



Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

# NEWS

No. 106 Summer 1988

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- Preservation Fund Brings Economic and Social Benefits
- Hands-On History Festival
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- Remains from a Heroic Time

## Preserving Our Industrial Heritage

### Councilman Champions Demolition of Historic J&L Structures

After City Council voted almost unanimously to ask the City Historic Review Commission to evaluate the LTV site, Councilman Jim Ferlo did an abrupt about-face and campaigned to rescind the motion; Ben Woods, Jack Wagner, Otis Lyons, Jr., and Eugene P. DePasquale joined him.

Landmarks had only asked for several months time to evaluate a few especially significant structures and had agreed to the demolition of other structures. Landmarks believes that enormous benefits can be created by saving and interpreting the most significant artifacts of our steel industry heritage. As an example, the restoration of about 100 dilapidated but historic houses in Savannah has resulted in tourist revenue of over \$200 million a year, in a city not strategically located. Consider how much more impact these major industrial structures, located at the river's edge near downtown, could have had as an attraction.

Just why members of Council refused to grant a few months' delay for various studies that could have resulted in a multi-million dollar tourist attraction is a mystery. We might take a guess as to why Jack Wagner opposed the historic designation evaluation of the J & L site. Councilman Wagner, an advocate of Jack Buncher's efforts to develop a festival market in the Strip District at enormous public cost, may have been motivated to prevent such an attraction as portions of a preserved mill from coming into being on the South Side.

According to the *Business Times Journal* (May 16), Buncher is proposing that a phoney "working model of a steel mill" be built next to the festival market entirely with public money. Love for the festival-market idea has faded across the country, and fortunately has not won support in Pittsburgh, thus far. A lengthy article in *Business Week* (April 4) describes how festival markets are failing to attract customers and costing their city-sponsors large subsidies.

We would like to hear more about Councilman Wagner's working-mill model. In the meantime, LTV may soon proceed with demolition at the J & L site. Most probably doomed are the Bessemer Building and Open Hearth #2. Future demolition could include the rolling-mill steam engine, a small foundry, machine shop, and some roll stands: structures and equipment that could have been creatively reused to show the nuts and bolts of a steel industry.

We greatly appreciated the efforts of Mark Pollock, Michael Coyne, and Michelle Madoff who voted to retain the historic review, and who recognized the cultural and economic potential of the site.

As we go to press, the preservation of the LTV site hangs in the balance. Only two possible actions could alter current circumstances and allow the Historic Review Commission to carry out its designated function:

- Mayor Sophie Masloff could veto Councilman Ferlo's legislation;
- City Council could pass a compromise measure just introduced by Councilman Lyons to stay demolition of the Bessemer



Building and Open Hearth #2 complex for 90 days, to allow a reuse study.

#### What We Have Done: What We Can Do

Our work to date, despite this reverse, gives us a basis for hope. In early April, Landmarks received official word from the National Park Service's Mid-Atlantic Office Director, James W. Coleman, Jr. that the NPS will be working with Landmarks and the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force this summer to carry out initial planning for the reuse of several historical steel sites in Allegheny County. This formal commitment of professional assistance comes at a critical time, and builds upon several key initiatives Landmarks has undertaken, including:

- Completing a four-county steel site survey (the nation's first survey of steel sites);
- Conducting an intensive artifact and building survey of the USX Duquesne Works and National Tube Works, in cooperation with the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, for the Regional Industrial Development Corporation;
- Proposing new federal legislation, which has been introduced by Senator Heinz, to include Allegheny County in the National Park Service's "America's Industrial Heritage Project";
- Testifying in favor of Representative Murtha's companion legislation before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, chaired by Representative Bruce Vento (D- MI);
- Sponsoring a regional Steel Site Preservation Conference on February 18 to discuss the potential for preservation and reuse of the most significant steel sites and artifacts;
- Establishing the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force (see Steel Task Force), in cooperation with the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, as a result of the February 18 conference;
- Submitting a federal budget request for \$550,000, through Senator Heinz, to support National Park Service assistance for the Task Force in planning and designing the reuse of selected steel sites;
- Working with the Task Force to sponsor a community meeting, at the suggestion of the National Park Service, on May 12 to

present preservation and reuse options for the LTV South Side Works.

The Steel Industry Heritage Task Force met for the first time on April 6. The Task Force will act as a coordinating agent for the multiple reuse plans being proposed for abandoned steel sites from Pittsburgh to McKeesport, and will identify the best sites for reuse as historic sites, develop adaptive reuse plans for other sites, assist in the preservation of thousands of artifacts and documents from these sites, and find ways to fund this important work.

The Task Force plans to build upon the example set by several other industrial preservation projects in the country, such as the Lowell (Mass.) Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission developed a preservation, interpretation, and reuse project for Lowell's abandoned textile mills that now attracts over 800,000 tourists annually, and most recently has attracted Wang Industries' national headquarters.

By combining portions of the historic Carrie Furnaces and perhaps Open Hearth #4 or #5 at the Homestead Works with many artifacts from the Duquesne Works, and other planned and existing attractions from the Point to McKeesport (Buhl Science Center, Three Rivers Stadium, Point State Park, Duquesne Incline, Station Square, the South Side, Kennywood's waterfront park), the Pittsburgh region can develop a very powerful tourist-attraction package. This package would have been much stronger if it included portions of the LTV South Side Works, which are now most probably lost. The city of Pittsburgh, itself, will no longer have structures that speak eloquently of the steel industry. Some artifacts, however, will be saved because LTV has generously agreed to donate them to Landmarks if we remove them from the site.

In cooperation with the NPS, the Task Force by the fall of this year will have identified two or three "cornerstone" preservation projects for interpretive purposes, drafted proposals for reuse of other structures, and published an Action Plan for Steel Site Preservation in Allegheny County. Subsequently, with funding through the NPS, preliminary design-development can begin for these sites.

A last look, most probably, at Open Hearth #2 and the Bessemer Building at the LTV South Side Plant.

### STEEL TASK FORCE

Chairman, David Bergholz

The organizations and offices represented to date are:

- Allegheny County Department of Development
- Allegheny County Department of Planning
- Allegheny Conference on Community Development
- Braddock's Field Historical Society
- Committee on Pittsburgh Archaeology and History
- Representative Ronald Cowell
- Representative William J. Coyne
- Greater Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Senator John Heinz
- Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
- Borough of Homestead
- Homestead C.D.C.
- Homestead Historical Society
- Kennywood Corporation
- LTV Steel
- McKeesport Heritage Center
- Representative Tom Michlovic
- Monongahela Valley Area Historical Society
- Borough of Munhall
- PA Heritage Affairs Commission
- PA Historical and Museum Commission
- Park Corporation
- Senator Frank A. Pecora
- Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
- Project for Economic Renewal of Communities
- Rankin C.D.C.
- RIDC
- Senator James A. Romanelli
- South Side Local Development Company
- Steel Valley Authority
- Borough of Swissvale
- Swissvale C.D.C.
- Tri-State Conference on Steel
- United Steel Workers of America

# PHLF NEWS

## Welcome New Members

James E. Anuszkiewicz  
Richard B. Bohnet  
P. A. Calderone  
Arthur L. Caldwell  
Ms. Rosemary Crist  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark D. Freier  
Mr. & Mrs. Erik Hardy  
Mrs. Paul F. Henry  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Jones & Family  
John W. Kerns  
Mrs. Evelyn A. Mason  
Ms. Glenna McElhone  
Eric Minde  
Northern Area PTO

Ms. Judy Palkovitz  
Ms. Betty Lou Parke  
Gene Pas  
Mrs. Helen Jayne Paton  
Mrs. Mary Ellen Preuhs & Family  
Mrs. Thomas Purcell  
Mrs. Margaret Pollare Rea  
Mrs. Gleyne Richards  
Mrs. C. W. Ruzzini  
David A. Scherb  
Miss Rosalie Silverman  
Ms. Debbie Turici  
Lawrence Vaccaro  
Mrs. Marigil M. Walsh & Family



### Volunteer Profile: Walter G. Ritchie

Walter G. Ritchie has been a loyal volunteer assistant for the past year. Majoring in architectural history and creative writing, a self-defined program at Carnegie-Mellon University, Walter came to Landmarks needing to begin work in his chosen field. Susan Donley, Landmarks' director of education, found his research and writing techniques valuable in creating a world architecture timeline for

the *Exploring Architecture* teacher inservice and in writing *How to Research the History of a House*, which presents guidelines for tracing the history of a specific property. Any member interested in obtaining a copy may call Shirley Kemmler (471-5808). Walter also assisted Earl James of Landmarks with the 1989 Historic Plaque program.

Walter will graduate from CMU this spring and hopes to go on to graduate studies in Architectural Design Criticism following a summer study program in London, England with Richmond College. We wish you well, Walter, and thank you for volunteering.

Anyone interested in volunteering at Landmarks may call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808) to learn more about our opportunities.

## Courthouse Publication Released in September

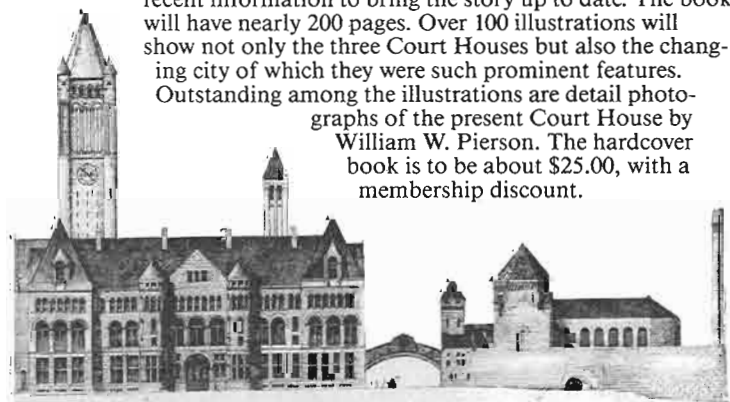
On September 24, Landmarks and the County of Allegheny Bicentennial Commission will co-publish James D. Van Trump's book *Pittsburgh's Court Houses*. The date will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the county and the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the present Court House.

