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NEWS

Number 101

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- **Scheibler & Steel:**
Historical Surveys in Progress
- **Preservation Scene**
- **Education, Events & Book Reviews**

A New Year of **Tours and Special Events**

Over 5,600 people attended the 12 membership tours and special events hosted last year by our staff, docents, and volunteers. This year's program of tours and special events promises to be just as entertaining, and, we hope, even more popular with our members and friends. So get your calendar in hand, jot down the following event dates, and join us as we discover more about the local history and architecture of Pittsburgh and several not-too-distant cities.

Tuesday evening, February 24

East End, West End: All Around Pittsburgh

Our 1987 events program began with a slide lecture by Frank Kurtik, assistant curator at Pitt's Archives of Industrial Society, featuring a rare collection of images of pre-Renaissance Pittsburgh. The evening was a nostalgic one for many, with views of long-lost architectural landmarks and memorable scenes of days gone-by.

Saturday, March 7

"Era of Elegance" — Akron, Ohio

Tour the past of a historic canal and industrial town on this one-day bus excursion. Featured events include a tour of an industrialist's mansion, lunch at the Tangier, a visit to a nineteenth-century home that is now the headquarters of the historical society, and a dinner, tour, and lecture at "Stan Hywet" (pictured above).

Sunday afternoon, April 5

Kennywood: An Architectural Amusement

Charles Jacques, noted author of *Kennywood*, has agreed to lead a private architectural walking tour featuring the Casino Restaurant of 1898, the floral clock and elaborate Victorian gardens, and a ride on the carousel (weather permitting). To top off the tour, we will sip homemade pink lemonade and savor warm-buttered popcorn, making this an event for the whole family to enjoy.

Saturday afternoon, May 9

The South Side on Tour

Thanks to the cooperation and involvement of the *Main Street on East Carson* staff and board, we plan to tour three commercial structures on Carson Street that have been recently restored, a church that has been adapted for use as a photographer's studio, and several private residences. Following this, we will sample some ethnic foods prepared by the parishioners of one of the churches. The tour will highlight the best of the South Side: the current restoration progress and economic revitalization, as well as the historic architecture and rich ethnic traditions.



"Stan Hywet" (1915). This 65-room Tudor mansion was built by F.A. Seiberling, founder of the Goodyear and Seiberling rubber companies. It will be one of the mansions toured on the "Era of Elegance" tour of Akron, Ohio.

Sunday afternoon, May 17

Horticultural Tour of Schenley Park

Christina Schmidlapp, project director of the Schenley Park Centennial Restoration Project, is inviting Dan Dzivbek of Frick Park Nature Center to lead a tour focusing on the plantings in Schenley Park. We will discover which plants are native to the park, which were planted almost a century ago, which species are exotic, and which have been most recently introduced. We will hope for a beautiful May day!



Sunday, May 31

Neville House Antiques Show

Plan to visit the 1785 wood-frame house in Collier Township during the second annual antiques show sponsored by Landmarks and the Neville House Auxiliary. The historic house and yard are a festive setting for the outdoor display of antiques and collectibles by 30 notable Western Pennsylvania dealers.

Sunday afternoon, June 7

A First-Hand View of North Side Restoration

Stanley Lowe, director of Landmarks' Preservation Fund, will lead this tour in cooperation with various North Side neighborhood organizations and individuals who have been directly involved in recent restoration projects. We plan to tour the Hollander Building, the Eberhardt & Ober Brewery, St. Mary's Priory (where tea will be served), and our beloved Old Post Office, which is now thriving as the Pittsburgh Children's Museum.

Sunday afternoons, September 6, 13, 20, 27

The Legacy of Four Pittsburgh Architectural Offices

Time and again, viewing a Pittsburgh building, you discover that the architect was one of a local foursome that practiced early in this century. We are going to devote one Sunday this September to each of these:

- Frederick John Osterling (Arrott Building, Iroquois Apartments, Armstrong Cork Plant);
- Longfellow, Alden & Harlow and Alden & Harlow (Duquesne Club, Byers-Lyon house, Homestead Carnegie Library);
- Henry Hornbostel (City-County Building, Rodef Shalom, CMU's Fine Arts Building); and
- Benno Janssen (Mellon Institute, Washington Crossing Bridge, houses in Schenley Farms).

The buildings listed are examples of what we will see in a series of bus tours.

Sunday, October 4

Ohio Riverboat Cruise

Board the Gateway Clipper and travel down the Ohio to Sewickley, where we are planning a bus tour of the Village and of historic river captains' homes. We will discuss the history of the Ohio River Valley and its significance to the development of Pittsburgh.

Sunday afternoon, October 11 (date tentative)

The Sculpture of Schenley Park

Vernon Gay, photographer for *Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture*, will lead this walking tour. Little-known and well-known masterpieces will be discovered, including the Christopher Lyman Magee Memorial, the Schenley Memorial Fountain, and the George Westinghouse Memorial.

Sunday, October 18

Columbus, Ohio and German Village

A three-hour bus ride will take us to Columbus, Ohio where we will tour "forbidden places" and historic neighborhoods in the downtown area followed by a tour and ethnic dinner in German Village, settled in the early 1800s.

The Kennywood Park carousel, built in 1926.



Friday-Sunday, November 13-15

Tenth Annual Antiques Show

This year marks the tenth anniversary of our most successful fund-raising event . . . and of the best antiques show in town. Join us at the membership party on Thursday, November 12 at the Station Square Sheraton to preview the period furniture, art, china, silver, etc. offered for sale by 32 antique dealers from the eastern, southern, and mid-western states.

Tuesday evening, November 17

Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation

Details are forthcoming, but reserve the date on your calendar now.

Sunday, December 6

Holiday Tour

Please let us know your preference. Presently we are considering two holiday tours: the first is to host an ethnic holiday tour and celebration in one of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods; and the second is to tour the Oglebay mansion and museum in Wheeling, West Virginia. Call Kimberly Mooney at 471-5808 to let us know your choice.

All members will be mailed printed invitations in advance of these events, stating detailed information and tour/event fees. If you have any further questions, or would like to suggest other tour destinations for us to consider, please call Kimberly Mooney at 471-5808.

NEWS

Welcome New Members

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Margaret Antolovich | Mrs. James E. Jenkins |
| Ms. Penny Antolovich | Ms. Olive McClelland |
| Robert Bruno | Ms. Martha E. McGrew |
| Michael Cayton | Terry S. Miller |
| Ms. Evaline Chalfant | Ms. Patricia S. Naugle |
| Chernco Restoration | Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. |
| Ms. Elizabeth A. Dadey | William A. Nickels, Jr. |
| Mr. & Mrs. Zack D'Alesandro | Ms. Marilyn A. Park |
| The Fragasso Family | R.H. Pennock |
| Ms. Bonnie Granger | Ben Povilaitis |
| Ms. Loeta Hixson | Puro, Inc. |
| Hoover Elementary School | Joseph Rishel |
| Steve Hornik | Ms. Helen Tomory |
| William Hunt | |



Volunteer Profile: Marianne Martin

She's an impressive lady: one of Landmarks' top-notch tour guides, a volunteer in the Bryn Mawr-Vassar book store and Shadyside Church Library, a member of the College Club and Rockledge Garden Club, and an avid reader of the Fortnightly Book Club.

