberty Avenue await nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and designation as an historic district.

In the midst of all this waiting, one quality rehabilitation project is underway. The Ewart Building, 921-925 Liberty Avenue, was built in 1891 by Samuel Ewart, a wholesale grocer, and designed by prolific Pittsburgh architect Charles Bickel. It is a prime representative of the many Richardsonian-Romanesque-style buildings which were erected in Pittsburgh following

the completion of H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse in 1888 and it is the city's best example of a commercial building in this style. It is the most prominent of the numerous loft buildings found in the Penn-Liberty district. Rehabilitation of the building has been long anticipated, and has been considered pivotal to the regeneration of Liberty Avenue. Several years ago, PHLF completed a feasibility study for the previous owner.

The Ewart Building was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. And the incentive of a Federal investment tax credit for appropriate rehabilitation of a depreciable National-Register-listed property has attracted out-of-town interests to convert the Ewart Building into office space. Financing is provided through syndication by Langelier Historic Properties, Inc. of Washington, D.C. Project architects are Diekema/Hamann/Architects Inc. of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Ewart Building is providing a good example for the rest of Liberty Avenue to follow.

Henderson House Restoration Completed

In our fall issue we reported that the Henderson House, at 1516 Warren Street in Fineview, was being restored and rehabilitated. As predicted, the work was completed in December, and for approximately the amount budgeted.

The house itself contains seven apartments, and there is an eighth in a carriage house. Two of these are one-bedroom apartments, and the remainder have two bedrooms. Henderson Property Associates (231-2995) is offering them for rental presently at from \$350 to \$650 a month, though with the possibility of condominium conversion later on. As of the beginning of January, all were available.

Located on a hillside site about 400 feet above the Allegheny River, the Henderson House looks southward across the North Side to the Triangle and the hills beyond, with dramatic views over the city. The building itself is, next to the Singer house in Wilksburg, the largest surviving Gothic house of the Romantic period in the County. The restoration has cleaned its sandstone walls to their original soft-buff shade, repaired its 1860-period porch, brackets, and vergeboards, and re-created the original two-over-two sash windows. The carriage house has been reroofed in asphalt shingle, but the main house retains its slates. An iron fence and existing trees remain. Earlier, under a grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation through PHLF, the ornamental woodwork, gutters and downspouts were repaired.

Inside, original materials were used to the greatest possible extent, while the plaster and glass-block partitions from a rather bizarre remodeling of 40 years ago were eliminated. The original stair, an iron spiral stair in one two-story apartment, some original plasterwork, and a considerable amount of Victorian millwork survive in the latest remodeling.

Parking space has been carefully handled in the landscaping.

Horn Brothers, one of the general partners of Henderson Property Associates, was the contractor, and Tai plus Lee were the architects. The Henderson House was originally purchased by PHLF in 1975 to assure its preservation, and in July 1984, PHLF sold the property to the Henderson Property Associates so it could be fully restored and returned to use.

1920s Costume Exhibit & Evening Reception



Over 100 people attended the costume exhibit opening on November 30--and many dressed in 1920s' costumes. Come to the Old Post Office through March to see the exhibit.

1985 EVENTS' PREVIEW



The following events are now being planned by our staff. These events are tentative until confirmed in special invitations or in subsequent issues of PHLF News. For further information call 471-5808:



Tours, Lectures & Special Events--Tamara Dudukovich

Education Events--Susan Donley

Publications--Louise Ferguson

FEBRUARY

- **Elegant Ensembles: The Jazz Age.** Come to the Old Post Office Monday thru Sunday, February thru March, and see this 1920s costume exhibit featuring fashions from the museum collection.
- **Historical Society Public Lecture: "The Sights and Sounds of a Sanitary Fair."** February 6, 8 p.m. Call 681-5533 for details.

MARCH

- **Historical Society Public Lecture: "Pittsburgh and West Virginia Glass."** March 6, 8 p.m. Call 681-5533 for details.

