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Published for the members of the  
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 111  
Fall 1989

NEWS



25th Anniversary

Publication and Tour Celebration

The Past

**1964** September 30, 1964 . . . twenty five years ago. On that day the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation began its existence as an independent non-profit corporation. To the media the new organization announced multiple goals: planning and preservation proposals, suggested legislation, purchase of buildings for restoration, publications, tours, lectures, and publicity. The first board meeting was held on the afternoon of September 30; Charles C. Arensberg was elected as president, Barbara Hoffstot and James D. Van Trump as vice-presidents, and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. as executive secretary. One tour was scheduled and a study of the history, architecture, and population of the 1300 block of Liverpool Street was underway. A question on the Neville House in Collier Township raised the matter of whether activities should be limited to Pittsburgh alone. Ultimately, Landmarks' area of activity was established as Allegheny County.

The Present

**1989** Twenty five years later, Landmarks (which began with two part-time salaried staff) has 73 trustees, an office staff of 13, and a grounds crew of 11, as well as 25 tour/education docents and 85 volunteers. We publish a quarterly eight-page newsletter, and, in general, one book a year. Our docents and staff offer about 10 public and 30 private tours annually and reach the public as well through our annual Hands-On History Festival, educational workshops, and traveling exhibits. Staff members participate as advisors or board members in the activities of over 20 neighborhood, municipal, state, and national organizations. Through the Preservation Fund, we have lent \$1,037,000 (as of mid-1989) for restoration and historic-housing rehabilitation. Station Square, Landmarks' 52-acre development on the P&LE station site, now includes shops, offices, restaurants, a transportation museum, a Sheraton hotel, the Gateway Clipper Fleet, areas for festivals and concerts, convenient parking, and attractively landscaped grounds. The total investment in Station Square has been \$80,000,000 and the development pays over \$2,500,000 a year in real estate and parking taxes and attracts more than three million people. The income generated is reinvested in the site to support further development and helps underwrite some of Landmarks' charitable activities. Station Square illustrates the return to usefulness of an underused historic area, turns an industrial riverfront area into a popular attraction, attracts visitors to Pittsburgh, and gives life to the city daily and on evenings and weekends.



A "Lady of Stone" amidst the ruins of her home, the Fourth Avenue Post Office, demolished in 1966.

The Celebration

**SEPT. 24** Much has been accomplished in our twenty-five-year life, and our trustees, staff, members, and friends have every reason to celebrate. On Sunday, September 24 we will host a commemorative tour and reception. Members and friends will board the tour buses at Station Square and visit neighborhoods where Landmarks has made a difference: Manchester, the Mexican War Streets, Brighton Place, and Allegheny West, among others. Participants will visit several historic properties and hear from Arthur Ziegler and Stanley Lowe regarding current neighborhood preservation efforts.

After the tour, there will be a champagne reception at the Grand Concourse and Arthur Ziegler will present the first copy of Landmarks' twenty-fifth anniversary publication to Charles C. Arensberg, chairman of our board. The 152-page book by Walter C. Kidney is titled *A Past Still Alive: The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Celebrates 25 Years*. The book, illustrated with 304 black and white photos, contains three essays and a chronology of Landmarks' accomplishments since 1964. The first essay, "What We Have Lost" describes the fate of many landmarks which were demolished as a result of someone's decision, not because of accident. Most came down in the 1950s and '60s. In the second essay Walter Kidney describes "What Remains, and Why." Here preservation triumphs are documented. The third essay, "What May Be Kept" examines the philosophy, role, and possible scope of historic preservation; articulates what is distinctive about Pittsburgh and deserving to be preserved; and suggests what Landmarks' work may be in the future.

The publication is both nostalgic and visionary. It is well worth reading. Simply complete the order form below and we will mail *A Past Still Alive* to you. Or, purchase a copy on September 24 at the champagne reception and have Walter autograph it.