Marianne Martin is the kind of volunteer non-profit organizations dream to have. Fortunately for us, Marianne joined our first docent-training class in 1983, and has been leading tours of Pittsburgh's landmarks and neighborhoods ever since. Intimately familiar with life in Pittsburgh and well versed in literature, the arts and history, Marianne is able to enrich her tour commentary with a wealth of anecdotes, facts, and trivia. For instance, she is fond of telling tourists that a stagnant pond, called Hogg's Pond, occupied the area of downtown Pittsburgh where the elegant Kaufmann's Department store now stands. Her enthusiasm and love of Pittsburgh is contagious. We are grateful to have had Marianne involved in our tour program for the past four years and look forward to many more years of service.

If you are interested in volunteering for Landmarks in any capacity, please call Mary Lu Denny at 471-5808.

Historic Property News

The Burtner House

The Burtner House Society thanks all volunteers who made the 1986 Community Days and events held at the stone house of 1821 in Natrona Heights such a success! The Society offers a number of publications for sale, including the *Burtner House Recipe Book* at \$6 postpaid. Proceeds help further the restoration of the National Register-listed property. Contact Burtner House Restoration, Box 292, Natrona Heights, PA 15065-0292 for further information.

The Neville House

The Neville House Auxiliary is pleased to announce that restoration work is progressing rapidly in preparation for spring meetings of the Western Pennsylvania Committee of the Colonial Dames and the Garden Clubs of Allegheny County. (See "Preservation Scene" on page 5 for restoration news.) The Auxiliary invites interested prospective members to attend the spring membership tea on Wednesday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the Neville House in Collier Township. Upcoming events at the Neville House include a lecture and demonstration of herbs and their uses by auxiliary member Jeanne Poremski, Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. and the second annual antiques show on Sunday, May 31 in cooperation with Landmarks.

Old St. Luke's

The interior restoration of Old St. Luke's in Scott Township will be completed in time for the eleventh annual Easter Sunday Service on April 19 at 6:00 a.m. The sunrise service will be followed by breakfast at the Chartiers United Presbyterian Church across the street.

Restoration activity at Old St. Luke's last year included the restoration of 30 pews in the original design and color by J. Westner Decorating Company; the installation of 14 leaded stained glass windows by Hunt Stained Glass Studios; and the design of wrought-iron chandeliers and a pulpit sconce by Victorian Interior Restoration. These projects were funded by private gifts in excess of \$30,000. Still to be funded and completed is the tuck pointing of the interior stone walls and staining of the roof trusses by Tri-State Waterproofing, Inc.

The Rachel Carson Homestead

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association will hold a planning meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. to organize the Homestead's celebration in honor of Rachel Carson's eightieth birthday and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*. The celebration is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at the Homestead in Springdale; call 274-5776 for details.

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

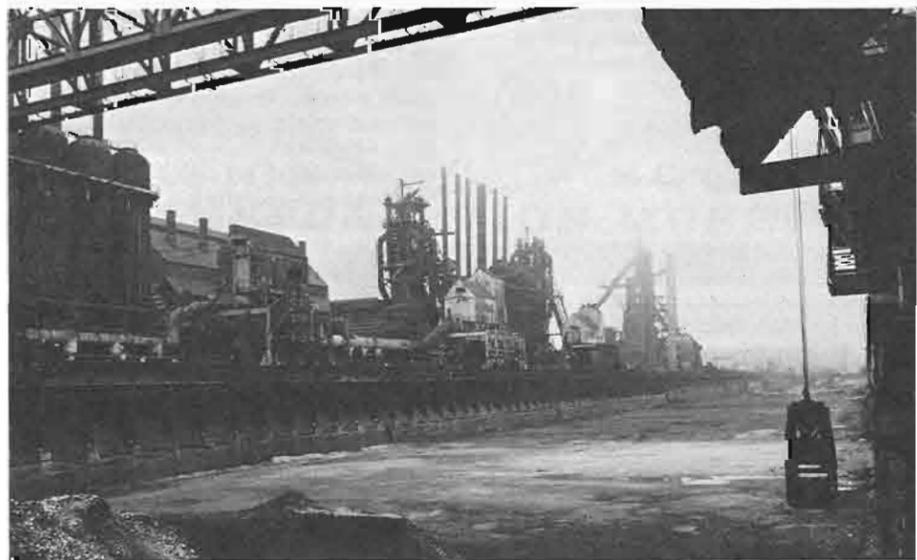
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| Jean Hodak | |



Vegetation begins to take over, slowly. An upturned skip car, for hauling ore mixtures to the tops of the blast furnaces, lies in the foreground.

Awaiting Demolition

Clyde Hare has been documenting the growth and change of Pittsburgh for more than 30 years, frequently photographing area steel mills in full operation. These four photographs, selected from a series taken by Clyde Hare at the Duquesne site of USX in the fall of 1986, mark his first assignment in photographing a mill awaiting demolition.



Above: An empty ore yard, larger than a football field, serves as both an introduction to the immense scale of operations employed at a mill and a haunting emblem of a shrinking industry. At right hangs a clamshell bucket for hauling the mixture of ore pellets and limestone to the mechanisms that further mixed it and delivered it to the blast furnaces in the distance.



The ruins of number two blast furnace, originally built in the 1890s and subsequently altered and updated over the years.



A huge clamshell bucket lies idle on the bottom of a slag pit near the end of a blast furnace. Slag was either hauled away from the site and dumped, or processed and sold for other uses. The slag mound adjacent to the Century III Mall, South Hills, is the most visible example of a dump site.

Photos by Clyde Hare

Two Historical Surveys in Progress

Research, Confirmation, Documentation, Discovery

In recent issues of PHLF News we announced the two historical survey projects we are conducting this year: the steel-site reconnaissance survey, and the comprehensive survey of the works of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. In this issue, we are pleased to be able to present both factual updates and impressionistic interpretations of these surveys in progress.

The Steel Industry of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Staff members Earl James and Walter Kidney, with the assistance of intern Lisa Agentis (Architectural Studies, Pitt) and volunteer David Jardini, are currently wading through a vast amount of information related to the history of the iron and steel industry of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Numerous histories approach the subject from different angles and together provide a multitude of facts (dates of significant technological innovations of the industry such as the patenting of the Bessemer converter), along with a variety of interpretations of the causes of the historical growth and recent decline of the industry.