In his book, Jamie puts the three Court Houses the County has had in their historical context as well as describing their architecture. When the County left makeshift quarters around 1799, it moved into a brick building with a belfry that towered over a town still largely made of logs. It took only 30 years, however, for this building on the Diamond (i.e., Market Square) to become decrepit and despised, and in 1841 the County moved to its present location on Grant's Hill, into a stately Greek Revival Court House by John Chislett. By 1882 this building was also decrepit, its sandstone front badly spalled. Its burning that year gave the County Commissioners the chance to erect a third Court House as superior to the second as the second was to the first. A competition premiated the design of Henry Hobson Richardson for the Court House and Jail that now stand. Menaced at times with demolition and horrendous remodeling, the two connected buildings have passed a century without major harm, thanks to architecture-lovers.

The present County Buildings enter their second century as Pittsburgh's most famous architecture. The Jail especially is known around the world for its forceful yet subtle treatment of granite, and the Court House was one of the most imitated buildings of its time. Richardson's dual identity — an Eclectic who synthesized medieval styles and applied them to modern uses, a Modernist who expressed materials and structure unadorned — is to be found in this pair of buildings, long accepted as among his very best.

This is Jamie's story in brief. Walter C. Kidney has added some recent information to bring the story up to date. The book will have nearly 200 pages. Over 100 illustrations will show not only the three Court Houses but also the changing city of which they were such prominent features.

Outstanding among the illustrations are detail photographs of the present Court House by William W. Pierson. The hardcover book is to be about \$25.00, with a membership discount.



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

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.	President
Louise King Ferguson	Editor/Executive Director
Mary Lu Denny	Coordinator of Tours & Special Events
Susan Donley	Director of Education
Earl D. James	Director of Programs & Preservation Services
Walter C. Kidney	Architectural Historian & Archivist
Stanley A. Lowe	Director of the Preservation Fund
Christina Schmidlapp	Special Project Associate
Jean Hodak	Artist

## The Chairman's Ramble:

# Restoring Courtroom No. 321



Photo by David Aschkenas, reprinted from *Carnegie Magazine*.

Let's consider the work of others, for a moment, in restoring the landmarks of Allegheny County.

First remember the work of the local chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, Bill Huff the architect, James Van Trump, Arthur Ziegler, Virginia Lewis, and others in alerting Pittsburgh to the dangers of the threats to the Court House and Jail itself. "Tear them down and create a plaza and a new street pattern to relieve the traffic congestion" was the cry of the city planners of the 1950s. They envisioned a "beautiful modern hotel" for the site of the Court House and new streets for the Jail. Upper Grant Street would be reserved in a continuing "Renaissance."

But those few opponents made the world see and the city see that these Richardson masterpieces were unique to Pittsburgh and had to stay. The group, including Barbara Hoffstot, formed our foundation in 1964 to act in persuasion (and sometimes in terrorism) to forestall further incursions into Pittsburgh's architectural and historical past.

Twenty-four years go by. Pittsburgh and indeed the nation at large have found that preservation is both popular and good economics. The Court House and the Jail are safe, and are among the very few structures known from Pittsburgh over the entire world.

1988 is the two hundredth anniversary of the Court system — the Court of Common Pleas as it has always been known in Allegheny County. The lawyers of Allegheny County together with judges — Judge Michael O'Malley as chairman — formed a Bicentennial Committee to celebrate the anniversary. But how to celebrate the event, which in itself to the average citizen may not seem to exude a great deal of sex appeal? (Though, after all, what would the County have been *without* a court system for 200 years?) To Lu Donnelly, freelance historian and former Landmarks' staff member, the answer was simple. Restore one of the courtrooms to Richardson's original plans. After all, she pointed out, while the Court House exterior had been well preserved since 1884, its interior had suffered many alterations, most of them bad and ill-planned — their ceilings had been twice lowered till now they were only 12 feet high instead of 27. The windows had been blocked, the chandeliers, fireplaces and wall sconces removed; the furniture taken off and replaced; the marble fireplaces walled up. Lu Donnelly broached the idea to Gilbert Helwig, a member of the Committee. He embraced the plan and passed it on to the fund-raising branch of the Committee, headed by Cloyd Mellott, an indefatigable chief of the works.

From then on everyone helped, Bob McCarthy deputy administrator of the Court, George Erny for the County of Allegheny, Richard Fischer of Alcoa, George Lesko for Public Relations, Judd Poffin-

berger, Richard McCarthy brother of Bob, Andrew Roman, Samuel Stroh, Judge Zavarella, Robert Dodds, Jr., the late Alex Unkovic, James Smith from the Bar Association, and many other lawyers of our bar. Their names will appear on the handsome plaque in the Courtroom itself.

They employed David Lewis of UDA Architects to supervise the reconstruction and restoration. They allayed the initial fears of Judge Ross as to what was going to happen to his courtroom, No. 321, with the attendant disruption. They procured his enthusiastic cooperation and began their work of removing the modern ceilings, rerouting the myriad pipes and ducts, matching original paints, rugs and furnishings, yes and revealing the great iron box girder of the ceiling, even painting gold the original rivets as they had been so boldly revealed by Richardson in 1884. They copied the original chandelier as shown in an early photograph, and ordered matching sconces on the walls. They procured as far as they could original furnishings, chairs, and desks that still existed somewhere in the vast confines of the great old building. They installed contemporary rugs and curtains in period style and reconstituted the old marble fireplace. It was Karen Loysen, David Lewis's redoubtable architect, who handled the details through the end. Now the new old courtroom stands ready for another one hundred years and possible emulation elsewhere in the building.

Oh, yes, and the financing, you no doubt ask? The room cost the sum of some \$450,000. Two hundred twenty-eight lawyers of the Allegheny bar gave \$1,000 apiece or \$228,000, and 22 judges gave \$11,500. Other lawyers gave some \$20,000, and Pittsburgh private foundations gave another \$250,000.

Thus private donors, lawyers, and foundations have paid this tribute to the court system of Allegheny County and to a great American architect. Pittsburgh can be proud of it.

Charles C. Arensberg

## Preservation Consultation for Allegheny Courthouse

In mid-March, Landmarks received a \$700 matching grant from the Preservation Services Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to demonstrate the usefulness of a restoration architect for the preservation, renovation, and maintenance of the Courthouse. The consultation services of Ellis Schmidlapp and William Joyce of Landmarks Design Associates are now available to County maintenance personnel for a limited time, at no cost to the County. At the end of the period, Landmarks will assess the value of the services in terms of their effectiveness, and the County will, Landmarks hopes, be encouraged to avail itself of such services henceforth.



## Preservation Fund Brings Economic and Social Benefits

The three-year record of Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund is remarkable. Since 1985:

- Twelve renovation projects have been supported, resulting in the renovation of 26 historic properties in the Pittsburgh area;
- Loans totaling \$717,000 from Landmarks in support of the 12 renovation projects have leveraged over six million dollars from the public/private sectors;
- Two new construction projects are being supported, using Landmarks' Historic Standards for New Construction;
- Together, the Preservation Fund projects have addressed social needs, helped clean up mainstreets, created jobs, fostered new-business development, and inspired local pride.

Landmarks' Preservation Fund grew out of the revolving fund established in the mid-1960s. Its purpose is to preserve historic buildings through economically feasible plans. But now, rather than using monies from a revolving fund to acquire and restore its own properties, Landmarks is using the fund to provide loans and technical assistance to Allegheny County neighborhoods/preservation groups and individuals who propose feasible renovation projects. During the past three years, Preservation Fund director Stanley Lowe has supported the project ideas of more than a dozen neighborhood groups and individuals, and contributed valuable technical advice and financial assistance so that the project plans could be realized. A summary of our current Preservation Fund projects follows:

### Home Ownership for Working People

Five vacant historic buildings on Alpine Way and Saturn Avenue in the Central North Side have been renovated and sold to low- and middle-income families. The beauty of this program is that it is structured to allow families the opportunity to buy a home instead of renting. Monthly mortgage payments are about \$250, equivalent to a rental fee. Landmarks lent \$162,500 of the total expense of \$228,000; the project is being developed by the North Side Civic Development Council.

Phase II of the Home Ownership program is to renovate seven more buildings in Manchester, with Landmarks lending \$60,000 of the total \$560,000. The Manchester Citizens Corporation will be the project developer.

### Anderson Manor

By July, the exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation of Anderson Manor at 1403 Liverpool Street will be completed. By lending \$100,000 to the Women's Christian Association, Landmarks has contributed to a \$308,000 project that will enable the Association to better serve its senior citizens. The house was originally built as the home of Col. James Anderson, who opened his private library to Andrew Carnegie.

### 1417 East Carson Street

This summer, a vacant building on South Side's main street is being restored and rehabilitated for commercial office space and apartments. Landmarks extended a \$40,000 loan to the South Side Local Development Company; the total development cost is \$106,000.

### Eberhardt & Ober Brewery

Landmarks made a loan of \$50,000 to the North Side Civic Development Council, which has leveraged an additional \$3,950,000. The interior and exterior of the Eberhardt and Ober Brewery at the foot of Troy Hill on the North Side is to be restored by this fall. Adaptive reuse includes a new brewery, office space for "incubator" businesses, and warehouse space. Twenty-five percent of the leasable space has been committed. Its principal tenant, the Pennsylvania Brewing Company's micro brewery and brew pub, will open this summer.

