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Number 94 Spring 198

# **History Center**

On March 5 Landmarks hosted a "historic" meeting. Twenty-five representatives from various organizations met to discuss the possibility of establishing a major historical center for Pittsburgh. This idea is not new, but it is the first time in many years that the subject has been the topic of an open discussion among the leading organizations and people who will be needed to help make this project a reality.

There is no question that Pittsburgh needs, deserves, and can benefit from a major historical center. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and Landmarks have been pursuing the development of such a project for the past few years, and the Committee on Pittsburgh Archaeology and History recently addressed this need in the first issue of its newsletter.

Now that the Pittsburgh Children's Museum is leasing the entire Old Post Office Museum, Landmarks is able to devote staff expertise and funds to explore the feasibility of establishing a major historical center. The March 5 meeting was our first step in what we hope will be a major planning effort involving the participation of many organizations. Meeting participants agreed that a major historical center should be multi-purpose, serving as an exhibit facility, education and ethnic heritage center, and academic research center. This total package has the potential of being successful because of its unique program mix and ability to attract local residents, tourists, and scholars. The facility should exhibit artifacts from our past representing all aspects of our history; it should utilize contemporary exhibit methods to allow participation when appropriate; and it should act as a major archival center and warehouse for artifacts. Finally, the facility should be designed to tie in with other complementary facilities such as the Fort Pitt Museum and the Buhl Science Center project now being planned, thus attracting and more fully serving tourists to this area.

These are bold goals, but they do create a format for a history center that has the potential of focusing local, national, and even international attention on the city's history and lasting significance. We are in the day-dream stage, but step by step we hope to move out of this stage into a bricks-andmortar and exhibit-planning one. Landmarks and the Historical Society are now drafting a plan which will outline how work might proceed in the next several months in cooperation with the interested organizations.

# Hope for Pittsburgh | Last Call for Contributions to Landmark Architecture Book



These are three of 450 sites which will be it lustrated in the guide of Landmark Architecture. Two are wellknown to the public: Machinery Hall at Carnegie-Mellon Universit and St. Peter's Episco pal Church in Oakland. The third, the Bendet house in Highland Park is a refreshing, less familiar curiosity.

Everything is coming together!

The editorial for our 350-page book titled Landmark Architecture, Pittsburgh & Allegheny County, is now at the typesetter; our graphic designer has completed the final layout; over 500 black and white photos of historic sites have been obtained, 25 color photos have been commissioned, and the printers are preparing their quotes. We are on schedule for the release of this major publication in September.

Landmark Architecture consists of two sections, primarily: a historical essay and a guide of 450 significant sites in the county. The essay, a history of Allegheny County architecture, takes into account national trends in architecture as well as our own special circumstances in order to provide a context by which the reader can more fully appreciate the significance of individual buildings and sites. More than 200 photographs illustrate the essay, and many show notable buildings and scenes that have long since passed. Our architectural history, though, would not be complete without their recognition.

The guide of 450 historic architectural resources represents a carefully chosen high-quality sampling of the more than 6,000 resources indentified by the survey. They date from the years before 1940, times remote enough from the present to allow an evaluation of enduring significance. Some of them are old friends, well-known to historians and the public. Others are new discoveries. All should be preserved as important elements of our heritage.

The publication is based on a comprehensive four-year survey conducted by our staff, and is written by Walter C. Kidney. The essay and the guide form an unprecedented and first-rate effort at documenting the architectural heritage of Allegheny County, and reflect a massive amount of work on the part of our staff and author.

Partial funding for Landmark Architecture has been received thanks to generous grants from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Alcoa Foundation,





Hunt Foundation, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, and from more than 50 individual donors. All donors will be acknowledged in the publication itself. We would welcome your support of this worthy effort; please complete the form below and enclose a donation.

Yes, I have enclosed a check for \$ Please list my name in the publication as follows:

(Please make checks payable to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and reference the check for "Survey Book.")

### Welcome New Members

We welcome the following people into membership and look forward to their participation in our events and historic preservation projects.