To cite just two examples of the diversity of published sources, we have consulted a 1964 "Guide to the Old Stone Blast Furnaces in Western Pennsylvania" published by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, which details the dates of construction, names of owners, production capacities and exact geographical locations of over 100 stone blast furnaces built in Western Pennsylvania since 1790, when the first furnace (the Alliance) was constructed on Jacobs Creek in Fayette County.

A more recent and different type of publication is the 1971 *Economic History of the Iron and Steel Industry in the United States*, by William T. Hogan of Fordham University. This five-volume history gives histories of individual corporations of the industry, an analysis of changing demand for steel over the years, statistical lists such as "New Furnaces Constructed, 1945-1970" (there were 36), and descriptions of changes in sources and qualities of raw materials among many other types of information. Publications of the industry itself, such as the American Iron and Steel Institute's *Directory of Iron and Steel Works of the United States and Canada, 1896-1980*, can be invaluable sources of data to document the rate of growth and the geographical spread of the industry.

Following the research phase of the survey, we plan to submit a report to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which is funding a major portion of the costs of this survey, which will constitute a guidebook for the evaluation of the

historical significance of currently existing iron and steel sites in Southwestern Pennsylvania. When finished, the report will provide a basis for sound decision-making by individuals or institutions interested in the possible preservation and/or adaptive reuse of some of the steel sites in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Acquiring Artifacts

Landmarks also is identifying a wide variety of steel-mill artifacts which we will attempt to acquire and preserve from mills now slated for demolition. Obviously, short of preserving a mill site intact, it is impossible to collect some of the major artifacts of the industry such as a blast furnace. There are, however, smaller and equally important types of mill artifacts which are moveable and should be preserved to assist in the documentation and interpretation of the industry.

For example, we will be looking for an ore car used to transport ore within the mill site, a skip bucket used to transport ore mixtures to the tops of blast furnaces, various ladles for receiving and pouring molten iron and steel, and an ingot buggy with mold and ingots aboard.

We also hope to acquire and store for future display a number of the more "human scale" mill artifacts that will help convey the presence of the working man in the mill, such as hand tools used in the operation of blast furnaces, time-card racks with the names of individual workers, warning and safety signs found on a mill site, protective clothing required for some operations, and many others.

Finally, as we continue our survey work, we frequently contact mill workers and managers who have collected photographs of "their" mill over the years. Although reluctant to let go of these collections, since they represent passionate memories of an almost legendary way of life, the owners may allow their collections to be copied or donate them at a later date.

These approaches to the preservation of the regional history of this industry, as well as others such as oral history, need to be carried out now while the people and the artifacts remain accessible. Landmarks is pleased to be in the forefront of this research and documentary effort.



Nolan double duplex, 1402-08 North Negley Avenue (1919)

The Works of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr.

Landmarks' survey of the works of Pittsburgh architect Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. continues to uncover information that to date has confirmed 54 buildings and building groups as Scheibler-designed. A painstaking research process is the first step in establishing the basis for a comprehensive evaluation of Scheibler's work. In addition to the confirmed sites, Landmarks' historian Walter Kidney and intern Edward Bergen (Architectural Studies, Pitt) are currently investigating the attributions of 30 more sites and have identified seven other Scheibler-designed works now demolished. The photographs reprinted here show three little-known Scheibler works to be recorded in the Landmarks survey.

In conducting the survey research, Kidney and Bergen have a wide variety of information sources to analyze and cross-check, involving publications such as *The Builder*, Pittsburgh Architectural Club yearbooks, and the *Builders' Bulletin* among others, in an effort to identify Scheibler commissions. Another valuable resource in local collections is the Carnegie-Mellon University's Hunt Library collection of Scheibler drawings for 91 commissions. A number of these drawings cannot be visually examined, however, until the Hunt Library conservators finish the tedious task of slowly humidifying the paper until it may be unrolled without crumbling.

Scheibler was very largely an East End architect, but he designed buildings for Modesto, California and Wynnewood, near Philadelphia. Kidney recently visited Wynnewood, following up Scheibler's typically imprecise street address, and believes that he has identified the building there. Despite Philadelphia-area features — walls of schist and a pent eave over the front door — this house has Scheibler's crispness and individuality. Kidney and Bergen plan to wrap up the major portion of the detective phases of this survey by late February.



Coleman apartment house, 936 Mellon Street (1907)



King Avenue Row, 1147-55 King Avenue (1914)

National Park Service Team Photographs Duquesne Works

The National Park Service's Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) office, at the request of Landmarks, assigned photographer Jet Lowe and historian Bill Lebovich to an emergency photodocumentation project at USX's Duquesne Works during the fall of 1986. The blast-furnace end of this site will be demolished in 1987 and the HAER team on their visit there identified and photographed 59 pieces of equipment, buildings, and site views representing mill operations.

The HAER office is responsible for recording the nation's significant engineering and industrial artifacts and structures through photodocumentation and measured drawings of sites, buildings, and equipment, and through process drawings documenting various technological processes used in industry.

At the same time, Landmarks was fortunate enough to receive the volunteer services of a professional filmmaker and former steelworker, Steffi Domike, who shot several hundred feet of 16mm film of the abandoned site.

Recent Artifact Donations

The most remarkable gift we have received since our last report in the Fall 1986 newsletter is a collection of 1,098 drawings, mainly ink on linen, from the office of the Pittsburgh engineer Samuel Diescher. These include drawings for a Ferris wheel — perhaps the original Ferris wheel, built for the Chicago Exposition of 1893 — as well as for seven inclines in Pittsburgh and five in other cities. The others are for industrial facilities, buildings, and airports, with dates between 1889 and 1930. These came with a wooden case. The donor is Mrs. Clara Archibald of Gibsonia, Diescher's grand-daughter, who has also given us historic material from Jones & Laughlin and is offering us other valuable gifts.

Otto Gilcher of Penn Hills has given us textile machinery, sheet music, and piano music racks.

Charles B. Sullivan, of Carrington/Sloane Associates, has given us a copy of the Flood Supplement of the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph* of March 29, 1936.

Bernard J. DiNardo of Braddock has given us the public clock in front of his store at 837 Braddock Avenue.

Marjorie H. Roberts of Mars has given us a sleigh of the 1900 period, said to be that in which the Biddle Brothers and Mrs. Soffel attempted their escape.

If any members would like to donate any artifacts to our collection, please call Walter Kidney at 471-5808.

Preservation Scene



1529 and 1531 Saturn Way, Central North Side

• Landmarks Initiates Home Ownership Program

The Home Ownership for Working People Program (VMR I), announced in the Fall 1986 newsletter, is now under way. Nine vacant, vandalized houses on Alpine Street and Saturn Way in the Central North Side have been purchased for rehabilitation as two- and three-bedroom units, and Landmarks has begun the marketing program.