### 901-05 Western Avenue

The North Side Civic Development Council is restoring these historic buildings for commercial and office use. Landmarks lent \$80,000 toward the total project cost of \$597,000.

### Calbride Place

Landmarks has agreed to loan up to \$25,000 of the \$130,000 needed to restore two houses in the Calbride Place area as housing for very low-income families. Completion is anticipated in October. Landmarks, Calbride Place Citizens Council, and Horn Brothers will represent the development team. Up to nine new housing units, for low- to middle-income families, will go up in the area as well, with help from Landmarks. Calbride Place Citizens Council is a co-developer.

### New Construction in Manchester

Landmarks' Historic Standards for New Construction will be applied to the new construction of up to 20 new middle-income housing units in Manchester. The Manchester Citizens Corporation and Landmarks are collaborating in the \$1,400,000 project, to be completed by the end of the year.

### Religious Properties Seminar

On Friday, May 13, Landmarks, the South Side Local Development Company (SSLDC), and the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission (HRC) held an all-day workshop on the Maintenance and Preservation of Religious Properties in Allegheny County. Convened at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, the workshop presenters addressed the critical issues facing Allegheny County's over 1000 aging religious properties, including energy conservation, restoration guidelines, fundraising for capital improvements, and the reuse potential of abandoned properties of historic significance. The workshop was partially funded by Landmarks' Preservation Fund for Allegheny County.

Landmarks' Preservation Fund Director Stanley Lowe will work with Caroline Boyce of SSLDC and Michael Eversmeyer of HRC to develop guidelines for a technical assistance program for religious properties which can be administered through the Preservation Fund.

### Completed Projects

In addition to the renovation projects described above, the Preservation Loan Fund has aided the following North Side projects, now completed: the Priory, Hollander Building, and two historic houses on Beech and Galveston Avenues. A log house in Ben Avon, church in Lawrenceville, and the Rachel Carson Homestead have also received loans.



### Review

We've had a busy and successful events season thus far. Close to 750 people attended our Hands-On History Festival on March 26 to see student exhibits and bridges, and to participate in hands-on history activities. 102 members and friends attended the May 7 bus tour featuring North Side and South Side landmarks now being renovated through our Preservation Fund, and 57 people attended the Historic Reuse Church Tour on May 15. The Neville House Antiques Show on May 30 and walking tour of Schenley Park on June 5 began our summer season of events.

In the previous issue of *PHLF News*, we announced that the member who manages to attend the most 1988 events will receive a free membership in 1989. So far, ten members are tied for first place! Let's see what happens in the next six months.

### Saturday, June 11

10 am to 4 pm

### STATION SQUARE AUTO FESTIVAL

Bring the whole family for a day of fun and surprises at the annual Station Square Transportation Museum Auto Festival. Over 60 antique and classic automobiles will be on display for you to inspect. Talk with the owners and learn their original prices, marvel at the amount of restoration work involved, and hear the engines roar! There will be a demonstration of electric cars and a buckboard "race."

*Parking lot adjacent to the Station Square Transportation Museum*

*\$2.50 donation includes Museum admission*

### Saturday, June 18

11 am to 6 pm

### STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Landmarks' members are invited by the Burtner House Society to the annual Strawberry Festival at the Burtner House in Natrona Heights. Traditional features include horse and buggy rides, hand-made crafts, and delectable strawberry desserts and jams to sample and purchase. For details call 226-2970.

### Saturday, June 25

10 am to 4 pm

### CRAFT FESTIVAL

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association is hosting a handmade craft sale at the Homestead in Springdale. Landmarks' members are invited to attend: there will be grapevine wreaths, rag dolls, quilted goods, and lots more for sale. Call Mrs. Hirtle (274-5776) for details.

### Sunday, June 26

2 pm to 5 pm

### ALLEGHENY CEMETERY TOUR

A tour of Allegheny Cemetery is still one of the great visual adventures of Pittsburgh, full of the beauty and curiosity that a major Victorian cemetery has to offer. The verdant landscape, the massed obelisks and other monuments of every kind, and the famous Pittsburgh names to be seen throughout — B.F. Jones, Henry W. Oliver, Stephen Foster, Lillian Russell — make for a unique experience. Join Jennie O'Donnell of Allegheny Cemetery and members of Landmarks on this guided walking tour.

*Meet at the Butler Street Gatehouse*

*\$2 members*

*\$4 non-members*

### Wednesday, July 13

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

### BLOOMFIELD AT DUSK

Join the Friendship Area Preservation Committee for an evening walking tour of the Friendship-Bloomfield area. Following a tour along neighborhood streets, and in and out of historic landmarks and a home, participants will enjoy a dutch-treat dinner in a local restaurant.

*Location to be announced*

*\$2 members*

*\$4 non-members*

### Wednesday, July 20

9 am to 4 pm

### HANNA'S TOWN QUILT SHOW

The Neville House Auxiliary is planning an outing to Hanna's Town Quilt Show on July 20. Members of Landmarks who would like to join the Neville House group may call Pat Cerciello (257-1744).

*Bus departs from the Neville House in Collier Township*

*\$22 per person, including lunch at Ligonier Country Inn*

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

This is the bicentennial year of Allegheny County and the hundredth year after the dedication of the present Courthouse. To commemorate these two occasions, a series of events has been going on. Still to come are:

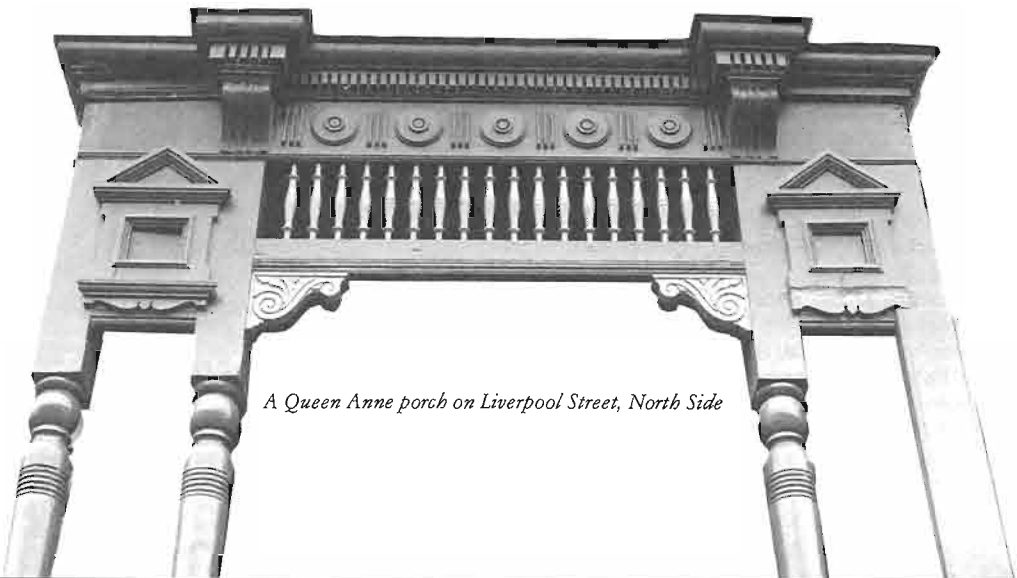
- June 14: Flag Day ceremony;
- July 4: Independence Day event;
- September: Allegheny County Month at The Carnegie;
- September 23: Bicentennial Banquet;
- September 24: Charter Day Parade, downtown, and release of *Pittsburgh's Court Houses*, by James D. Van Trump, published by Landmarks;
- September 24 and 25: Three Rivers Indian Council Pow-wow, Dorseyville;
- September 25: H.H. Richardson and His Followers, a tour sponsored by Landmarks beginning at the Courthouse, 2 to 5 p.m.

In addition, the Allegheny County Bicentennial Commission is promoting the event by the sale of special mementoes: a map, a calendar, a medallion, a key chain, a shoulder patch, a tee-shirt, a picture of the Courthouse, a set of three small flags, and a 3' by 5' Bicentennial Flag.

For information on these events and items call the Bicentennial Commission at 355-5499.

### OHIO RIVER ODYSSEY

Through June 11, 1988 the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania will exhibit "Ohio River Odyssey," a collection of memorabilia celebrating life along the Ohio River. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Historical Society building, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard. For more information telephone 681-5533.



*A Queen Anne porch on Liverpool Street, North Side*

# Education News

## Pittsburgh Heritage

Landmarks will offer its teacher/student Pittsburgh Heritage workshop again this summer from June 21-July 1 at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at Station Square. During this "summer vacation in Pittsburgh" teachers and students in grades five through eight will explore various Pittsburgh neighborhoods to learn how Pittsburgh's past is part of its present everyday life. Sessions meet from 9-3:30. Tuition fee is \$50 for students, \$110 for teachers (who receive inservice credit from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit). Call Susan Donley (471-5808) for registration details.

## Conference participation

Landmarks' staff has been busy sharing preservation and education expertise at a variety of conferences this spring and summer. Arthur Ziegler, president of Landmarks, spoke in April at the Tenth Annual State Conference on Historic Preservation. Stanley Lowe, director of our Preservation Fund, represented the Mid-Atlantic Region at the April conference of Advisors to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Earl James, director of preservation services, also spoke at the Tenth Annual State Conference and will participate in June in the American Association of Museums Conference in Pittsburgh. Earl will also serve on a panel discussing industrial preservation issues at the National Trust for Historic Preservation's conference in October. Susan Donley, director of education, presented Landmarks' inservice programs at the Education Marketplace of Ideas held at the American Association of Museums' conference in Pittsburgh. Sue will also be conducting a half-day workshop on designing effective interdisciplinary programs for principals in the Pittsburgh Public Schools on August 8.