APRIL

- **Historical Society Public Lecture: "Folklore in Western Pennsylvania."** April 10, 8 p.m. Call 681-5533 for details.
- **IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS (see education article for details)** First class: April 13 & 20; "Exploring your Community."
- **PROGRESSIVE DINNER AT STATION SQUARE FOR MEMBERS & TOUR** Featuring progress and plans. Monday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.
- **"THREE PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTS: Selections from the Carnegie-Mellon Architectural Archives."** April 1 - 30, Old Post Office Museum. This exhibit and lecture series features the work of Pittsburgh architects Henry Hornbostel, Frederick Scheibler, and Peter Berndtson whose combined careers spanned 70 years.

MAY

- **SPECIAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT OPENS IN THE OLD POST OFFICE** defining architecture in terms of "Commodity, Firmness, and Delight." Hands-on exhibit on display through August.
- **Historical Society Public Lecture: "Temple of the Skies: The History of the Allegheny Observatory."** May 8, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
- **LUNCH WITH LANDMARKS--** five downtown walking tours, at 12 noon, in celebration of Preservation Week, May 12 through 18.
- **IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS (see education article for details)** Second class: May 18 & 25; "Exploring your City."

JUNE

- **TOURS:** We offer bus and walking tours year-round featuring the history and architecture of the Pittsburgh area. Call us to place a group reservation.

JULY & AUGUST

- **PITTSBURGH HERITAGE SUMMER WORKSHOP (see education article)** First session: July 8 - 19; Second session: July 22 - Aug. 2

SEPTEMBER

- **NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOURS:** Each Sunday in September.
- **ARCHITECTURE & MUSEUM APPRENTICESHIPS** begin for students.
- **Sequel to "LANDMARK ARCHITECTURE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY"** released.
- **"THE HISTORY OF THE LOVELACE THEATER"** published by PHLF in conjunction with The Pittsburgh Children's Museum exhibit.

OCTOBER

- **Eighth Annual Antiques Show:** October 11, 12, & 13 at Station Square. The preview party for members and friends will be on October 10. Over 45 dealers from many different states will exhibit a fine selection of 18th- and 19th-century antiques.

NOVEMBER

- **1985 Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation & Presentation of 1985 Awards of Merit:** date, speaker and award recipients still to be chosen. Call us with your recommendations for a nationally-recognized speaker and for local award recipients.

DECEMBER

- **Holiday Tour for PHLF members and friends:** date and event still to be chosen. Call us with your tour ideas. In 1984 60 people attended our "Tiffany Window Tour in Pittsburgh."

The Life and Times of a North Side Landmark:

The Allegheny Widow's Home

Pittsburgh's North Side, the former Allegheny City, is justly noted for its historic residential neighborhoods. Here, four officially-designated historic districts—Allegheny West, Dutchtown, Manchester, Mexican War Streets—display block after block of animated Victorian-era housing. Occasionally, the streetscapes of brick facades and ornamental woodwork part to reveal an equally animated institutional building—a church or a school.

At Sherman and Taylor Avenues in the Mexican War Streets, lengthy streetscapes hesitate, pick up again with markedly simpler housing, then part briefly to reveal the North Side's oldest remaining institutional building. It is not particularly animated, but rather gazes upon the "youthful" surroundings with a modest dignity not devoid of warmth. It is a grandparent of a building; a building with a story to tell.

An Idea Takes Form

In April 1832, a number of "charitable ladies" of the young City of Allegheny met to form a sewing society. After a "free interchange of opinions," they addressed a pressing need by founding, instead, an orphan's home. The Orphan Asylum of Pittsburgh and Allegheny was chartered by the legislature in 1834, in the midst of fund-raising efforts (entailing door-to-door solicitations, fairs, church collections, and benefit concerts) for the erection of substantial facilities.

Enter William Robinson, Jr., soon-to-be-mayor of Allegheny City and developer of the Mexican War Streets. Robinson donated a building lot on what is now Sherman Avenue in 1836. A building committee was formed, and according to Judge John E. Parke's *Recollections of Seventy Years and Historical Gleanings of Allegheny, Pennsylvania* (1886), architect John Chislett drew up plans and specifications for a modest Greek Revival Building free-of-charge. Construction commenced in 1838, and by the end of the year, a new three-story brick structure housed a family of 30 orphans.



A generation of children grew to adulthood here. But already, by the 1860s, the asylum was overcrowded and hemmed in by residential development. A new building (now demolished) was erected on Ridge Avenue and the Sherman Avenue building was vacated in 1866.