Arcon Specialties Company Ruth A. Bandola Daily Juice Products, Inc. Clyde Hare Mina Haughin Mary Lu Hockenberger Joyce K. King Diana P. Lammert Steven H. Lammert Jane Ewing Miller

David W. Oster The Dr. Louis J. Phillips Family William Roberts Stephen J. Salamon George E. Saxon Bonnie Schlueter John L. Shiffer Mrs. Norma Tomb Hattie L. White

### Memorial Gift Funds

Helen Simpson, a docent for Landmarks, has established a memorial fund in the name of her brother David. The David R. Simpson Memorial Fund will be used to further Landmarks' commitment to historic preservation and to support educational programs that encourage others to share Mr. Simpson's appreciation for our local heritage.

Memorial funds also have been established in memory of two board members of the Committee for the Restoration of Phipps Conservatory: Mary Reed Sutton and Olive Phelps. Two teak benches inscribed to Mrs. Sutton and her sister Rachel Reed Redding are now in use in Phipps' Palm Court thanks to the donations received from many individuals. A memorial fund gift is still to be designated in honor of Mrs. Phelps.

### Museum Donations

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

 ${\it Mrs. Robert F. Arrott}$  for a wedding gown that once belonged to Elizabeth Negley, and a Scottish highlander kilt.

Mr. Conrad Goldstrohm for a nine-volume series of English patent prints and drawings dating from 1853-1880.

Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr. for two new library books: Wallpapers by R.

C. Nylander, and Fabrics for Historic Buildings by Jane C. Nylander. Mr. Sheldon Lefkowitz for an eight-panel series of milk-glass teller win-

dows with brass bars from the Coraopolis Post Office. Mrs. Mahlon Lewis for a selection of fine personal artifacts including

dresses from the 1860s, a c.1920 wedding gown, silk hats, and a coachman's hat; diplomas, and paper documents including a deed of purchase for the Morewood Heights development.

### Historic Property News

Old St. Luke's, Washington Pike, Chartiers

The Auxiliary has compiled a list of suggested memorial gifts to aid in the continuing restoration of the chapel. These include a table for a wedding candle ceremony, furnishings for the Bride's  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Room}}$  and the room adjacent to the chancel, a columbarium, stained glass windows, and two matching flagpoles. Other contributions can be designated toward the restoration of the original pews, completion of the heating system, wall finishing, and cemetery restoration. Call 835-7935 for more information.

### Rachel Carson Homestead, Springdale

A members' reception is planned for May 10 and a plant sale featuring  $\label{pennsylvania} \mbox{ wildflowers} \quad \mbox{and fragrant and old-fashioned plant varieties}$ will be held May 11. The Homestead is also planning a children's workshop in June to introduce fifth and sixth graders to their suburban environment. Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon daily for two weeks; space is limited. For times and information, phone 247-7408.

### Neville House, Washington Pike, Collier Township

The Neville House Auxiliary will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting's featured speaker is Dr. James Richardson of Carnegie Institute who will lecture on the artifacts unearthed at the historic site during the recent archeological dig.

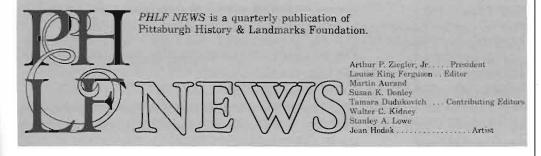


### Contributors to the Neville House Campaign

We are pleased to thank the following people who so generously have contributed to the Neville House capital campaign; these gifts were received before March 15, 1985.

Joseph Bruni Herbert M. Buchta Martha W. Coulter Eastern Consolidated Coal Company Dr. F. Eugene Ewing Dorothy Florence Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Ford Dr. & Mrs. W. Foster Frank J. Garrett Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Graham Edward C. Heinlein David G. Henderson Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Heron Cindy Judd Hill Mrs. A. Seiber Hollinger Cheryl Hurley

Dr. & Mrs. Leo Kairys David A: Kleer Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kueshner Lincoln Mutual Savings Bank Mr. & Mrs. Derek Martin Mr. & Mrs. William McDivitt, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. M. M. McKee, Jr. E. L. Miltenberger National Nickel Alloy Corporation Mr. & Mrs. P. M. O'Donnell Virginia R. Patton Reliable Savings & Loan Association Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rose Alfred F. Smith E. W. Tire Company, #2 Priscilla S. Verna



# Inner-City Ventures Fund Meeting Report

On February 26, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Landmarks held an all-day workshop on the Trust's Inner-City Ventures Fund, one of a number of such workshops being held around the nation by Trust personnel in collaboration with local preservation groups. Approximately 50 people from the Allegheny County area attended the morning and afternoon sessions at the Station Square Sheraton.