## Programs of note from other organizations:

- **Unlocking Treasures from Clayton.** Clayton and the Frick Art Museum will be hosting a four day inservice program to prepare teachers to bring students to see their joint exhibit, Treasures from Clayton, this fall and to teach various themes surrounding Pittsburgh's explosive industrial growth in the late 19th century. The workshop, taught by Landmarks' Susan Donley, will be held at the museum during the first week of August. Call Sue (471-5808) for details.
- **Neighborhood Traditions.** The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has sponsored the Allegheny County Neighborhood Traditions program to identify and present the various traditions that reflect community life and values in South Side, Squirrel Hill, Homewood-Brushton, Monroeville, and Sewickley. Special tradition weeks in each community climaxed the program, which its director Dr. Doris Dyen hopes will inspire future collection and preservation of area folk traditions. Call 622-8830 for more information.
- **Toward a Better Balance.** Two new curriculum guides developed by the Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center at the request of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives will help teachers all over Pennsylvania incorporate ethnic studies into any discipline area or age level. The guides provide classroom activities for studying the role of ethnicity in the family, community, nation, and world. Call Dr. Joseph Makarewicz at 648-7420 for more information.

## DOCENTS

### WANTED

### NOW!

If you love working with children and love learning about Pittsburgh, join our team of

**Portable Pittsburgh docents!**

Call Susan Donley  
(471-5808).



Photos by Martha Real

Building Straw Towers



Antique Car Rides



A Gargoyle Mask



Student Exhibits



Landmarks' second Hands-On History Festival, held at the Frick International Studies Academy on Saturday, March 26, 1988, was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work of a corps of over 30 volunteers and a host of teachers and students from area schools. An estimated 750 visitors to the Festival were fascinated by history and architecture exhibits and presentations by students and teachers from area schools — a real outpouring of creativity and enthusiasm.

While at the Festival, visitors also had fun singing along with Frank Capp drawing a building for the Mainstreet Mural, building a tower out of straws, sculpting a gargoyle mask, guessing the identity of eight mystery artifacts, and playing time games. Many felt the highlight of the day was hitching a ride aboard antique cars driven by trustees of the Station Square Transportation Museum!

The Festival climaxed at the end of the day with the announcement of the winners of the Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest and the performance of a "Play-in-a-Day: The Story of Joe Magarac" by KDKA's Trish Beatty and Mark Thompson and students from Falk School, North Hills High School, Rogers Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts, and Winchester-Thurston School.

A "baker's dozen" of outstanding projects from this and last year's Festival will be featured in a special publication funded by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

We are already planning great things for next year's Festival. If you are interested in volunteering or in having your school or group become involved, call Susan Donley (471-5808).

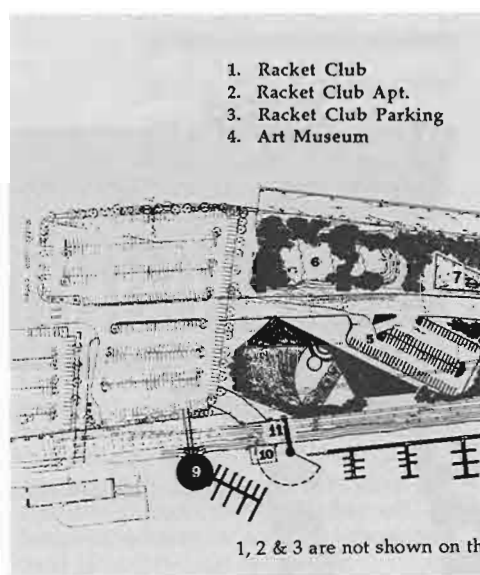
## Architecture Apprentices Propose Creative Solutions

Nineteen area high school students "graduated" in February from Landmarks' sixth "Architectural Apprenticeship," sponsored by the Gifted and Talented Program of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The students learned basic principles and concepts in architecture by attending five workshops conducted by Susan Donley of Landmarks. Their final assignment was to decide what should be built on the vacant land at Landmarks' Station Square site and to design a new plan for the site. With characteristic imagination, the apprentices proposed:

- a running club with a river boardwalk track; a fitness center; and an ice and roller-skating arena;

- an arboretum, formal gardens, and parks;
- a trolley museum and small art museum;
- a restaurant in the old Wabash Railroad Tunnel;
- a monorail people-mover;
- a Pittsburgh Hydrofoil River System with a boarding canal, storage docks, maintenance building and heliport;
- an amusement park, aquarium, and marina;
- apartments near the Fort Pitt bridge surrounded by a sound barrier;
- a new hotel with a restaurant in the water and a drive-thru for boats.

With Pittsburgh's future in such creative hands, we can look forward to the architecture of the 21st century with anticipation!



1. Racket Club
2. Racket Club Apt.
3. Racket Club Parking
4. Art Museum

1, 2 & 3 are not shown on the map.





## Bridge Builders



Eighty-two students entered the bridge-building contest this year and the bridges they made out of corrugated cardboard, glue, and a few other basic materials were a wonder to see. We thank everyone who entered the contest:

Patrick Ballin, Ingomar Middle School  
Mike Ballsky, Wilson Elementary School  
Brian Balsomico, Marzolf School  
Bethany Bindas, Central Christian Academy  
David Bradley, Central Christian Academy  
Beth Ann Brewer, St. Colman's School  
Lindsay Burke, Marzolf School  
Tom Cochran, Lincoln Elementary School  
Matt Conti, Jefferson Elementary School  
Renee Cordell, Lincoln Elementary School  
Amy Convery, Lincoln Elementary School  
Melanie Crouse, Lincoln Elementary School  
Dawn Drango, Shaffer Elementary School  
David Driggers, Penn-Hebron School  
Beth Durkac, Gateway Upper Elementary School  
Angie Eberhardt, Lincoln Elementary School  
Andy Enright, Crafton Elementary School  
Shannon Glowczewski, Lincoln Elementary School  
Philip Gregor, Lincoln Elementary School  
Josh Hall, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School  
Lori Harris, Lincoln Elementary School  
Anne Henderson, Ben Avon Elementary School  
Jessica Hoge, Central Christian Academy  
Lauren Ingram, Sewickley  
Scott Karavlan, Penn-Hebron School  
Kelli J. Kleeb, Marzolf Elementary School  
Scott Kostley, White Oak Elementary School  
Robert Kruljac, Northern Area School  
Ryan Kruljac, Northern Area School  
Sean Kruska, Woodlawn Middle School  
Stanley Liu, Ramsey Elementary School  
Sarah Lofink, Lincoln Elementary School  
Donald Lowe, Lincoln Elementary School  
Missy Lutz, Northern Area School  
David Marasco, Lincoln Elementary School  
Evonne Marasco, Central Christian Academy  
Steve Mason, Lincoln Elementary School  
Raeanne McAleer, Wilson Elementary School  
Allison McCormick, Central Christian Academy  
Amy Means, Means Christian School  
Jimmy Means, Means Christian School  
David Mehringer, Jefferson Elementary School  
Jenny Melvin, Lincoln Elementary School  
Joe Michlovic, Ben Fairless School  
Johnny Miller, Central Christian Academy  
Rachel Miller, Wilson Elementary School  
Anne Mitchell, Ingomar Middle School  
Dan Mitchell, Ingomar Middle School  
Julie Moehring, Ben Avon Elementary School  
Gary Moschell, Wilson Elementary School  
Mandi L. Movra, Lincoln Elementary School  
Joshua Moyer, Central Christian Academy  
Aaron Mroczkowski, Central Christian Academy  
Kelly Muchenski, Lincoln Elementary School  
Amy Needham, Lincoln Elementary School  
Brian Neely, Ben Avon Elementary School  
Adam Ondo, Forest Grove School  
Ryan Opfer, Central Christian Academy  
Bobby Pfaff, McAnnulty School  
Matt Press, Jefferson Elementary School  
Thomas Rafalski, S. Allegheny Jr./Sr. High School  
Will Rodgers, Marzolf School  
Burt Romanoff, Central Christian Academy  
Loretta Russell, Lincoln Elementary School  
Heather Russi, Wilson Elementary School  
Neil Sahene, Lincoln Elementary School  
Shane Schneider, Lincoln Elementary School  
Josh Shelly, Lincoln Elementary School  
John C. Steele III, Wilson Elementary School  
Ahren Stock, Lincoln Elementary School  
Luke Streeter, Lincoln Elementary School  
Ronnie Stringer, Ingomar Middle School  
Megan Sutter, Ben Avon Elementary School  
Molly Thompson, Ingram Elementary School  
Jason Tomsic, Central Christian Academy  
Adam Tyler, Lincoln Elementary School  
Jay Van DeVelda, Lincoln Elementary School  
Beth Wolf, Marzolf School  
Matt Wylie, Edgewood Primary School  
Hans Yehner, Pine Grove Christian School  
Larissa Zalfini, Lincoln Elementary School  
Nicole Zeller, Ingram Elementary School

Great job, everyone! Now, start planning next year's bridges!

## Participating Schools

We thank the following schools and teachers for participating in the 1988 Hands-On History Festival:

**Acme and Colfax Elementary Schools**  
Judith A. Bouch, teacher

"A Not So Silent Spring," an exhibit and presentations by gifted third through sixth grade language arts classes on pioneer environmentalist Rachel Carson's youth in Springdale.

**Allison Elementary School**  
Gwendolyn Korvick, teacher

"Chartiers Township in the 1870s," an exhibit of historic maps and original drawings done by sixth grade art students in their study of one century of community change.