Figures reported last fall in the newsletter have changed slightly. The families benefiting from the program, with incomes between \$12,000 and \$27,500 a year, will pay \$1,500 for closing costs and down payment rather than the \$2,500 first anticipated, and will go on with monthly payments, principal and interest, of between \$200 and \$300 per month, until they have paid approximately \$29,355 to \$40,466, depending on the unit they select and assume ownership of. The homes are valued between \$47,500 and \$58,800.

Participants in the program include: Landmarks, which has made a construction loan of \$162,185 at eight percent interest; the URA of Pittsburgh, with an \$87,500 grant to write down the purchase price; a \$40,000 loan at eight percent for construction and \$20,000 grant for building purchase from the Local Initiative Support Corporation; and a \$17,500 loan at eight percent from the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania for marketing. Other participants are the North Side Civic Development Council, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and Mayor Richard S. Caliguiri. Landmarks' loan has, by itself, leveraged about a quarter-million dollars in financing.

The purpose of the program is to afford permanent homes to families that might otherwise have to live insecurely in bad rental properties. A proviso of the agreement with a family benefiting from the program is that it accept whatever counseling is necessary to enable it to carry through the process that leads to full ownership.

• St. Mary's Priory Opens

A party, held on the evening of December 18, 1986 by Landmarks Design Associates, architects, gave many Pittsburghers their first glimpse of the Priory, 614 Pressley Street on the North Side, which opened November 17th. The bed-and-breakfast hotel of 25 rooms, intended primarily for business travelers, has a domestic character that should recommend it to persons who like peace, privacy, and a change from the usual hotel-motel impersonality. The courtyard between the Priory and St. Mary's Church will be a delightful out-of-doors area in the warm months. Conversion of the Priory to a hotel was aided by a \$50,000 loan from Landmarks' Preservation Fund. The conversion of St. Mary's Church itself to a hall for rental is the next step.

• Osterling Studio Restored

Conversion of the Osterling Building at 228 Isabella Street, on the North Shore, is now complete, and according to David O'Loughlin, the developer, all 2,300 square feet of office rental space has been signed up. This was the home and studio of Frederick John Osterling, the busy turn-of-the-century architect whose works include the Union Arcade (i.e., Two Mellon Bank Center) and the Magee Building in downtown Pittsburgh, and the Iroquois Apartments in Oakland. Remodeled in 1917, just as the Union Arcade was being completed, the Osterling Building has a bold traceried window-wall in much the same Flamboyant Gothic style that the larger work uses.



• New Life for a North Side Landmark

The Eberhardt and Ober Brewery (c. 1880) at Troy Hill Road and Vinial Street is to be renovated and adapted for a new use. The Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) is contributing \$100,000 to the project for a small-business "incubator" (custom-designed spaces and management assistance) and a \$500,000 loan, also from LISC, will fund construction. The Pittsburgh Foundation has also granted a \$50,000 loan for the incubator. PHLF has assisted Landmarks Design Associates, architects, with its National Register application. Construction is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of this year; Tom Mistick & Sons will be the contractor.

• Streetface Program Announced by the City

The City of Pittsburgh has instituted a new Neighborhood Business District Revitalization Program, one component of which is the Streetface Program. The Streetface Program provides matching grants to merchants and building owners in qualifying business districts for the renovation of the storefronts and facades of their buildings. The Department of City Planning and the Urban Redevelopment Authority administer the program, and have drawn up guidelines for the renovations performed under it. Among the renovations that have occurred or are under way in the city's historic districts are 1510-12 East Carson Street (Blue Lou's Grill), 1805 East Carson Street (Thursday's Restaurant), 2100-02 East Carson Street, and 4018 Penn Avenue (David Brenborg and Associates architectural offices).



Stanley Lowe (left), director of Landmarks' Preservation Fund, Ronald Suber (middle), economic development specialist of the North Side Civic Development Council, and Arthur Ziegler, president of Landmarks, discuss the success of the Home Ownership Program. These houses located at 251 and 253 Alpine Street on the Central North Side were restored through a loan from Landmarks' Preservation Fund.

• Plans for Calbride Place

The Calbride Place Citizens Council (CPCC) anticipates spending over \$50,000 this year to restore 10 buildings in their community. Landmarks contributed many hours of technical assistance to the Council in 1986, and was one of many organizations to help secure over \$28,500 in funding for board and staff support and neighborhood development activities. We have also assisted the CPCC in obtaining \$60,000 from the Urban Redevelopment Authority to write down the purchase price of the rehabilitated buildings.

• Reconstruction of the Granite Building

A facade easement for the Granite Building, whose two lower floors are under reconstruction, has been granted by Granite Historic Associates, of Philadelphia, to the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation, a private non-profit organization with demonstrated experience in accepting easements. The Granite Building is located downtown at Sixth Avenue and Wood Street. Landmarks was interested once in accepting the easement, but the integrity of the facades will be compromised by structural and planning considerations that make a full restoration of the lower-floor facades inexpedient. The style will again be Romanesque, but fenestration, ornament, materials, and textures will be notably different from those designed in 1889 by Bickel & Brennan for the banking-room levels of the German National Bank. Landmarks will be charged with supervising the easement provisions under contract with the Philadelphia group.

• Pittsburgh Ranks Fifth

U.S. News and World Report, in its issue of November 3, 1986, carried an article on the Investment Tax Credit and historic preservation. This included a list of the top 20 U.S. cities, ranked by the number of historic rehab projects. The period for which the list is valid was not stated, but current projects are probably what the editors had in mind. Pittsburgh ranks fifth, behind St. Louis, New Orleans, Savannah, and Philadelphia. Considering that three of these are much larger cities than Pittsburgh, this does us much credit.

Call us with Preservation News
We need your help in covering the county. Please call Walter Kidney (471-5808) and report what you know.



• East Liberty Renovations

The full opening of two-way traffic on Penn Avenue through the center of East Liberty, effected last November, has been only the most noted of a number of advances recently made in the area. The Motor Square Garden, the East Liberty Market House built in 1898 to designs Peabody & Stearns of Boston, has been under interior reconstruction since October. Plans designed by Landmarks Design Associates, architects, provide for three levels with a total of 85,000 leasable square feet, accommodating 36 businesses that include restaurants, stores, and professional offices for customers from the neighborhood. A broad cruciform well under the glazed central dome will open the new mezzanine to the main floor, which itself will be opened to the basement through two narrower wells.

The handsome old Stevenson Building, 1896, a building suggesting the early architecture of McKim, Mead & White in Philadelphia. W. Ross Proctor, is now the Dargate Center. The original corner entrance will remain in use, but a new entrance on Hulton Street will be added. Edward Darc, proprietor of the Galleries, has been encouraging other businesses to occupy other properties restored or remodelled by the architects John Martine and Henry Hanson.

Mannsmann's Department Store on Penn Avenue is undergoing restoration of its terra-cotta facade, and is to become the Showcase Outlet Center, a store for furnishings and decorative work by artists and craftsmen of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Tri-State area generally.