The Inner-City Ventures Fund has been in existence since 1981 and is planned for the benefit of low- and moderate-income dwellers in inner-city neighborhoods. Awards from \$50,000 to \$100,000--half of each award in the form of a low-interest loan, half as an outright grant--are made to community organizations for specific rehabilitation projects that will maintain or restore historic buildings or districts, especially for housing. To be eligible, organizations must:

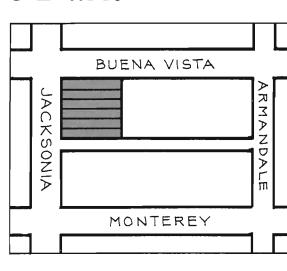
- Be community-based, and be supported significantly by the residents, especially by low- and moderate-income residents and minority groups.
- Be incorporated, non-profit, exempt from federal taxes, and chartered to engage in the activities proposed.
  - Be demonstrably competent to accomplish the projects.
  - Either be or be willing to become National Trust members.

The project must be designed to consist of buildings within and contributing to the value of a legitimate historic district Buildings outside a historic district, but meeting National Reg ister standards, may be eligible for some assistance. The project also must be of direct benefit to residents having no more than 80 percent of the current median income, with minority residents given priority in awarding funds; help the sponsoring organization become more qualified to undertake similar future projects; and be in a neighborhood whose residents are threatened with displacement. There must be a matching, direct cash investment of at least 50 percent of the proposed award, already available before the award is made. This matching money may come from an organization's own funds, the value of the organization's equity in the project buildings at the start of the project, or grants available for direct use on the project. Finally, the award should be capable--except in extraordinary cases--of leveraging five times its amount in money or value of labor that will be expended directly on the project

The speakers included Donna Harris of the National Trust's mid-Atlantic regional office; Jennifer Blake, program officer for the Inner-City Ventures Fund; Ellis L. Schmidlapp, president of Landmarks Design Associates; Stanley A. Lowe of Landmarks; F. Bogue Wallen of the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania; Sandra Hemmings of the H. J. Heinz Foundation; Tom Cox of the North Side Civic Development Council; John Rodney, an attorney with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart; and Diane Taylor, coordinator of the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Fund. For further infor mation on the Inner-City Ventures Fund, call Stanley Lowe at 471-5808 or contact Jennifer Blake at the National Trust.

# A First for the War Streets Site of Future Park

Restoration Properties, a partnership comprised of Walter D. Toole, president of Allegheny Installation, Charles C. Arensberg, chairman of Landmarks, and Charles S. Arensberg of Louisville, has recently donated a strategic piece of open land in the Mexican War Streets to Landmarks. Composed of a series of former building lots on the northeast corner of Jacksonia and Buena Vista Streets, the land



was assembled by the partnership through several purchases over the past five years. In granting Landmarks the deed to the proj erty, the partnership stipulated that the land be developed as maintained perpetually as a park. Utilizing our revolving fund for neighborhood preservation, we will develop a plan and maintenance program this summer for the park in cooperation with the Mexican War Streets Society and the Central North Side Neighbor hood Council.

Improving this corner will greatly enhance the restoration efforts in the Buena Vista/Jacksonia Street area. It also wil enable open space in this densely developed area to remain forever beautiful and will provide a view of an entire block of handsome Buena Vista Street houses.

We will report on the progress in planning, development, and use of this park in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

# Neighborhoods Benefit from Revolving Loan Fund

This year Landmarks will extend loans through its Neighborhood Revolving Fund totaling \$131,500 to four neighborhood organizations, a neighborhood housing agency, and a civic association. The revolving fund was initially established in the 1960s for the acquisition and restoration of historic properties. Now, with this kind of commitment less necessary, we are able to use the fund in a greater variety of ways, including the extension of loans to neighborhood and local preservation groups which in turn plan to restore historic properties and implement neighborhood revitalization projects.

Stanley A. Lowe, formerly the executive director of Manchester Citizens Corporation, was recently appointted director of Landmarks' revolving loan fund. Through his leadership, we are now helping make the following programs possible.