New Service and Growth

Meanwhile, a legislative act was approved in April 1860 to incorporate the Allegheny Widow's Home Association. The Association sought to provide for



"respectable widows, elderly maidens and aged maimed people who by sickness or misfortune have been reduced to poverty, the design being to alleviate their sorrowful lot by affording them shelter and a home at a merely nominal cost." The home's immediate mission, however, was the care of widows of Civil War soldiers. In 1866, the Widow's Home acquired the Sherman Avenue building vacated by the Orphan Asylum. Now widows found shelter behind the kindly brick walls.

In 1872, the city extended Taylor Avenue through the Widow's Home property to intersect with Sherman Avenue, which necessitated shearing off about eight feet of the south end of the existing building. This surgery yielded an unbalanced facade and a \$5,000 payment from the city for the Home's coffers. The needs of widows being different than those of orphans, these funds were used to initiate rowhouse construction on former playground space along Sherman Avenue and the new section of Taylor Avenue. These tidy brick houses provided much-needed additional rooms for the Home's residents, and as a by-product, formed a rear courtyard. Here a few more houses and a laundry were built to complete the complex. In this form, the Widow's Home endured for over 100 years.



A Lasting Presence

In recent years, the Home struggled for survival, and its buildings fell in to disrepair. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 as part of the Mexican War Streets Historic District. In the 1970s and 1980s, a neighborhood revitalization process was well underway. But the Widow's Home awaited a redevelopment scheme which would preserve the historic character and configuration of its buildings, including the original building 150 years old, and address the Home's historic social responsibility.

Enter MCN Properties Associates, a builder/developer partnership, and Landmarks Design Associates, architects. The Allegheny Widow's Home Association agreed to lease the property to MCN for rehabilitation. MCN created a financial package which includes U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 subsidies, the federal investment tax credit available for the rehabilitation of National-Register-listed properties, and a Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority bond issue, as well as private money. Twenty-nine rehabilitated Widow's Home units are, most appropriately, housing for the elderly. Residents of the Home prior to rehabilitation have the option to return. And when all financial obligations are met by the developers, the entire renewed property will revert to the Allegheny Widow's Home Association.

Landmarks Design Associates has created a plan which takes maximum advantage of the courtyard configuration. Rowhouses which formerly faced surrounding streets have been reversed in orientation so that primary access is through the courtyard. Living rooms are now found at the courtyard end and kitchens are now at the street end of these units. Access to the entire complex is restricted to a single gateway.

In the main building the original central doorway has been reopened, original fenestration reestablished and numerous fireplace mantels reused. An elevator and a fire stair have been added. Throughout the complex, the decorative wood trim and small-pane sash windows have been restored or duplicated.

In renewal, the Widow's Home complex continues as an important architectural and social presence in the Mexican War Streets Historic District. It is an excellent example of a public/private partnership for preservation.

John Chislett, Architect



Burke's Building.

The attribution of the original Orphan Asylum building to architect John Chislett is a recent discovery by PHLF's Mexican War Streets survey staff—and an important one. Chislett (1800-69) was Pittsburgh's first important resident architect. Born and trained in England, he opened a Pittsburgh office in 1833, and commenced to design Pittsburgh's most accomplished Greek Revival buildings, including the first Bank of Pittsburgh (1834) and the second Allegheny County Courthouse (1842). The Burke's Building (1836), at 211 Fourth Avenue, was thought to be Chislett's only surviving Greek Revival work, until our discovery.

A comparison of the Burke's Building and the Orphan Asylum reveals a similarity of form. Both buildings have blocky proportions; and both facades have central projections topped by pediments, and horizontal divisions defined by beltcourses. The stone Burke's Building, however, has an elegant portico, while the brick Orphan Asylum has a range of plain two-story pilasters. The Burke's Building is a sophisticated Greek Revival office building. The Orphan Asylum is handsome, dignified, equally Greek Revival, but clearly a functional low-budget project designed to meet a social need. These are Pittsburgh's most important remaining non-residential Greek Revival buildings.