The East Liberty Development Corporation has created three for-profit corporations for real-estate and management activities, Eldevco Property Development, Eldevco Retail Development, and Eldevco Real Estate.

• The Neville House: Etched Windows and Bright Walls

The Presley Neville house in Collier Township is a National Historic Landmark and a historic resource whose complexities have not yet been fully exposed. The experts have been working on some of these complexities. Ronald C. Carlisle, of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Anthropology, has documented diamond-etched inscriptions on 48 panes of glass in 10 windows, principally those of the dining and living rooms. It was once a custom to scratch a name, a date, an epigram, or something of the sort on window panes, to memorialize an important family event, a distinguished visitor, or anything worth recording. The Neville house may be the only house in Western Pennsylvania where evidence of this custom survives. The earliest extant inscription was made by Nancy Neville, Presley's wife, on April 20, 1811. Breakage has robbed us of another etching said to have been made by Lafayette, Presley's commanding officer during the Revolution. The Cowan and Wrenshall families, who occupied the house in the nineteenth century, continued the custom. Dr. Carlisle is studying the custom of window-pane etching generally to put the Neville house windows in their true context.

Robert Feller of the Mellon Institute and John Dickey, meanwhile, have been analyzing paint samples from the eighteenth-century interiors of the house, and restoration of the dining room, living room, and front hall is progressing in light of their findings. Some of this restoration — fully documented though it is — will startle modern eyes. The dining room of the early 1790s, for instance, will have bright green walls, glazed above the chair rail, with a black baseboard and cream trim with a cream-colored ceiling. All surfaces, the ceiling included, are finished in boards. Other rooms will reveal other rather bright surfaces. Paint restoration is expected to be finished by early March.



• Fifth Avenue Mansion to be Restored

An architectural tragedy occurred on October 28, 1986, when the Gwinner-Harter house, at Fifth and Amberson Avenues, was half-destroyed by fire. Almost all of the mansarded third floor was burned away and the second floor was badly damaged. At the time, the house was within three weeks of the completion of extensive interior restoration. The architecture-loving public — and the neighbors — have been anxious over the fate of the house; but, Dr. Leo Harter, the owner, has decided to restore the house again, and indeed has asked his architect, Martin Chetlin, to research its early history: a fact that suggests an even more complete restoration than the first.

Not much is known about the house, despite its character as a familiar sight along Fifth Avenue. Dr. Harter believes that it was built in 1863, though its mansard roof — possibly an addition — suggests 1870. The original owner was William B. Negley. The house was purchased by the Gwinner family in 1911, and remodeled and perhaps enlarged by Frederick J. Osterling around the same time. It was further remodeled in 1923. The front porch, with its doubled Roman Doric columns, dates from one of the remodelings, probably that of 1911. The ground-floor rooms, despite 50 years of changing tastes, are reported to have survived largely as first designed.

• Main Street on East Carson Progresses

Main Street on East Carson has moved its offices to the second floor of 1812 East Carson Street, retaining its telephone number of 481-0660. Progress in 1986 has been very satisfactory, with 30 new businesses opening in the Carson Street Historic District of the South Side since August 1985. A statistical analysis of economic development between August 1985 and the end of July 1986 showed twice as many businesses coming in as leaving. A policy of *Main Street* is to encourage retailing, and 62 percent of these new businesses are in fact retail, a gain over a one-year period of 11 percent. One fifth of the new businesses are restaurants, many intended to serve a clientele of newcomers and their visitors. The economic development in this same 11-month period created 21 new jobs. Finally, 23 facades were restored or suitably altered, and 20 properties were rehabilitated. From September 1985 through May 1986, \$523,000 was spent on building improvements.

Carolyn Boyce, director of the *Main Street* project, hopes that the new businesses will both serve the ordinary demands of the neighborhood and attract customers from the entire region through a balanced array of goods and services.

Funding for *Main Street on East Carson*, which is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has been received from the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation of Pittsburgh, and the Trust's National Main Street Center, for a business-assistance program. In this connection, *Main Street* and the City of Pittsburgh held four workshops in January for board members of the South Side Chamber of Commerce, the South Side Local Development Corporation, and *Main Street on East Carson* itself, to train them in working with the businessmen of the district. The Allegheny Foundation has made a generous contribution to cover operating expenses and partly to match challenge grants, and the Howard Heinz Endowment has contributed funding for operating expenses.

• Allegheny Cemetery Continues Restoration

Allegheny Cemetery announces that 1986 has seen restoration of the Administration Building next to the Butler Street entrance in Lawrenceville, especially the woodwork of the major interiors. New signs for the individual buildings and the Cemetery's historic tour have been erected. This year, the exterior of the Administration Building is to be restored, including the clock in the tower; the walks around the Fountain and Pool area are to be improved; and walls and fences are to be restored.

First planned in 1844, this was the fourth "rural" cemetery to be undertaken in the United States: not "rural" in the sense of resembling an artless country churchyard, but rather in bringing principles of Romantic landscaping to cemetery design. There is a sort of magic about the number three, and therefore the earlier cemeteries, Mount Auburn near Boston, Laurel Hill in Philadelphia, and Green Wood in Brooklyn, have claimed all the applause. Yet Allegheny is full of charm and interest, and is one of the finest sights in this area. Restoration of its most notable features is decidedly good news. Further donations to the restoration fund would be welcomed by:

Allegheny Cemetery Historical
Association
4734 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

• Bridge Artifacts Reappear

Two details from the Liberty Bridge railing, removed a few years ago, have turned up in an unexpected place, at 1204 Grandview Avenue. The lower floor is an extension of the Tin Angel, with apartments above. The recent Post-Modern refacing by Thomas R. Hasley includes two torch-like ornaments whose flames, strong red, are lavish compositions of palmettes, anthemions, and volutes that once served as finials to the posts of the Liberty Bridge railing. Anne von Sothen, the client, found them in an antique shop.

Build a Future from Our Past



Contributors to the Preservation Fund

We are pleased to acknowledge the following members whose contributions to the Preservation Fund will open new opportunities for aiding historic preservation projects in Allegheny County:

Mrs. Shirley Siegwart Ayer
Anthony J.A. Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. Newton Chapin, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic L. Cook
Mrs. George L. Craig, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Davis, Jr.
George C. Dorman
Richard D. Edwards
G. Christian Lantzsch
Mrs. Alan G. Lehman

Chester LeMaistre
Mr. & Mrs. Philip F. Muck
Ms. Margie Nicholson
William R. Oliver
Mrs. Evelyn B. Pearson
Edward C. Quick
G. Whitney Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Jack C. Tooke
Dr. & Mrs. Albert C. Van Dusen
Mrs. James M. Walton



If you have not yet made a contribution to the Preservation Fund but would like to do so, please mail your tax-deductible contribution to "Preservation Fund," c/o PHLF, 450 The Landmarks Building, One Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Or call Stanley Lowe at 471-5808 for further details.