### Mexican War Streets Lighting Facade Program

We have agreed to lend the North Side Neighborhood Housing Services, Central North Side Neighborhood Council, and the Mexican War Streets Society \$31,500 to implement a 12-month facade lighting and restoration program. These organizations will market the program, which provides no-interest loans to low-income residents and 3% to 5% interest loans to moderate-income residents for facade restoration and lighting improvements.

The program will be made available to resident home owners in the Mexican War Streets/Central North Side areas. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from community organizations and Landmarks will oversee the project and be responsible for developing program guidelines, priorities, and evaluating the program's effectiveness. North Side Neighborhood Housing Services will serve as the clearing center and be responsible for program management, including a client contact, filing of mortgages, review of specifications, inspections and reimbursing contractors for their work.

The facade lighting and restoration program is scheduled to begin April 30; it will be a community event in which everyone can participate. A campaign staffed by volunteers will host lightup night on one or several of the completed blocks. Additionally, facade improvements will create a mandate for more events, which will in turn foster a spirit of shared effort and pride.



The Hollander Building is the first on the left.

Steve Roberts, NHS executive director, stated that his organization will target the use of Landmarks' loan to obtain maximum impact. This strategy, he believes, will bring the restoration spirit to many more residents. Special attention will be given to participating neighborhood residents and organizations who together with Landmarks are making the program possible.

### East Allegheny: Hollander Building Saved

The Hollander Building (above) at 415 East Ohio Street was literally saved from the danger of being acquired by parties not particularly interested in preserving it or using the building 's potential as a model for restoration along the East Ohio Street business corridor.

Through the Revolving Loan Fund, we are lending \$100,000 to Hollander Associates, a consortium which includes East Allegheny Community Council, North Side Civic Development Council, and Horn Brothers Development Company. The loan will enable these organizations to purchase the building, and the loan will be returned as soon as ideas for more productive uses and an economic development strategy are devised.

Landmarks and Hollander Associates agree that the use of the loan fund for this purpose is important for neighborhood development. When the Hollander Building is restored, possibly for commercial and office space, it will represent the first major restoration of an historic structure on East Ohio Street that involves the community and it will serve as a model for other renovations by showing that a first-class renovation can bring first-class tenants. It will also demonstrate that being sensitive to the building's architecture is better both aesthetically and financially.

### Century-Old Davis Island Dam Machinery on Display

A huge iron gear assembly used to maneuver a sliding lock gate at the old Davis Island Dam in the 1880s will be permanently exhibited near the Gateway Clipper Station Square ramp, thanks to the Pittsburgh District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Davis Island Dam, dedicated on October 7, 1885, was the first of a long series of dams that had almost "canalized" the entire length of the Ohio by the end of 1929. Before Davis Island, the whole Ohio fluctuated wildly in depth, running high and fast due to spring thaws but so shallow by late summer that navigation stopped.

In 1870 William E. Merrill, chief engineer of the Pittsburgh District,

became interested in the idea of impounding the Ohio River water into "pools" of minimum acceptable depth. The device he finally chose was a Chanoine (sha-noyn) wicket dam, whose 305 trapdoor-like components could be raised from the riverbed to form a dam 1,225 feet wide. To one side was a lock with a chamber 600 by 110 feet, in 1885 the largest in the world. When water was high, the wickets lay flat on the riverbed; in low water, the wickets were raised and boats were locked through. Now, 100 years later, only this portion of the gate mechanism remains. raised and boats were locked through. Now, 100 years later, only this portion of the lock mechanism remains.

## Historic Building News

Pennsylvania Railroad Station

According to a February 26 article in t Pittsburgh Press, Jack Buncher (who hol the option to develop the Pennsylvania Railroad Station) has formed a partnership with a Philadelphia developer who specializes in restoring and renting old properties. The partnership, known as the Penn Station Historic Joint Venture Corp., will spend an estimated \$27 million in the restoration and rehabili tation of the station into an apartment building. Apartments will be rented at market rates and will not be subsidized The developers are considering building retail shops on the first floor of the

We are encouraged to learn that Mr. Buncher has formed a partnership with an experienced preservation developer, and we hope that the development is suc cessful. For the past five years we have been involved in efforts to save the Penn Station, and we are now willing to offer whatever assistance might be helpful to bring new life to the static

### Ben Avon Log House

We are pleased to report that the Ben Avon Area Historical Association has saved the Dickson log house of c. 1797, and much work still continues. The house now stands, externally restor on its new site near Western Avenue. Thanks are due to many volunteers and new members of the historical association who donated contributions in cash or kind and physical strength, as well as to the restorer Brad Mooney, the U.S Army Corps of Engineers--and to Landmar for granting a \$10,000 interest-free loan which covered site preparation and construction costs for a six-month peri If you would like to volunteer your tim contribute funds to the restoration of the log house, or join the Ben Avon Are Historical Association, please write to 316 Dickson Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15202.