Order form

*A Past Still Alive: The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Celebrates 25 Years.*

☐ Yes, please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
\$22.95 per copy  
less 10% member discount \_\_\_\_\_ total  
plus 6% sales tax \_\_\_\_\_  
\$3.00 shipping & handling \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please complete this form and mail it with payment to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 450 The Landmarks Building, One Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170.

PH NEWS

Welcome New Members

- Ms. Jan Ackerman  
H.E. Broadbent III & Family  
Ms. Willa M. Dunn  
Frederick Flugger  
Mrs. Simone Gabel  
Mr. & Mrs. John Goodnight & Family  
Gregory J. Joyce  
Drs. Dale L. & Von E. Keairns  
Warren R. Kinneer  
Ms. Lois M. Kost  
Ms. Patricia A. Leiphart
- Ms. Marjorie A. Mayhall  
Joel D. Mlecko  
Ms. Nancy Davis Pryce & Family  
Ms. Bea Rettler  
Mrs. Marie Snyder  
Jerry Stanfield  
Gene F. Ventura & Family  
Mrs. Donald L. Very  
Washington Polytechnic Academy  
Ms. Mary Lou Wilson

Education Director

Diane DeNardo joined Landmarks' staff this June as Director of Education & Marketing. In addition to overseeing the work of the education department, Diane will be working on membership drives and the promotion of Landmarks' programs. Originally from New York, Diane graduated from Duquesne University. She recently returned to Pittsburgh after teaching American History to high school students in the Washington D.C. area for four years.

Fall Education Programs

Landmarks' education staff will be busy this fall working with teachers, students, and volunteers. Susan Donley will again be teaching the in-service course *Exploring Your City* from October 3-24. Interested elementary and secondary teachers may contact the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at 394-5761.

The *Architecture Apprenticeship* will be led by Diane DeNardo. Twenty-two high school students will meet once a month from October through February to attend all-day sessions planned by Landmarks focusing on architecture and the career of an architect.

Susan Donley, Diane DeNardo, and Mary Lu Denny will team up to train new *Portable Pittsburgh* docents. Weekly morning sessions from September through November will prepare docents to present our boxes full of Pittsburgh history to area schools. If you would like to join the volunteer-training sessions so you too can become a *Portable Pittsburgh* docent, please call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808) for details.



EVENTS

Wednesday, September 13 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

The Neville House Auxiliary will sponsor an all-day bus tour on Wednesday, September 13 featuring the Rachel Carson Homestead in Springdale and the Burtner House in Natrona Heights. The tour, departing at 9:30 a.m. from the Neville House in Collier Township, will include lunch at Tarentum Railroad Station and should return to the Neville House at 4 p.m. Cost is \$22.00 per person. For information and reservations contact Hazel Peters at 921-4728.

Sunday, September 24 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

25TH-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us to celebrate Landmarks' 25th anniversary. Arthur Ziegler and Stanley Lowe will lead members on a bus tour of historic properties and neighborhoods where Landmarks has made a difference. Following this, there will be a champagne reception at the Grand Concourse and Charles Arensberg will be presented with the first copy of our anniversary publication titled *A Past Still Alive*.

Sunday, October 15 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

HOMESTEAD

Remembered for a giant steel plant and a bitter labor dispute, Homestead is also filled with vivid commercial architecture and prosperous residential neighborhoods with many churches. A remarkable community stood outside the Works gates, and we will explore it on a walking tour with members of the Mon Valley Initiative Group, the Homestead Economic Revitalization Committee, and the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force.

November 10, 11, 12

ANTIQUES SHOW

Thirty-one antique dealers from more than 10 states will display a fine selection of antique furniture, silver, china, and artwork at Landmarks' 12th annual show in the grand ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. The preview party for Landmarks' members will be on Thursday, November 9.

Sunday, December 3 1:45 pm to 10:00 pm

BARNESVILLE, OHIO & FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Join us on a holiday excursion to the Belmont County Museum, a 23-room Richardsonian Romanesque mansion, that will be regally decorated in traditional Victorian splendor. Following our personally guided tour at the Museum we will enjoy dinner at the Wheeling Country Club in a room overlooking the Festival of Lights at Oglebay. What a festive beginning to the holiday revelry!