Schenley Park Centennial Restoration Project



The Schenley Park Centennial Restoration Project gained momentum with the award of a \$20,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to Landmarks in September, 1986. The grant project, titled "Reclaiming Design in an Urban Park," will study the Panther Hollow section of the Park with its network of trails and stone bridges, many of which were built by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. In addition to funding research of the development of Panther Hollow, the NEA monies will support several studies of Panther Hollow's current condition, including its paths and structures, vegetation, and hydrology. The project will continue through 1987.

The investigation of Panther Hollow will supplement the 1986 overview study of

Schenley Park prepared by Environmental Planning and Design and funded by the Pittsburgh Parks and Playground Fund of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. That study indicated that further analysis of the Park's landscape was necessary in order to determine restoration costs.

Landmarks is currently seeking matching funds for the NEA grant: \$11,000 of these funds have been secured as of this writing; an additional \$12,500 are still needed. Assistance from the NEA provides both essential financial support and valuable visibility for the Schenley Park project. The Schenley Park Centennial Restoration Project is being sponsored jointly by Landmarks and the Pittsburgh Parks and Playground Fund of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, in cooperation with the City of Pittsburgh.

Education News

Education Column

The Case for Hands-On History

Since almost everyone is naturally curious about local people, places, and events, the study of neighborhoods has tremendous potential to generate enthusiasm among students.

Neighborhoods are a microcosm of the state and the world. By studying them, students gain insight into how physical and cultural forces interact on a small scale and how individuals contribute to society. These insights encourage a greater tolerance, understanding, and appreciation of different people and places.

Community study is essential to understanding the dynamics of the past and present in Western Pennsylvania, where residents still identify closely with neighborhoods that were founded out of ethnic, occupational, or topographic necessity.

Neighborhoods possess a wealth of opportunities to study close-at-hand: architecture, artifacts, maps, photographs, city and county records, and residents who have first-hand knowledge of events important to the development of the community. Such primary sources enable students to participate directly in the research process. By working in their own neighborhoods, students uncover information not ordinarily available in published form, thus making an original and significant contribution to their communities.

Neighborhoods also provide an excellent unifying theme for interdisciplinary studies. Organizing a neighborhood research project requires students to think logically and concisely. They may use the social studies, such as history, to gain a perspective on the community's past; anthropology, to discern its cultural heritage; sociology, to study the values and attitudes of the people; economics, to understand the basis of a community's prosperity or lack thereof; political science, to investigate power and change; and geography, to understand the relationship of the shape of the land to the people who use it. Students can apply math con-

cepts by analyzing statistics contained in such sources as city directories and census reports, and by developing tables, charts, and graphs to illustrate aspects of their study. Chemistry and biology teachers might sponsor a joint study of how industrial pollutants affect the air and water, and thus the quality of life in a neighborhood. Art teachers may use the neighborhood as a rich source of creative visual subjects or to collect oral histories of practicing artists. Arts and humanities disciplines play a critical role as students experiment with ways to communicate the results of their study.

Community study also promotes enthusiasm among students because they are not dealing with an abstract or distant region with little relevance, but with an area familiar to them.

Most importantly, however, students learn how to conduct original research — collecting raw data about their communities, analyzing the data, and communicating their conclusions. In short, they learn *how to learn*.

Despite the undisputed value of studying local communities, school curricula generally avoid the subject due to the lack of guidelines and identifiable local resources, and most teachers are not trained in the methods of original research which are critical to community study. Resources teaching the methods of conducting historical inquiry, particularly in the area of the local community, are very rare indeed. It is because of this fact that Landmarks developed a department of education in 1982 and has been hosting inservices for teachers and special workshops for students and authoring local history education materials.

The presentations and displays at Landmarks' first annual Hands-On History Education Fair were unrefutable evidence that school curricula can be enriched if the local community is used as a resource for learning. History is a hands-on subject with countless relevant applications.

The Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest



An anxious crowd awaits the decision of the PennDOT engineers at the judging of the Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest.



(Left): Dat Nguyen displays his design, one of four bridges that held over 500 pounds, thus tying for "strongest bridge" award.

(Below, left): Mark Durkay and David Jarusarski display well-designed bridges from the ninth through twelfth grade division. David's bridge was honored as most attractive and tied for strongest with three other bridges that also held over 500 pounds. (Below, right): Heather Hennessey and Jacklyn Liang won first prize for appearance in the fifth through eighth grade division for their clever suspension bridge.

Spring Inservices

Call Susan Donley at 471-5808 for registration information regarding two inservice workshops offered by Landmarks this spring through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit:

1. *Exploring Architecture* (a new program made possible by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission): March 21, 28, April 25, May 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
2. *Exploring Your City*: May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 4:45-8:30 p.m.



Traveling Exhibits

After a successful first-year tour in 1986, *Architecture: The Building Art* and *Landmark Survivors* are on the road again. Due to requests received this year primarily from PTA/PTO members, the following schools have scheduled the exhibits in the next several months: McClellan Elementary; Marchum Elementary; and Hampton Middle School. *Landmark Survivors* was recently displayed at Children's Hospital, and *Architecture: The Building Art* will be featured at the "Children's Festival" in May, sponsored by Citiparks.

Please call Kimberly Mooney at 471-5808 if you would like to receive rental information regarding either exhibit. Lots of bookings have already been made, but some months are still available.



They Got Their Hands-On History!

The following schools participated in the first annual Hands-On History Education Fair. The student projects, briefly described below, represent a tremendous outpouring of energy and enthusiasm. We salute the participating schools, students, and teachers:

Avalon Elementary School

An exhibit of sketches and essays on the Avalon Borough Hall, a local landmark.

Brookline Teacher's Center

A videotape presentation of fifth graders' oral history interviews of their parents and school staff.

Broughton and Library Elementary Schools

An exhibit of second graders' studies of geometric shapes in architecture.

Chartiers Elementary School

An exhibit on such neighborhood landmarks as the Wind Gap Bridge and Mann's Hotel.

East Allegheny High School

A cookbook of traditional family recipes and their stories assembled by seventh and eighth grade home economics students.

Edgeworth Elementary School

A display of drawings done on a community house tour and a timeline of Sewickley history.

Jay Neff Middle School

An exhibit and slide show on sports in 1975, the year its sixth grade researchers were born.

Joe Walker Elementary School

A videotape depicting a social history of the 1960s.

McAnnulty Elementary School

A display that included a stenciled quilt depicting Baldwin-Whitehall history, a cookbook with favorite recipes of Pittsburgh celebrities collected by students, and demonstrations of applehead and cornhusk dollmaking.

Montour High School

A giant "battleboard" and a display of original documents showing the Pittsburgh connection to the Battle of Gettysburg.

North Allegheny Intermediate High School

A photo display from an ethnic neighborhood tour and "interviews" of Andrew Carnegie and Henry C. Frick after the Homestead Strike.