**Arsenal Middle School**  
Judith Karavlan, teacher

"Cemetery Secrets," an eighth-grade recreation of part of Allegheny Cemetery with life-size, three-dimensional rubbings of the tombstones of prominent Pittsburghers.

**Ben Avon Elementary School**  
Gloria J. Evans, teacher

"History of Ben Avon," an exhibit by third through fifth grade gifted classes tracing the history of Ben Avon on a computer-generated 44-foot timeline and featuring models, crafts, and maps of the John Dickson Log House.

**Central Elementary School**  
Debra Smith, teacher

"Historic Hampton," a slide show of the history of Hampton Township planned, written, and produced as an independent project of one fifth-grade reading group.

**Chartiers Elementary School**  
Georgeann E. Rettberg, teacher

A reading of poetry written by fourth and fifth grade students after interviewing family members. An exhibit of drawings and stories about family traditions by kindergarten students.

**Frick International Studies Academy**  
Dr. Donald Roberts, teacher

"Ethnic Pittsburgh and Me," an exhibit of eighth grade social studies on activities and the role of ethnicity in their families and in the past and present of their community.

**Jefferson School**  
Betty P. Ford, teacher

Architectural models of a castle and an Indian village done as an independent study by fourth grade social studies students.

**Paynter Elementary School**  
Linda Ailes, teacher

"Measuring the Age of Trees," an independent project of fourth-grader Summer Bemis on how to measure the age of trees, including photographs and maps documenting several 200-year-old trees in the area.

**Plum Senior High School**  
Marianne Geier, teacher

"Heinz Chapel," an intricate cardboard scale model of Heinz Chapel constructed as an independent project by junior Paul Shore.

**South Park Middle School**  
Deborah L. Amore, teacher

An exhibit of pen-and-ink perspective drawings of historic sites in South Park Township drawn by seventh and eighth grade art students.

**Verner Elementary School**  
Dolly Provenza, teacher

"Verona-Oakmont Historyopoly," a floor-sized "Monopoly" game featuring landmark sites in Oakmont and Verona.

**Wilson Christian Academy**  
Rea A. Redd, teacher

"An Early 19th Century Blast Furnace," a scale model of an early iron furnace, constructed by eighth grade students studying changing iron technology in world history.

**Wilson Elementary School**  
Debbie Turici, Sandra Smith, teachers

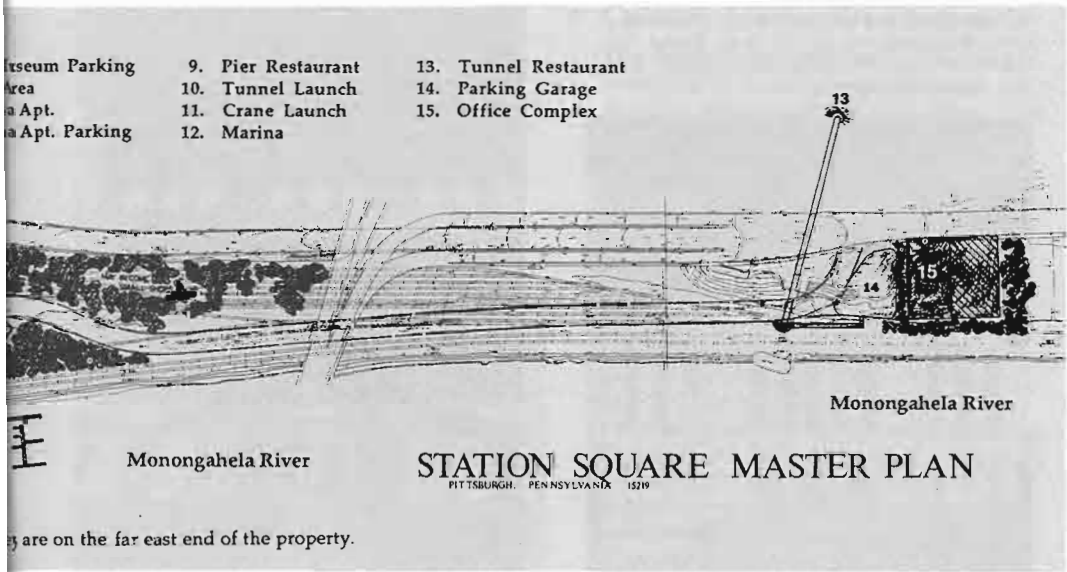
"Lincoln Reminders: Pennies for Your Thoughts," an original play performed by second graders. Log house models, timelines, quilts, and applehead doll demonstrations based on the McAdow-McAdams Log House the school raised money to restore as an instructional center.

**Woodlawn Middle School**  
Alice A. Cottone, teacher

"Architecture Rooms," a "condominium" of diorama-rooms researched, designed, and furnished to scale by sixth grade art students.

### Architecture Apprentice Projects

The Station Square site plans drawn by the 1987 and 1988 Architectural Apprentices were displayed.



are on the far east end of the property.



# Preservation Scene

## Motor Square Garden and our Market House Tradition

One of the pleasantest aspects of Motor Square Garden, in its present guise as a luxury retail center, is its visual coherence, its continuing character as a space that is open to the sky yet defined by its walls, roof, and dome. It still recalls the East Liberty Market House it began as in 1900, a traditional element in the Pittsburgh economy and the Pittsburgh way of life: here, as in many other cities.

On Saturday mornings the Strip is crowded with shoppers. The scene has color; what it lacks is architecture. In Cleveland, at the West Side Market, architecture remains. Meat, cheese, and baked goods are sold under a great elliptical vault of Guastavino tile, while produce is to be found in a surrounding colonnade. The spectacle shows how much we have been missing in the last quarter-century, with the Diamond and Allegheny Market Houses gone.



West Side Market, Cleveland

Before Pittsburgh was an industrial town it was a market town, and the Penn family, surveying their "manor" in 1784 for sale, reserved a space for a public market. This was the Diamond, the present Market Square, an area of parked wagons and open-air stalls. From those early days until 1961, when Rutan & Russell's Diamond Market of 1915 was demolished, the Diamond was never without a market building. Food arrived by wagon, truck, train, and boat over a century and a half. The open stalls of the early 19th century gave way to a pair of public buildings of the 1850s with market halls in the ground floors, and this to the Diamond Market many of us remember, an H-shaped structure that covered virtually the whole square and through which Diamond Street (i.e., Forbes Avenue) passed.

Allegheny had the Allegheny Market House of 1863 that lasted until 1966. This was quite a grand affair of curved gables, ventilator cupolas, and roofs rising to a

central monitor with its own crowning cupola. The style was an up-market version of the brick engineering vernacular of the time, pilaster strips, arched openings, and corbel tables, that imparted dignity to many an industrial plant and inexpensive church. Here, round-headed buttresses and decorative panels enlivened the broad facades, while animal and vegetable sculptures set the theme. Within, the construction was surprisingly spare and light, with riveted iron columns rising to a roof of timbers and tie rods: an umbrella for the market space that withstood a century of wind and snow.

The former South Side Market House, on the Bedford Square that blocks South 12th Street, is a cleaned-up version of the original. Charles Bickel's Market House of 1893 was a restless affair above the cornice line, with corner towers, gables, and chimneys. A fire around 1915 gave an occasion to raze these features in favor of a simple, spreading gable roof that gave a more unified appearance. The City added a handsome stone cartouche on the front — the work, probably, of Stanley Roush — whose bland amplitude ignores and to some extent quells the tense effect of the tall, thin Victorian windows below.

Architecture of a grand and spacious sort once presided over the purchase of chops and cabbage. In East Liberty, we still can see the sort of architecture that sheltered such a humble task. The restored Motor Square Garden opened for business in mid-March, a month before its formal dedication. The building of 1900, a work of the Boston firm Peabody & Stearns, has been remodeled by Landmarks Design Associates in a way that opens all three levels — basement, ground floor, and the new mezzanine — to the intricate skylit roof. This is an interior of light and space, with views outward through the great arched windows and daylight descending from the dome and its surrounding monitors. The partitions of the shops are very largely glass, so that the spacious effect of the whole interior is maintained to the maximum extent. Externally the beige brick and terra cotta have been cleaned, and the glazed dome painted a vivid blue-green beneath a gilded ball finial to make a striking, handsome feature on the East Liberty skyline.

Although the adaptation of Motor Square Garden is not a full restoration, the design conformed to National Register standards in preserving the essential character of the building.

The open area of the basement will house a small produce market, restoring the original function of the building to at least one of its parts.



Motor Square Garden, developed by Massaro Properties, Inc., has been awarded many honors since its restoration and grand opening as a luxury retail center. It has been selected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as a finalist for a Construction Award. It has received an honorable mention in Buildings Magazine, in the category of a "Modernization Award"; and, it has been awarded a Landmarks Plaque.



Above: The Allegheny Market House of 1863, unfortunately demolished a century later for the Allegheny Center project. To the right: its interior with a Modernistic clock of the 1930s. Below: The South Side Market House, as rebuilt in 1915. It is now a recreation center.



The first Courthouse and Market, from a painting of 1894.



Rutan & Russell's Diamond Market of 1915.