### Bellefield Church

Recent public announcements have confirmed plans for redevelopment of a prominent corner site at Fifth and Nort Bellefield Avenues in Oakland. A Nation al Development Corporation project will require demolition of the former Bellefield Presbyterian Church (1889), currently occupied by University and City Ministries. The church's bell tower wi remain standing as a token historical a ecclesiastical statement before a new office building that will include space for continuing use by the congregation.

We have monitored this project in it developmental stages and understand th vexing physical and economic problems presented to many congregations by unde utilized church buildings. We encourage those congregations to pursue creative solutions which will preserve their irreplaceable buildings and capitalize on their social and architectural

But in the case of the Bellefield church, an admittedly creative solution for the congregation has led to the demise of a building which, while not gre architecture, has been a valued part of the Oakland landscape. All of us will regret this loss.

### Benedum Estate

Our staff is also monitoring a second East End project. Architect Arthur Lubetz has purchased the former Benedum property from Chatham College and plans a multi-unit hillside development of ne construction. The plan also calls, how ever, for rehabilitation of the former Benedum house, which overlooks Fifth Av nue, and the Howe-Gateway house at the foot of Woodland Road. Assumed preservation of both of these important struc tures will give positive significance t the project.

# Recent National Register Nominations

These Allegheny County sites and districts have recently been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Our staff, under the direction of Martin Aurand, prepared these nominations as part of a ten-month long project now being funded by a Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission matching grant.

The National Register is the official record of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. If listed, the sites and districts described here will be protected from harm by state and federally funded projects and may be eligible for investment tax credits encouraging rehabilitation.

## Wilkinsburg Railroad Station



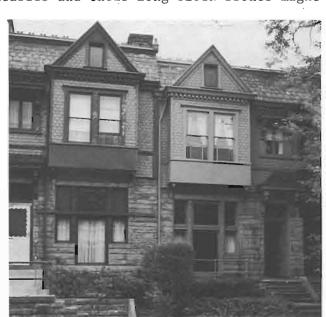
The Wilkinsburg Railroad Station is a 1916 construction of tan brick and limestone, built after the Pennsylvania main line was raised above steet level. Wilkinsburg grew into a town largely due to its railroad service; but grade crossings with the streets were unsatisfactory and hazardous until the Pennsylvania elevated its tracks on embankments. The architect for the station was a Walter H. Cookson, who may have been on the railroad staff. He produced a quietly Classical design, a small but monumental structure with only a little detailing on the parapet to hint at any sort of personal fancy: the product of a consciously tasteful architectural period. The station is thus quite different from the vigorously Beaux-Arts Pennsylvania Station of 1900 and the belatedly Victorian East Liberty Station of 1906, the stop immediately before Wilkinsburg. Many expresses made a halt at all three stations until the early 1960s, when East Liberty Station was demolished. Train halts at Wilkinsburg ceased at the end of the decade, and the station has not been used since.

## Alpha Terrace

Alpha Terrace is a double row of houses located in the Highland Park area of Pittsburgh, just west of North Highland Avenue at 716-43 North Beatty Street. The east side of this remarkable block was built in 1889 and the west side in 1894. The builders for the latter row were Murphy and Hamilton, who may also have been the designers of one or both rows. Or, an unknown architect may have done the job. We will eventually have to settle the question of authorship, for Alpha Terrace is the most remarkable work of naive building art in Pittsburgh.