Northgate Junior High School

A display of photos and essays on "Exploring Our Past" and a student-designed history game called "A-Maze-ing."

Osborne Elementary School

A videotape of a third grade class' interview of an architectural historian researching in the Sewickley area.

Perrysville Elementary School

A display of books about family traditions written and illustrated by third graders after reading folk tales in the library.

Roosevelt Elementary School

A display of student work in English, Scottish, and German folk art.

St. Agatha School

A display of family folklore booklets describing family rituals and traditions through stories and drawings.

St. Colman School

An exhibit of the results of a community "census" and an illustrated timeline of Turtle Creek history, all generated on the computer by elementary students.

St. Francis Xavier School

A concert of 1890s songs and a "museum" of artifacts collected by student curators.

St. Patrick School

A patchwork quilt depicting Pennsylvania history by seventh and eighth graders.

Schiller Classical Academy

A skit and display based on a role-playing exercise in which students took the identities of persons listed on an early North Side census.

Sloan Elementary School

Murals of Murraysville in 1908 and 1986.

South Side Catholic Elementary School

A display of 18 scale models of a third grade class' favorite South Side landmarks.

Verner Elementary School

A play dramatizing the railroad's role in Verona's history.

Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

A display of scale models of Downtown landmarks.

Wilson Elementary School

Displays, demonstrations, and a skit based on pioneer history, crafts, and folklore students learned while raising money for the restoration of the McAdow-McAdams log house on their school property.

The Fair

HANDS ON HISTORY

Our first annual Hands-On History Education Fair, held on Saturday, December 6 at the Station Square Sheraton, was an inspiring success, thanks to the high spirits and hard work of a multitude of teachers, students, and volunteers. The fair was funded through grants from the Henry C. Frick Educational Commission, the Pittsburgh National Bank Foundation, and Landmarks' Revolving Fund for Education.

Over 1,000 people visited the fair to view exhibits and presentations on local history and architecture, representing the work of about 1,200 students and 36 teachers in 26 area schools. Teachers and students who participated in the fair were very pleased to have the opportunity to showcase the results of their hard work, which demonstrated beyond a doubt what an exciting learning resource the local community is for a tremendous variety of school topics and subject areas.

In one area of the fair, the large crowd awaiting the outcome of the Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest nearly overwhelmed PennDOT engineers Dave Spagnolli and Jerry Johnson as they judged the 47 entries for the "most attractive," "most ingenious," and "strongest" awards. Everyone was astounded that four of the bridges held the entire 500-pound set of testing weights!

In addition to viewing student projects and watching bridges being tested, visitors to the Hands-On History Education Fair could add their building designs to a "mainstreet mural," chat with citizens of Pittsburgh's ethnic neighborhoods at the "oral history alcove," browse through Landmarks' Allegheny County Survey files for "hometown treasures," or preview our publications, slide shows, and educational resources.

Because of the success of the fair, our staff is now planning the second annual Hands-On History Fair. If you are a teacher who would like to participate with your class in the second annual fair, or if you would just like to volunteer to help in our education department, please call Susan Donley at 471-5808.

Award of Merit Nominations

Call Earl James (471-5808) if you would like to recommend an individual or organization to be considered as one of our 1987 Award of Merit recipients. Awards are presented at our Distinguished Lecture in the fall to deserving individuals or organizations who have furthered the cause of historic preservation and/or increased public knowledge about our heritage.



Students of Wilson Elementary School, which is blessed with an authentic log house on school property, demonstrated pioneer crafts and folklore they learned while raising money for the restoration of the McArdow-McAdams log house.



Fair visitors experiment with building structure and function at the activity areas of Landmarks' traveling exhibit, Architecture: The Building Art.



Hundreds of children (and grownups) contributed architectural designs and landscape features to our giant "mainstreet mural."



"Curators" Steven Yi, Don Monteleone, Heather Nowack, Chad Geiger, and Brian Schacht preside over an extensive collection of artifacts assembled by students of St. Francis Xavier School.



Seven schools presented videotapes or musical performances "on stage."



St. Colman School students used their computer to collect and analyze a survey of the families in their school and to create this timeline of Turtle Creek history illustrated with historic photographs.

Book Reviews

Walter Kidney



PITTSBURGH: FULFILLING ITS DESTINY
PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
PRESERVATION OF THE PAST WITH A FINE PRACTICALITY

Some days in a Pittsburgh street seem almost eerily quiet. The streets are empty, the sidewalks are empty, the air is empty. It is as if the city has been emptied of its people. This is not a new phenomenon. It is a result of the city's history and its landmarks. The city's history is a story of growth and change, of challenges and triumphs. The landmarks are the physical evidence of this history, the buildings that have stood the test of time. They are a testament to the city's resilience and its ability to overcome adversity. The city's history and landmarks are what make Pittsburgh unique, what give it its character and its identity. They are the heart and soul of the city, the things that make it what it is. It is our duty to preserve them, to protect them for future generations. We must ensure that they remain a part of our lives, that they continue to inspire and educate us. For only then can we truly understand Pittsburgh and its place in the world.



Most visible to many people was the rescue of historic properties on the endangered list. The North Side's "Old Post Office" became the inspiration for the city's historic preservation efforts. Other one-of-a-kind structures, such as Downtown's Union Station and Spanglish's Rector Caron Homesite, received landmark status. The city's historic preservation efforts have been a success. They have protected some of the city's most important landmarks and ensured that they will be there for future generations. This is a testament to the city's commitment to its history and its landmarks. We must continue to support these efforts, for only then can we truly preserve Pittsburgh and its place in the world.



It is a testament to the city's resilience and its ability to overcome adversity. The city's history and landmarks are what make Pittsburgh unique, what give it its character and its identity. They are the heart and soul of the city, the things that make it what it is. It is our duty to preserve them, to protect them for future generations. We must ensure that they remain a part of our lives, that they continue to inspire and educate us. For only then can we truly understand Pittsburgh and its place in the world.

Pittsburgh: Fulfilling Its Destiny

Vince Galletta et al., Pittsburgh: Fulfilling Its Destiny. Northridge, Cal.: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1986. 624 pp., about 700 color photographs. \$35.00. Produced in cooperation with the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, this is obviously an affirmative book on the city and its region. Current economic problems are faced, but the message is that the region will win through, and that even steel and coal are not necessarily dead. It is notable that Chapter 9, "Partners in Progress," is 211 pages long and consists of individual writeups on the organizations that supported the book. One of these is Landmarks (p. 594); its history and accomplishments are described in 1,000 words and illustrated by four color pictures.

Pennsylvania: Keystone to Progress

E. Willard Miller, Pennsylvania: Keystone to Progress. Northridge, Cal.: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1986. 638 pp., about 400 photographs. \$35.00. This book is similar in many ways to Pittsburgh: Fulfilling Its Destiny, though it treats all periods of the state's history instead of concentrating on the present and near future. "Keystone Enterprises" (Part IV, 204 pp.) includes 17 corporations from Southwest Pennsylvania, and local industry is fairly well represented in the historical chapters.