# Preservation Scene

## • Downtown Pittsburgh Shopping Mall

Late in April, rumors of a project for a new downtown Pittsburgh shopping mall were confirmed in the newspapers. Details were not released, but it appeared that a two-block area between Grant and Wood Streets, Forbes and Fourth Avenues, would be redeveloped, with footbridges above the intervening roadways to connect the whole complex. A hotel was planned for the vacant ground opposite the City-County Building, and J.C. Penney and another department store were cited as possible anchor tenants. The plan was of concern to Landmarks and other preservationists, since it left the results for a number of historic buildings in question: three tall office buildings and several bank buildings on Fourth Avenue, a wing of a bank on Wood Street, and another wing of the same bank and some terra-cotta commercial fronts on Forbes Avenue. The row of Fourth Avenue buildings is especially valuable as an architectural group, including works of Alden & Harlow, James T. Steen, D.H. Burnham & Company, and Frederick John Osterling along with two other buildings whose architects have not been identified.



## • The Magee Building

The Magee Building at 334 Fourth Avenue is to reassume its original name of the Times Building and to receive renovations that will restore a portion of the interior to its original open character.

The Times Building was built in 1891-92 to designs of Frederick John Osterling. In view of its solid Romanesque character it is surprising to learn that it has a full steel frame, probably the earliest in the city, as a *Times* illustration shows.

The Fourth Avenue arches are to be opened and their decorative bronze castings, not part of the original designs, reused in the interior. The ground floor, inside, will rise to its 17'6" height, and partitions on the east side will be cleared away, freeing the columns. Marble wainscoting and plaster work will be restored. Tenant spaces on this side will be kept to well less than ceiling height to allow the main space to remain open. The west side, where the stair and elevators are, will have to remain much as is for fire-safety reasons. Upstairs, dropped ceilings and window blockings will be removed, and such original trim as remains will be restored. Construction was to begin at the end of March. Architects for the rehabilitation are the Design Alliance.

## • Penn-Liberty Historic District

In accordance with the original agreement negotiated by Landmarks regarding demolition and restoration in the cultural district, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh has announced a facade restoration program for the Penn-Liberty City Historic District. Owners of 51 buildings of historic significance within the District are eligible for deferred-payment matching loans of up to 50 percent. Eligible uses for the money include cleaning, repairs, and new storefronts and side walk. Improvements must meet Historic Review Commission and U.S. Department of the Interior approval.

### Will Power

Preserve our region's history and landmarks for future generations. Add the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation as a beneficiary under your Will. If you would like to discuss this giving option, please call Louise Ferguson (471-5808).

## • St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The debate continues on the proposed new building for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sewickley. The Zoning Hearing Board heard testimony from expert witnesses during February. Landmarks expected to testify but as of the end of April, its turn had not yet come.

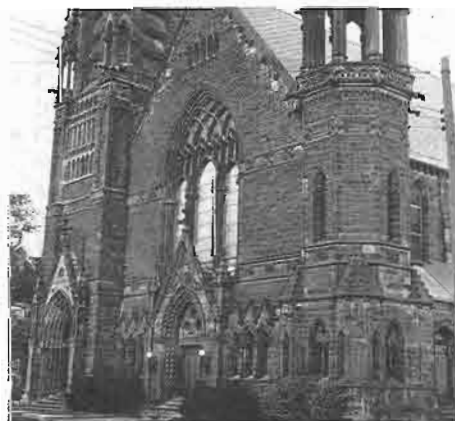
Citizens for Preservation, among its other objections, has proven that a 40-percent expansion of existing facilities, allowed by zoning, has been greatly exceeded. As a result, Williams-Trebilcock-Whitehead, architects, have submitted a new rendering showing the new building as set well back from the street in a landscaped area, and with four main forms, gabled or shed-roofed, stepping back from the end wall of the present church in an echelon formation. Walls are to be faced, apparently, in a stone similar to that of the existing church.

## • Whiteside Memorial Building

In March, Landmarks was informed that the Christian and Missionary Alliance may demolish the Whiteside Memorial Building at 709 Union Avenue, facing the East Commons on the North Side, and build a large church annex on adjacent land. The building is a sandstone-faced work, generally in the Tudor Style, built around 1909 to the designs of George H. Schwan. Its demolition would leave a further gap in a sequence of institutional buildings that has already suffered some loss. Landmarks talked with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in mid-April to suggest adaptation of the building as senior citizen housing rather than clearing the site for parking. The Alliance expressed interest in the idea, though an adaptive-use study would have to be made to see if it would work.

## • West End United Methodist Church

The congregation of the West End United Methodist Church expects to close the building at the beginning of July. This rather elemental stone construction is a work of the late 1880s by Frank E. Alden of Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, little known because of its inland location on the West End's Main Street. In early spring it appeared that several parties were interested in the property, with or without intentions of keeping the building. At least one other congregation was said to be interested, and one commercial interest that might adapt the church to its own uses, but no further information was available pending a trustees' meeting. This is a work by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow that must be preserved, and Landmarks will make every effort to see that it is.



## • Calvary Methodist Church

This winter it appeared that Calvary Methodist Church, at Allegheny and Beech Avenues, was in danger of demolition. Loss of this church would have been a loss indeed. Its black spire is literally a landmark of the North Side, its Gothic style is rich, it contains major windows by Tiffany, and it is the most prominent feature of the Allegheny West National Register District. It is the work of Vrydaugh & Shepherd, and was opened in 1895.

A local group has been organized — no name at the time of writing — to help repair the church, build up its membership, and make it better known. At the beginning of spring there was greater hope. The congregation had grown from 10 to 37, and repair of extensive water and frost damage could at least be contemplated. For information: Jack Schmitt, 322-8223.

## • The Pittsburgh Children's Museum

The Pittsburgh Children's Museum, which occupies Landmarks' former Old Post Office Museum, is using a \$213,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and other funding for extensive interior alterations. The open area beneath the dome is to be furnished with a suspended sculpture, *Sky*, by Christopher Priore, which will represent clouds floating at various levels. There is a new Andy Warhol Memorial Gallery for Children, with 10 silk-screen prints from Warhol's *Myth* series of 1981 that represents childhood fantasy figures. New exhibition facilities, graphics, lighting, and flooring have also been installed. Douglas C. Bergman and Associates were the architects. The interior has been repainted.

The Children's Museum has occupied the entire Old Post office since early 1985; at present, annual attendance is 110,000 to which outreach programs add 25,000. Our successor is doing gratifyingly well in our old space, which is now to be enlivened with *Sky* as a unifying feature, and are adding context to the exhibits directly below.

## • 1414 Monterey Street

1414 Monterey Street has been remodeled as an extension of the Mattress Factory, its ground floor a single open gallery with service rooms, its upper floors divided into smaller rooms. Rooms on all floors are devoted to installation art of the kind found at the Mattress Factory itself, accommodating nine displays. One pair of rooms can double as an apartment for an artist-in-residence. Landmarks Design Associates restored the fronts, adding a partly-new shop front, and made minor alterations on the interior.

## • Willow Cottage

"Willow Cottage," the 1860-period gatehouse on Woodland Road at Fifth Avenue, has been sold by the Greystone Associates, Inc., developers of the Woodland Road area along Fifth Avenue. The building has a City landmark designation and thus a measure of protection, but the interior has suffered from cheap remodeling in the past. The owner's intentions are not known.

## • Gwinner-Harter House

The fate of the Gwinner-Harter house at Fifth and Amberson Avenues remains undecided, a year and a half after the fire that brought it from near-restoration to ruin. Dr. Earl Harter does not want the house demolished, and hopes that it can be restored once more, possibly by a sympathetic purchaser. There is some neighborhood pressure for demolition, and though a City building inspector has found the remains structurally sound, the house may have to go unless it is taken in hand shortly. Dr. Harter would like to hear from parties who would buy and restore at 421-2557.



## • Linwood

The Linwood, at McPherson Boulevard and North Linden Avenue, continues to suffer from neglect. This is a six-unit apartment building of 1907, by Frederick Scheibler, whose deteriorated state was called to Landmarks' attention last summer. As a product of Scheibler's early Modern period it is similar in treatment to the Whitehall and Old Heidelberg, not far away. The agent, John Kostelac of Crown Real Estate and Management Systems (462-7008) quotes an asking price of \$130,000.



## • Isaac Meason House

Landmarks has written letters to State officials expressing concern over proposed blasting and strip mining as little as 650 feet from the Isaac Meason house "Mount Braddock" in Fayette County. The house of 1803 is unusual in this region for its elaboration, with carved stone as well as carved wooden ornament and flanking outbuildings. The area generally has archaeological sites, European and pre-European, that should be investigated if not preserved. The Meason house would be especially vulnerable to blasting shock since there are worked-out deep mines in the area, but the potential danger to a number of other sites from blasting and stripping is great.

The mining company commissioned a survey of historic and archaeological sites in the affected area as a requirement for the blasting certificate. This, however, proved inadequate, notably in ignoring the existence of the Meason house. As of the end of winter, the issue remained unresolved, with the certificate not yet issued.

## • Snyder-Bockstoce House

A North Hills developer has purchased 24 acres of the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery for redevelopment as town houses. The official plan approved by the Municipality of Mount Lebanon calls for the moving of the original 1835 part of the Snyder-Bockstoce house, a small but handsome brick building, to a location near Adeline Avenue and Hilf Street. Earl James of Landmarks met with the developers and discussed the possibility of saving the house, originally intended for demolition. The compromise of moving it to a site away from a projected new road and from the planned townhouse construction was the result of Landmarks' intervention.

Though the moving of a historic building is generally to be deplored, the house will at least be preserved, and on a site more visible and accessible to the general public than heretofore. Exterior restoration, a matter particularly affecting the porches, is not mandatory. Future use of the house is not known.

## • Carnegie Library of Braddock

The billiard room in the Longfellow, Alden & Harlow section of the Carnegie Library of Braddock was under restoration by Landmarks Design Associates this spring. The Braddock's Field Historical Society is working as best it can to return the building to use. It has recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Allegheny Foundation and \$3,000 from the Braddock Enterprise Zone Corporation for architectural services, but total restoration costs are estimated at \$270,000. \$28,855 in grant money was presented by Equitable Gas Company in April, with an equal amount promised next year; this money will be used to improve the heating system.