Plain brick party-wall housing rows were fronted, on the east side, to simulate Queen Anne villas and, on the west side, castles or what might almost be castles. Yet these facing rows  $\alpha pe$  rows. They have the solemn dignity associated with respectable speculative housing in British cities, almost seeming to demand still, smoggy evenings as their proper setting, against which their half-seen fantasies and their long block-fronts might

appear with true impressiveness. This is specious architecture, yet poetic: the winsome Queen Anne pseudo-villas of the east side; the bristling pseudocastles of the west. Architecture just a few inches deep. Absurd. But so is the Cathedral of Learning; the absurd can be beautiful too. Alpha Terrace, to the passer-by, has a magic about it. Perhaps the same element of the marvelous, with something of the same tattered charm, is to be found elsewhere only in North Parkview Avenue, off Oakland Square in Oakland, with its bay windows and porches stepping downhill toward a grand perspective up Panther Hollow.









### Pennsalt Historic District

The Pennsalt Historic District consists of eight blocks of company housing in Natrona, Harrison Township, built from 1850 on by the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company; a brick company store is also included in the district. The company, in order to be chartered, it be known that it was producing salt; in fact, it was a chemical works, a type of business not recognized in law in 1850 when it began operations. It produced soda (nitron in Greek, hence Natrona) and diversified to other chemical products. The plant lasted just over 100 years, being closed down in 1957 by a parent company.

The housing consists of 62 buildings, 153 residential units, of brick and wood. The most interesting ones are the earliest, tiny board-and-batten cottages with steep roofs which feature a picturesqueness aimed to lessen the harshness of industrial labor and to promote good behavior in their employee inhabitants. The brick house rows are attractive and significant as well. The numerous identical and similar buildings, densely packed between the river and the railroad beside the former work site, provide an enduring image of an early Western Pennsylvania company town.

# 1985 EVENTS

# Call us for complete details 471-5808



5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Meeting location: Grand Concourse, Station Square \$22.50 per person (at cost) including taxes, gratuities, but no drinks.

# **Progressive Dinner** at Station Square

Come join in the merriment of a progressive three-course feast. This first annual dinner excursion begins with hors-d'oeuvres at the Grand Concourse, followed by a gourmet dinner at the newly redesigned Sheraton, and topped off with a delectable selection of desserts at the Cheese Cellar and Houlihan's. Staff members will inform diners of current activities and plans for Station Square, and of the many ways the adaptive-use project is supporting the work of Landmarks. Call to make your last-minute reservation!

# May 4

8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Gateway Clipper** parking lot, Station Square \$25 member fare \$28 non-member fare Includes bus, boat and box lunch.

## Ohio River Cruise & Historical Jamboree

If you ever wished that you were born in the days of explorers and riverboats, then this is the excursion for you. At break of day, we will travel by bus to East Liverpool, Ohio, a major pottery-making center 43 miles downstream from the Point. There we will tour the Museum of Ceramics, a restored Victorian mansion, the town, and Riverarts Festival. At 11 a.m., we will board the Liberty Belle and begin the scenic return journey. There will be a Pittsburgh trivia contest on board, and the Captain will point out sites en route, including the Shippingport atomic power plant and the site of the Davis Island Dam.

12 Noon - 1 p.m. Various meeting locations \$1 member fare \$2 non-member fare

# Walking Tours

Lunch with Landmarks

We are celebrating Preservation Week with a daily schedule of walking tours: Monday, Grant Street; Tuesday, Fourth Avenue; Wednesday, downtown Churches; Thursday, Firstside: Friday, Station Square. Each tour highlights preservation planning

issues and ends in a city square or plaza. Architects from Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann, The Design Alliance, and Landmarks Design Associates, and attorney David O'Loughlin will join staff members as tour narrators.

### Welcome to the Society of Architectural Historians

We extend a special welcome to members of the Society of Architectural Historians who are attending the annual convention here in Pittsburgh from April 17 through 21. This is the Society's first national meeting in Pittsburgh, and we suspect that members will be pleasantly surprised at what they see. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to plan and lead a series of tours for convention participants, and to host a special exhibit designed by the CMU Architecture Archives titled "Three Pittsburgh Architects." This exhibit, featuring the work of Hornbostel, Scheibler, and Berndtson, can be seen at the Old Post Office Museum through April 29. It is free to members. Call us for exhibit hours.