The Pittsburgh that Starts Within You

Samuel Hazo, The Pittsburgh that Starts Within You (no location given, Byblos, 1986). 61 pp., pictures by Robert Qualters. \$9.95, paper. Here, a native and a poet has written a book of memories and current observations, quite rambling, mixing the past with the present. Personal experience rather than objective description is the content, and long-time Pittsburghers will enjoy comparing their own experiences with Hazo's. The book can be read in one long sitting, or read in snatches without concern for finishing a chapter, since the rhapsody goes on uninterrupted. The Qualters pictures — all black-and-white aside from that on the cover — are just right for the book, loosely related to Hazo's sequence of subjects but also a second, independent set of personal impressions.

Pittsburgh Archaeological Resources and National Register Survey

Verna L. Cowin, Pittsburgh Archaeological Resources and National Register Survey. Pittsburgh: Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, 1985. 507 pp., 92 maps, groups of maps, and other illustrations, 4 tables. No price given. This is a basic guide to historic Pittsburgh, with a look at local archaeology and historic preservation to date, and some comments on Pittsburgh's "resources," i.e., sites that serve as information sources.

Taking the contents in order, we find a history of "urban archaeology"; an account of the methodology used in digging up, so to speak, the information used in this book; a summing-up of local physical geography; an account of archaeological work in Allegheny County in the past; a discussion of recorded sites in the county, which date as far back as 15,000 B.C.; a history of the Golden Triangle and its environmental circumstances from 1750 to 1892; maps of the several areas of the Triangle, locating all known occupants for 1812, 1815, 1819, 1826, 1837, and 1850; demographic and commercial schematic maps of the Triangle for these years; a history of the present North Side; ditto the present South Side; suggestions for future urban archaeological investigations; a selected bibliography; appendix information on the legal status of historic districts, among other things; maps of present and potential historic districts in Pittsburgh; and maps of various areas now within the city from atlases of 1872 and 1902.

It takes a special kind of person to be thrilled by every part of such a book. Some of the graphics, specifically the reproductions of older maps, are to be regretted. And statements of fact — certainly as regards architectural history — ought to be cross-checked. Yet this is going to be one of the first places to look for information on the early history of Pittsburgh as a physical, military, or commercial entity. There is no price for this book, and the general public will not be able to acquire it; it is going gratis to all secondary schools, colleges, public libraries, and learned institutions in the city, so that everyone will nevertheless have reasonable access to it. A copy is available for members to browse through at our library on the fourth floor of the Landmarks Building at Station Square.

Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait

Franklin Toker, Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait. University Park, Pa.: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1986. 351 pp., 246 photographs, 27 maps. \$29.95 cloth, \$16.95 paper. Members of Landmarks may well take an interest in this new book, for it is a rival to our own Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, published in 1985 and now nearly out of print. Each book has its own slant, but both have for a subject the outstanding buildings and engineering works of the Pittsburgh area against the background of local history. It is pleasant for all concerned to be able to say that both books have a place on the shelf of anyone seriously interested in Pittsburgh.

Landmark Architecture might be called the more luxurious book of the two, in a larger format and with color illustrations as well as black-and-white. History- and preservation-oriented, it contains an essay on the history and character of the region and its architecture, including old prints and photographs, then treats about 450 extant buildings that are 50 or more years old, illustrating each with at least one photograph and mentioning National Register listings and Landmark plaques where these exist.

Pittsburgh is more of a standard architectural guide, 9 inches high by 5 3/4 inches wide, fairly easy to hold in the hand, full of condensed information. It discusses about 750 buildings and building groups, some in a phrase, some in several paragraphs, with illustrations for about a third of them. There is no cutoff date, and even buildings still coming into being are mentioned. The photography is utilitarian: no color except on the cover, and black-and-whites that are factually descriptive rather than atmospheric.

The text of Pittsburgh is very informative, and its shortcomings are small ones. Here, for instance, are two incidental details, admittedly discussed at a length out of proportion to their importance merely to suggest that a mild skepticism would be

useful at times. Scholars like to tie the recently discovered in with the already-familiar, and this leads to a certain amount of "reaching," harmless but not to be accepted without proof. The Industrial Bank (p. 40) is seen as a witty piece of contextual architecture, and as being influenced in its design by Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, Peter Speeth, and Nicholas Hawksmoor. This double reading, however, may be a case of old architecture seen through modern eyes. It is doubtful that a Pittsburgh architect of the 1900s would have thought of using wit in the design of a bank, and that he would even have heard of Ledoux and Speeth. It seems more likely that, in designing a little bank in a street of showy bank facades, he chose to dramatize the banking room with a big arch and provide a startling contrast with the use of stumpy columns to front the lower-ceilinged board room. In the case of 820 Liberty Avenue (p. 57), an (implied) influence from Frank Furness seems less likely than one from Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, who stressed in his writings — some in English translation by 1881 — just such a use of the working parts of a masonry building as a basis for its architectural expression. In 1881, Furness had designed nothing for Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh had surprisingly little architecture that revealed Philadelphia influence; and such structurally demonstrative commercial buildings were to be seen, in Boston for instance, at least since the early 1870s when Furness had only recently begun practice. Small things, not impairing the usefulness of the book for general purposes. If there is a larger fault, it may be a certain detachment of tone, a viewing of the city from above rather than within. The author is not a native Pittsburgher, and objectivity, not atmosphere or nostalgia, is his goal in any case. His strength is in telling you about the city of today, piece by piece, leaving to Landmark Architecture, James D. Van Trump's Life and Architecture in Pittsburgh, and Samuel Hazo's The Pittsburgh that Starts Within You the task of conveying the experience of having lived here. This is primarily a guide book, and as such it functions very well.



STATION SQUARE
TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

Gulf Oil Company Memorabilia
Featured at Museum through March 15

Exhibit highlights:

- the first Gulf Farm Cover of the 1950 company calendar
- a display of "The World's finest motor oil" and a salesman's case
- original photos illustrating the history of Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh

Members of Landmarks admitted free.
General admission: Adult \$1.00/Child .50 (donation)

Open Sun. through Thurs. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. and Sat. 12 Noon-8 p.m.

Private group tours available. Call 471-5808 for details.

The Museum is located in Bessemer Court at Station Square

Events at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania will present the lecture "Finding Our Fathers" on Wednesday, March 11 by noted author Dan Rottenberg, and a screening of Murray Avenue depicting the history of Jewish neighborhoods in Squirrel Hill on Wednesday, March 18. Both the lecture and film begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Society building, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard in Oakland. Admission is free to members and \$2 to non-members. A reception immediately follows each event.

On May 6, the Society will host a benefit lecture in the evening by Michael L. Ainslie, president of Sotheby's, titled "The Role of the Auction House in the Art Market." Call 681-5533 for further information on any of these events.