## • Reid & Stuhldreher Centennial

The centennial of the architectural firm of Reid & Stuhldreher was celebrated in an exhibition of renderings, working drawings, and other memorabilia in the Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Building of the University of Pittsburgh. The origin of the firm was in Buffalo in 1888 as the office of Carlton Strong. Strong soon joined the artist Charles Bradley in a partnership with the modern-sounding title of The Art Alliance. He moved to New York in 1898, and to Pittsburgh in 1900. His best-known early buildings were secular, the Bellefield Dwellings in Oakland and the now-gone Rittenhouse, a hotel in East Liberty. Later he was better known for his work for the Catholic Church, such as St. Michael the Archangel Church in Braddock and Sacred Heart Church in Shadyside, the latter completed by his successor firm Kaiser, Neal & Reid.

# Remains from a Heroic Time

Among the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team's conclusions at the beginning of March was the suggestion that Carrie Furnaces be preserved as a historic site dedicated to the steel industry. Landmarks had been of the same opinion, hoping that Furnaces 3 and 4, next to the hot-metal bridge and furthest up-river, would be the focus of the site. Mike Bilscik, a local activist and veteran steelworker, was in amicable disagreement, holding that Furnaces 5 and 6, at the opposite end of the property, were older and better situated for a new access road from the Parkway that could bring in visitors from the east. R/UDAT gratified us both by recommending that the whole Carrie Furnace property be used. Such preserved industrial remains as the Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Industrial Heritage Park at Joliet, Illinois, both popular, may have influenced the team of architects and planners.

*Its history can be pallidly preserved in documents, more vividly in photographs and films, but the reality of its mass and scale can be found only in the actual structures and equipment, cold and motionless though they now may be.*

Although preservationists are apt to use none-too-articulate verbal formulas such as "heritage," "sense of place," "identity," and "quality of life" to argue for preservation such as this, there are more concrete and specific arguments in its favor: arguments reinforced by the testimony of the people of the steel towns.

The steel plant was an immense fact in the lives of everyone in these towns. Its mills, roofs, and stacks terminated the streets. Its money kept the economy going. Most of its families lived more or less by its three-shift schedule. Its benefactions to the town and its influence on its operation were apt to be pervasive. Beyond these circumstances that influenced everyone there was the experience of actually working in the plant. Love it or hate it, that was life. And the people Landmarks has talked with have had pride in the plants as they were, and the work they did there. They want to keep some tangible sign of the places where several generations of their families worked, and the experience of that work.

Furthermore, with all traces of the plants gone the steel towns lack some sort of focus. Communities in existence for a century have other ways of holding together, ties of family, friends, churches, and so on, yet with all traces of the colossal steel-plant structures effaced there is apt to be a definite void, a sense of something missing.

Moreover, insofar as steel plants and industrial plants of every sort are removed, so is the most tangible evidence of a century and a half of regional history. Without industry, Pittsburgh would still be a small river port and a rural county seat, and a number of other towns would be villages if they existed at all. Without the memory of the great age of industry, these communities are arbitrary deposits of buildings, their reasons for being to be found somewhere in a dubious future rather than in a vivid past. And whatever accusations you may make against the past, it was heroic in scale and accomplishment. Boldness, intelligence, and energy made it as it was, along with callousness and recklessness. Its history can be pallidly preserved in documents, more vividly in photographs and films, but the reality of its mass and scale can be found only in the actual structures and equipment, cold and motionless though they now may be. These are the means by which the reality of this great past is best conveyed to the public, and they give substance to the historian's abstract grasp of the subject.

They have something too for the aesthete. They are not trendy, except as a matter of some passing fashion for the down-to-earth. They are not beautiful, really, not

harmonies of form and color. They belong more to the old-fashioned category of the Sublime. A blast furnace or an ingot mold is above apology for its appearance. It is what it should be, given what it does. Up to a point it can be understood and beyond that point it mystifies the untrained eye; yet it has a look of questionable authority about it. It exists in a realm of great heat, great mass, great force: in a steel plant, you think colossal. Yet the elements are tamed: all this force is under human control. Hell rages in a furnace and men walk about close by, watchful but calm. Even in a dead plant the impression of size and weight remains, and it is remarkable to think that a ladle 15 feet high, filled with hot metal or steel, was picked up swiftly and easily as a matter of routine.

Though a blast furnace in fact made iron, not steel, it is the most powerful, most recognizable symbol of the whole industry, the object that, with its attendant hot-air stoves, rises above the taciturn roofs, to reveal its necessary form in the open air. Preservation of the Carrie Furnaces is thus important; with them, we keep something of our great past alive.

We have not mentioned obvious benefits to the changing economy: tourist dollars, or the prestige that commercial development might gain from proximity to such remarkable objects. These benefits exist, but here we have preferred to stress the benefits to us in our awareness of being natives of this region, bearing the imprint of its history, basically proud of it.

*"Man on Teeming Platform," photo by Clyde Hare*

*This man is breaking up the hardening surface of steel teemed into an ingot mold. The view of this risky job near 3000-degree steel was made in the 1950s when safety clothing was minimal: boots with wooden clog soles, protective goggles, a hard-hat, and tight-fitting fire-resistant clothes at best.*

**Donations and Contributions Welcome**

If you would like to donate any architectural materials — or if you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support our library effort — call Walter Kidney (471-5808) for further information.



Landmarks and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania joined the Steel Valley Authority on a January tour of Carrie Furnaces #3 and #4 in Rankin.

## Steel Worth Preserving

Landmarks has identified five steel sites in Allegheny County that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a result of a four-county-area survey in 1987 of 30 steel sites: LTV's South Side Plant (now most probably doomed) and USX's Edgar Thomson, Homestead, Duquesne, and Clairton Works. The Edgar Thomson and Clairton Works are still in operation. The other three sites have been shut down, though many significant buildings and pieces of equipment remain on the properties.

At our February 18 conference on steel-site preservation, Earl James of Landmarks presented a slide show illustrating the significant structures on the three closed Allegheny County steel sites and suggested possible reuse plans. In summary:

- LTV's South Side Plant**

The Bessemer Building and the adjacent Open Hearth No. 2, conspicuously located by the river, are of particular visual significance as literal landmarks, familiar sights in the Pittsburgh scene, though now lacking their equipment. There is important equipment elsewhere on the property, notably a large vertical rolling-mill steam engine, some roll stands, and two very large modern electric furnaces whose return to service, possibly in connection with a continuous caster, is under discussion. Landmarks was proposing mixed-use development in an area between South 25th Street and the trestle to the hot-metal bridge that would preserve these resources. Now that City Council has rescinded its original decision to have the Historic Review Commission evaluate the site, the buildings and artifacts listed above may be lost.
- The Homestead Works**

The most formidable feature of the Homestead Works is across the river at Rankin: Carrie Furnaces 3 and 4 with their stoves and ore yard. No other artifact of the iron and steel industry expresses its reality so vividly as a blast furnace, and these two, in relatively good condition and dramatically sited, would be excellent central objects in a park. There is also the shell of an office structure of the early 1880s that could be rehabilitated for park use or as part of the private development that will occur on the greater part of the site. The furnaces are readily accessible by excursion boat, by bridge from across the river, and by road from Westmoreland County.

The Homestead Works now has little equipment or construction that specifically calls for *in situ* preservation with the possible exception of Open Hearth No. 5, yet its historic associations are famous and the adjacent boroughs of Munhall, Homestead, and West Homestead are full of architectural and historic interest. Kennywood is developing the shore area in West Homestead

as a recreational park. It is possible that this park, the redeveloped Homestead Works site, and Carrie Furnaces could be linked by an internal transportation system using the hot-metal bridge connecting the Carrie Furnaces with the Homestead Works.

- The Duquesne Works**

The Duquesne Works has four blast furnaces and the ruins of a fifth overlooking a gigantic ore yard. At one end is the No. 1 Furnace, built in the 1890s; at the other is the 297-foot Dorothy Six of 1961. There are also a number of brick buildings of the late 1880s, not far from the furnaces. Preservation of these structures — the furnaces as elements of a park, the buildings as offices amid new development — would create a striking historic display and add distinction to the commercial or industrial development on the greater part of the property. Access, especially by river, is more difficult than at the other two sites, and the town of Duquesne has not the architectural interest and proximity found in the South Side and Homestead.

When conference participants saw these structures in the slide show, they were struck with the visual impact of each and possibilities for reuse that the sites and artifacts suggested. Portions of steel sites and selected artifacts are worth preserving and can become cornerstones of development projects that will return pride to steel communities and create new opportunities for employment. These steel sites — and many of these structures — will be seen on our "Industrial Pittsburgh Tour" on October 16. Join us on that day.

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### Community Architecture

The early March Re-making Cities Conference stressed, and the coordinated Regional/Urban Design Team demonstrated, the idea of "community architecture," in which the ordinary citizen takes an active role as a collaborator in community-wide design processes. The American Institute of Architects has made a public commitment to this new approach to planning. Should the citizens be preservation-conscious, as people in the Monongahela Valley steel towns seem to be, this offers an opportunity to integrate the old harmoniously with the new and maintain a continuity that will do something to mitigate the trauma of economic change. The historic-preservation movement itself owes much of its success to lay people, ordinary citizens, who organized to prevent demolition by planners and developers. The spirit of community architecture has thus been around for two decades, though dedicated to saving the old rather than reshaping the new.