# May 20 Traveling Exhibit Architecture: Building Art

Over 350 years ago British scholar Sir Henry Wotton defined architecture in terms of "Commodity, Firmness, and Delight." This age-old definition has inspired Landmarks and the Pitts burgh Children's Museum to create a traveling exhibit, thank to a grant from the PPG Industries Foundation, that demonstrates the concepts of use, structure, and appearance in an chitecture. Through hands on activities and illustrative pa els, exhibit participants can learn how to build a building for a certain use, or a bridge that will not collapse; and t can touch building artifacts and guess where they might have been located. The exhibit begins a three-month stay at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum on May 20; call 322-5059 for ho



## Pittsburgh Heritage Workshop

July 8-19

Session One Fourth through eighth grade Students and teachers Daily, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Student fee: \$55

July 22 - Aug. 2

Session Two Fourth through eighth grade Students ONLY Daily, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Student fee: \$55

Teachers receive in-service credit and should call Marion Karl for details at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (394-5700).

Vacation in Pittsburgh this summer! Our two-week workshop, PITTSBURGH HERITAGE, is a fascinating opportunity for stude and teachers to learn about the city's history, architectur and ethnic and industrial heritage. Participants will tour the Mexican War Streets, McKees Rocks, downtown Pittsburgh, Station Square, and ride the Gateway Clipper and Monongahel cline. Through treasure hunts, art activities, and special events, participants will discover the excitement of explor Pittsburgh's past. Call Susan Donley at Landmarks for deta

# September 8, 15, 22, 29 Walking Tours

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Various meeting locations

Reserve these dates for walking tours to Troy Hill, Highland Park, Mt. Washington' Fare to be announced Chatham Village, and Crafton, respectively

## October 11, 12, 13 Antiques Show

Fri. & Sat.: 12 Noon - 10 p.m. Station Square \$3 Admission

It's a fall tradition! Over 40 dealers Sun.: 12 Noon - 6 p.m. from many different states exhibit a fine selection of antiques. The preview party for members is October 10.

### November Lecture and Awards

to be announced

We plan to invite a nationally recognized historic preservationist to speak in Pitt burgh; Landmarks' "Awards of Merit" will also be presented to deserving individual

# December 7 Holiday Season Tour

announced

Hartwood Acres is our destination, complete with sleigh rides and caroling.

### Lectures & Exhibits at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

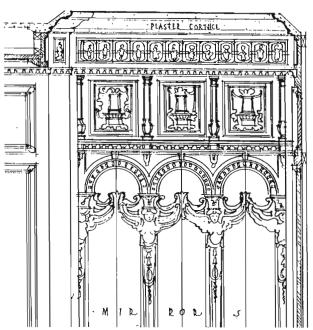
April 10 2 & 8 p.m. George Swetnam

May 8 2 & 8 p.m. "Folklore in Western Pennsylvania' Arthur Glaser "Temples of the Skies: History of

the Allegheny Observatory" Exhibit through July 13: "Collected Treasures: Recent Gifts

to the Society" Call 681-5533 for details.

# The James D. Van Trump Library



The unification of our offices on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square entailed the packing and unpacking of cartons upon cartons of books, maps, architectural drawings, and art--and the establishment of a very handsome library as a result. In the process, our temporary archivist Walter Kidney has found many items of note: Janssen & Abbott linens of 1914 for the William Penn Hotel (above) -- if we had the accompanying specs, we could build the hotel from the many, meticulous ink drawings; several versions on tracing paper of a mansion for one of the Hillmans (above right) and sketches for the gardens of a Scaife estate at



nook in second-floor
Reading Room, William
Penn Hotel, Janssen &
Abbott, architects. Ink
on linen, July 1, 1914.

Near right:
Sketch side elevation,

Detail of screen, ingle

Far right:

Near right: Sketch side elevation, proposed house for Jame A. Hillman, Benno Janss architect. Pencil on tracing paper, October 25, 1920.

Ligonier; competition designs for the Carnegie Libraries in Oakland and Allegheny, grangerized from an architectural magazine and tinted by a skilled brush; and prints of all sorts. And the books: city directories of a hundred-year period, books on Western Pennsylvania, on regional American architecture, on world architecture, on planning, on costumes. A near-complete file of *Charette*, preservation magazines, and historical magazines, too.