Chislett went on to plan the layout of Allegheny Cemetery and to design the Cemetery's Gothic Revival Butler Street Gatehouse (1848). A Washington County researcher has discovered that he also planned the cemetery in Monongahela City. Thus, an updated list of extant works attributable to Chislett includes:

1. BURKE'S BUILDING (1836)
2. ORPHAN ASYLUM OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY (1838)
3. ALLEGHENY CEMETERY (1844)
4. BUTLER STREET GATEHOUSE (1848)
5. MONONGAHELA CEMETERY (1863)

1984 HIGHLIGHTS

Review of Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh: A Photographer's View, 1950-1984

By Walter C. Kidney

On the evening of November 13, Clyde Hare showed over 300 slides from his 34 years of photographing life in Pittsburgh. The audience of 420 people had high expectations, and they were magnificently fulfilled. Hare is well known for his eye for the architecture, landscape, townscape, industry, and humanity of the region, and for his ability, it almost seems, to get the sun and the elements to collaborate with him.

Hare showed slide after slide in quick succession, lecturing casually, mainly letting his pictures speak for themselves, adding a comment now and then on a detail, the subject as a whole, the circumstances of a photographer's life, or on the way things are now and the way they were when he first knew them. He came to Pittsburgh in 1950, fresh out of the University of Indiana at Bloomington, part of Roy Striker's team for the Pittsburgh Photographic Library. The purpose of this project was to document the Pittsburgh Renaissance. Following this, Hare decided to stay on in Pittsburgh and go in business for himself. He became the local stringer for *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *Business Week*, did a project for Jones & Laughlin between 1954 and 1960, and for the United Steelworkers of America in the late 1960s. Pictured below is one of Hare's photos from the J&L Collection, now at the University of Louisville. The ability of men to control such monstrous machines was one thing that impressed Hare most about Pittsburgh.

A parallel to Luke Swank is obvious: the application of his talents to imaginative commercial work, plus endless creative photography on his own. The result is a richly assorted collection, primarily color, with a decidedly Pittsburgh quality. What looks at first like



Spring Hill from Troy Hill, 1952. (Pittsburgh Photographic Library Collection)

a stack of boards printed only in red turns out to be steel slab, glowing with heat. A red dawn breaks over the city, and it could be the start of a working day or of Judgment Day. One of the last steam locomotives tosses up a trail of white, almost frivolous, smoke against the dark slope of Mt. Washington (see opposite). Old houses retain their dignity but not their paint, and the sun shines brightly on new windows. Street corners and railroad yards we are ceasing to remember come back to us, and trolley cars seem bizarrely deposited on avenues where, in fact, they did once operate.

The pleasure a Pittsburgher gets from these images is that of memories recalled, of familiar and extant things as sunrises and sunsets--the choicest of both--and other phenomena of nature that most of us cannot or will not observe. It is good that there are a few people who, anticipating a pleasant experience, will venture out of doors *very* early on a cold morning and bring back an image of that early glow, far, far away, backlighting the city.

PHLF's publication sequel to *Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County* will include many photos by Clyde Hare. We also plan to publish a book exclusively of Clyde Hare's work at a later date.



One of the last steam locomotives in Pittsburgh--and Grandview Avenue above. (Pittsburgh Photographic Library)



Clyde Hare

Recipients of PHLF'S Awards of Merit

For the third consecutive year, PHLF presented "Awards of Merit" to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the preservation of Pittsburgh's architectural heritage and/or increased public knowledge about our historical heritage. The docents of PHLF were commended, and pictured to the immediate right are (*first row*): Mary Lu Denny, Marianne Martin, Joyce Martin, and Argie Leech. (*second row*): Earland O'Leary, Audrey Menke, Jean O'Hara, Carol King, Genie Ferrell, and Helen Simpson. Several docents were not present at the awards ceremony--we appreciate the volunteer service of each.

Award recipients also included (*far right, first row*): Judy Cunningham, Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU); Marilyn Evert, author of *Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture*; Verna Cowan, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Lois Lyman, Monroeville Historical Society. (*top row*): Rob Meyerjack; Ken Chuska, AIU; Jim Richardson, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Carl Detwiler, architect; Tom Trebilcock, Williams-Trebilcock-Whitehead; Tom Ramsay; Ted Sawruk, Dept. of Arch., CMU; Vernon Gay, photographer; Louis Phillips. Award recipients Clyde Hare and Marie Navarro of Morewood Interiors are not pictured.