## Councilman Pollock Speaks

*With Mr. Pollock's permission, we are reprinting the statement that he read to City Council on May 16 in regard to Council's final vote to rescind the temporary historic designation of the LTV South Side Works.*

I'm going to abstain on this bill and I'll explain my abstention.

Much has been said about this J & L site and the proposed historic designation, but I want to consolidate my position and explain why I can't vote for it.

To begin with, it is mind boggling that this Council, especially certain purported, populist and democratic members, would vote on an issue as significant as this without input from the public and the neighborhood. It is plain that those Councilmembers who want the public to speak only want the public to speak when it will say what they want it to say. It is unfathomable to me that this Council would not permit the community to speak on the subject. It is unprecedented in my tenure on Council.

Let me make it very clear from the outset that I hope and pray that the Steel Valley Authority will be able to restart the electric furnace and to again operate a steel mill in the Steel City. But this operation would be very site-specific and would not utilize a very large portion of the entire J & L site. A functional electric furnace would have no negative effect on, and indeed, would have a complimentary relationship with a steel heritage site.

Let me also be very explicit that I am not taking the position that the structures on this site can definitely be preserved. I also toured the site and saw the buildings. There are some facts I learned as a result of this tour: one, the site is very large and very old; two, I am not the least bit qualified to state whether or not the structures can be saved; three, the structural engineer and architect who also toured the site both said that there was a very real possibility that the buildings could be renovated and preserved. They said they could form a more certain opinion if they would have more time to view the property.

People don't travel to other cities to buy chocolate chip cookies and leaf jewelry. There has to be an attraction to which an exciting shopping area and hotels and restaurants can be complimentary.

But let's look at whether or not this site is actually historic. Is there really historic value to the structures? Let's look at what the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior said. In its letter to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation of April 20, 1988, the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service said, "An examination of the Historic American Engineering Record collection for those structures relating to the Bessemer steel-making process revealed that the Bessemer Engineering

Record considers this structure and the adjacent open-hearth building, the railroad via-duct and the hot metal bridge to be nationally significant resources. Accordingly, the Historic American Engineering Record carried out a large format photographic project of these J & L structures...

"The J & L Bessemer Building is an historically important resource as it stands as a reminder of steel-making technology at a time when the nation's Bessemer operations have fully matured. At this date, the Historic American Engineering Record is aware of only one other major Bessemer building, an 1870s masonry structure built by the former Pennsylvania Steel Company in Steelton, Pennsylvania. The J & L Bessemer Building is clearly one of the few remaining in the United States and stands as a very significant reminder of the nation's industrial heritage."

Let me state one certainty. There is going to be a steel heritage museum and it will receive millions of federal dollars in grants. It will generate millions of tourist dollars and it will provide enormous benefits for the hotels, restaurants and shopping areas and municipalities near it. The question is, if this museum is all the way down river in the Mon Valley, what benefit will the Pittsburgh businesses and hotels receive?

Let's take a look at the potential. The City of Lowell, Massachusetts was hard hit by the closing of its textile mills. The economic condition of the area was one of near hopelessness. The Massachusetts Historical Society preserved and re-used a number of abandoned textile mill buildings and now more than 800,000 people a year visit the site as tourists. In addition, it has promoted economic development through the preservation of structures that were derelict, that were seen as eyesores, that were going to be bulldozed. They went through the same procedures that we are going through here today.

Wang Industries, one of the largest high-tech companies in the nation, purchased one of the abandoned textile mill buildings for their national headquarters. Corporate America is moving into the historic site on a large scale.

Michelle [Madoff] spoke about the Birmingham Sloss Furnace. I must remind everybody that Birmingham, Alabama is certainly no tourist mecca, and yet it has a model exactly like what we're talking about today where tens of thousands of individuals go every year. Need I remind everybody that Birmingham is called "the Pittsburgh of the South." It would be ironic if "the Pittsburgh of the South" had a steel

heritage museum and the real Pittsburgh did not.

If these buildings can't be saved, then so be it. Let them be torn down. But historic sites are like endangered species; once they are gone, there is no bringing them back. They are gone forever.

Permit me to address another aspect of this issue. Pittsburgh is in the process of successfully making a transition from an economy based on manufacturing and heavy industry to one that is based on service, high-tech information, providing tourism, biomedical technology and related fields. We should be extremely proud at how well we are making this transition.

A steel heritage museum is part of this new economy. Clearly, it is part of the providing of information and the improving of the City as a tourist attraction.

I've traveled to other cities. People talk about the great successes of Harbor Place in Baltimore and the Faneuil Hall in Boston. But don't think for one minute that Harbor Place in Baltimore would be prosperous if it didn't have the world-class aquarium as part of its site or that Faneuil Hall would be so successful if it weren't located in the center of historic Boston with Paul Revere's house and the Old North Church and other sites located nearby.

I've been asked by many individuals why certain members of Council are now changing their vote. After all, the original nomination vote passed 8—1. I certainly can't believe that any member of Council would vote on something that he or she didn't know what he or she was voting about. Nor could any member be forced into voting one way, especially when some members of Council avail themselves of the privilege to abstain as frequently as they do.

I really don't know why some are changing their vote. I'm certain there are some personality politics involved. I'm certain there are external forces at play here. And there were indications of this in the discussions with the representatives of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. They were asked if they were going to be putting an expansion on Station Square in the site. It was alleged that the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was acting in bad faith, that it had an ulterior motive other than the preservation of the structures for a museum. The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was accused, in Bolshevik style, of conniving a "land grab" of some type. When has the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation said it

wants the land? When has it said that it wants to control the site?

But while we're on the subject of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, I would suggest that when Pittsburgh History & Landmarks speaks, this Council should listen. People said an abandoned railroad freight house could not be converted into a shopping area, but Station Square is one of the most successful business areas in the entire region. The only hotel making money in the City of Pittsburgh is the Sheraton at Station Square. The Grand Concourse Restaurant does one of the highest volumes of business in the nation and the largest volume of business between New York and Chicago.

These are all spinoffs to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks' conversion of an abandoned railroad freight house which no one said it could do. And the beneficiaries of this success are the City and the people of Pittsburgh. The jobs, the tax revenue, the room nights, all the benefits would not be realized if not for the vision of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. So, I for one, listen when Pittsburgh History & Landmarks speaks.

The creation of a steel heritage museum would be an economic development boon to the City. We have to be certain that this prospect is fully examined, and this will take several months. Those that say the museum could be anywhere in the City are as ludicrous as those that say that it would be a benefit to the City if it were down in the Mon Valley. To have a steel mill model or a steel mill museum in a contrived setting is as much a hoax as the claim that certain members of this Council care what the public really wants.

Now, what about the delay of several months? What will the ramifications of that be? Representatives of LTV say that safety concerns mandate that the buildings be razed. They cite asbestos and other hazardous material which must be removed. They also state that the buildings are dangerous. These claims are quite intriguing.

First, for nearly one month after the nomination was in place, LTV never contacted this Council, the Planning Department, or the Historical Review Commission to determine if it could remove the asbestos or hazardous material or if it could secure the buildings. It cared so much about safety that it never even picked up a phone for almost a month to inquire if it could remove any hazardous material from the site. It merely attempted to have the designation removed.

What I am asking for is Council to

delay its final decision on this nomination for six months so that all the options can be examined. It must be pointed out that last week the South Side Planning Forum met to discuss the issue. The members of this group are the South Side Local Development Corporation, Main Street on East Carson, the South Side Chamber of Commerce, the South Side Arts, Antiques and Crafts Association, South Side Community Council, the South Side Library Advisory Committee, the Brashear Association, and representatives of the South Side schools, churches and health care institutions. These groups voted unanimously to support a six month delay in the decision and a study of a site as a potential steel heritage museum. In addition, the Tri State Conference on Steel also requested that this matter be delayed until such time as a public hearing could be held and it can present its views to Council. Even the *Pittsburgh Press*, which originally opposed the nomination, now says that there is a need to study the matter further and urges Council not to rescind.

Curiously, LTV raised concerns about buildings that have been sitting idle for nearly three decades with no problems at all. Why all of a sudden is there an emergency? It is clear that LTV has been disingenuous with this Council from the start. It is also clear that its purported claims of exigency are fallacious. There is no reason whatsoever why this matter cannot be studied for several months.

Two other points. One, there has been talk about the site being used for housing. If anyone thinks for one minute that any developer could, or would, construct residential units on a site where there has been asbestos, PCB and other hazardous material, then he or she probably believes in the tooth fairy. I have been informed by the State Advisory Committee on Hazardous Waste that there are numerous other hazardous materials on this site that will only be discovered as this site is further examined. There is no way that any developer would attempt to develop this site for residential use.

In addition, if the site is so marketable for industrial or other types of use, why hasn't LTV been able to sell it for all the time it has been trying to do so? If it is such a valuable piece of property, why aren't people beating down the doors of LTV to purchase it?

Last week at a public meeting held on the South Side, Reverend William Greiser made a passionate plea to

preserve the site. Reverend Greiser is a fourth generation J & L employee. He was the fourth generation in his family to work at that site. And I apologize to him for attempting to relate his plea because I know I will not do it justice.

What he said was that the J & L site was like an old workhorse that had served its master for many, many years, and then it was forced to be sold into some other person's hands. And that other person beat the heck out of that horse, worked it to death, didn't care for it, didn't feed it, didn't rest it, and then finally the horse had to be put to sleep. And then when the people that had owned that workhorse for so many years, and had cared for it, wanted the horse back to at least give it a proper memorial and to dispose of it in a proper manner, the new owner sold it to the glue factory. That is exactly how he views the J & L site and I can only concur with him.

Thank you.

Councilman Mark Pollock  
5/16/88