Maps and drawings are still waiting for new accommodations, but the old brass sign that says James D. Van Trump Library-Jamie donated many of the books, let us remember--is fixed on a door that leads to a respectable and even elegant space, generously lighted by the morning and afternoon sun. Members are welcome to join the staff at work here.

# Contributions Welcome in Support of the Library

A generous grant from the Brooks Foundation allowed us to begin the office and library renovation. We would now like to extend the opportunity for giving to our membership, and therefore announce the following gift needs:

Oak shelving\$8,000
Restoration of folio cabinet100
Restoration of round table
from the Braun house175
Restoration of Renaissance-style
library table100
Reading chairs, up to four@200
Flat files for architectural
drawings and maps500
Oriental carpet800
Bookplates200
Checks may be made payable to PHLF/Library

# **Education Programs**

Susan Donley, director of education, has been meeting with administrators from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Pittsburgh Public Schools to discuss how we can serve the needs of their teachers and students. From the enthusiasm generated at these initial meetings, we can look forward to exciting collaborative programs in the next few years. Our future plans include developing a curriculum of inservice workshops to help math, science, social studies, art, and language arts teachers use local history and architecture as learning resources for their students. And we plan to develop a Pittsburgh Heritage course for elementary children.

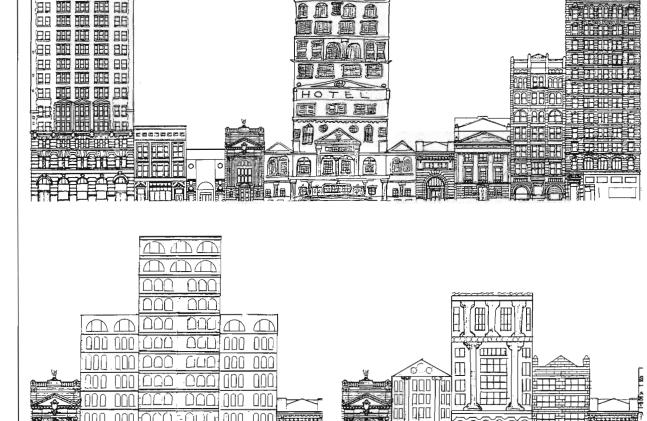
Our immediate plans include the opening of two traveling exhibits—Architecture: Building Art, funded by the PPG Industries Foundation, and Landmark Survivors, funded by the Henry C. Frick Educational Commission. (Both exhibits are described in the Calendar of Events)

In April and May, Susan will teach two inservice workshops (filled to capacity) which will provide teachers with a knowledge of local history research methods that can be applied in the classroom and of the city's history and physical development.

In July and August, Pittsburgh Heritage-the summer workshop "vacation"--is again being offered. The first session, July 8 through 19, is open to fourth through eighth grade students and teachers; the second session, from July 22 through August 2, is open only to fourth through eighth grade students. Daily activities begin at 9:30 and end at 2:30 p.m. Parents are responsible for providing a bag lunch and for transporting children to and from the site of each day's activities. Participants will learn about the history and architecture of Pittsburgh through walking tours, treasure hunts, slide programs, art activities, and field trips to the Mexican War Streets, Station Square, Golden Triangle, and McKees Rocks.

Student participants may register for either Session One or Two by calling Susan at 471-5808. Teachers may call Marion Karl at the AIU to register (394-5762). The registration fee for students is \$55 and the sessions are being offered in cooperation with the Community College of Allegheny County. You'll spend a wonderful two weeks in Pittsburgh! Call today.

## Apprenticeship in Architecture



For a third consecutive year, Landmarks has collaborated with the Gifted and Talented Education Program of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to offer a workshop series designed to introduce high school students to the architectural professions. The 16 students in the 1984-85 apprenticeship program first met on the North Side where they visited the Allegheny Widow's Home, then undergoing rehabilitation, and designed floor plans for a typical rowhouse. The next stop was Oakland, where students studied the campus planning history of the University of Pittsburgh and prepared alternative development schemes. A downtown session was followed by a visit to the Department of Architecture at Carnegie-Mellon University. Students attended classes and talked with CMU architecture students in an informal studio setting. The final project, based upon experiences downtown, was the design of an infill facade for a vacant lot in the 300 block of Fourth Avenue. These designs—a sampling of their rich variety is shown here—demonstrate the students' creativity as well as their understanding of the contextual requirements of the historic streetscape.

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