Membership

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You can win

- a vacation weekend at Station Square
- a North Side weekend adventure
- a free membership for one year

If you take part in our Membership Challenge.

The printing of a new membership brochure — and the occasion of our twenty-fifth anniversary — provide a perfect opportunity for initiating a membership campaign. The best way of attracting new members is through our current membership. The member who brings in the most new members wins a weekend vacation for two at Station Square. The second place prize features restaurants, cultural events, and a night at the Priory on the North Side. And any member who brings in two new members receives one free membership in 1990. Everyone can be a winner. To help get you started, we have enclosed in this newsletter one of our new membership brochures. Encourage a friend to join Landmarks today — and call Mary Lu Denny (471-5808) for more brochures and further details on the Membership Challenge. When you recruit a new member, tell them to tell us that you inspired them to join. We will keep tally of the new members and award the membership prizes on December 1.

The strength of our organization lies in its membership. Please help us interest more people in supporting the work of Landmarks.

First Place Prize: Station Square Weekend

On a Saturday and Sunday of your choice, December through March, we are offering for free the following vacation for two:

A cruise on the Gateway Clipper; ride on the Incline; tour of the Station Square site, artifacts, and plantings; two lunches at Station Square restaurants; dinner at the Grand Concourse; accommodations at the Sheraton, including breakfast; coupons for shopping; and free parking.

Second Place Prize: North Side Adventure

On a Saturday and Sunday of your choice, December through March, we are offering for free the following North Side adventure for two:

A personal tour of North Side neighborhoods with special stops including the Eberhardt & Ober brewery and the Mattress Factory; tickets to a Pittsburgh Public Theater performance; lunch, dinner, and after-theater snacks provided by Max's Allegheny Tavern, the James Street Restaurants and the Park House; accommodations at the Priory with a floral arrangement courtesy of Ludwig's Flowers.

And a Prize for All

Any member who brings in two new members receives one free membership in 1990.



The Gateway Clipper



The parlor in The Priory

Donations

Landmarks wishes to thank the following for their donations:

- Charles Burlingham, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a wedding cape of c. 1880.
- Edith M. Mellon, for four programs of 1939 from the Nixon Theatre.
- The Greater Pittsburgh Commission for Women, for four photographs of 1929 by the Pittsburgh City Photographer.
- Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, for a special contribution.

Note: Because Landmarks no longer operates a museum, certain donations are better addressed to other institutions, such as the

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania (681-5533) or the Hillman Library of the University of Pittsburgh (648-7700). We are interested in the architectural, engineering, industrial, commercial, and social history of Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania, and welcome books and other printed matter, photographs, art, architectural drawings, etc. that offer information on these subjects. Our display facilities are at present limited to large industrial artifacts or building fragments, such as may be displayed outdoors at Station Square.

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          | Director of Membership Services              |
| Diane DeNardo          | Director of Education & Marketing            |
| Earl D. James          | Director of Preservation Programs & Services |
| Walter C. Kidney       | Architectural Historian and Archivist        |
| Stanley A. Lowe        | Director of the Preservation Fund            |
| Susan K. Donley        | Education Consultant                         |
| Greg Pytlik            | Designer                                     |

JOIN LANDMARKS FOR LIFE

In this twenty-fifth anniversary year, join Landmarks for life. A one-time tax-deductible gift of \$5,000 will allow you to be a member of Landmarks for life. No more annual dues — just years of benefits. Please send your member-for-life contribution to the attention of Mary Lu Denny at Landmarks.



*September 30 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The occasion deserves a personal commemoration. Several trustees, members, and staff members have written brief essays describing the early years of Landmarks which we are pleased to reprint in this anniversary supplement to PHLF News.*

*The passenger waiting room in the P&LE Station, early in this century, now the Grand Concourse Restaurant.*

## The Chairman's Ramble: More Reminiscences

CHARLES COVERT ARENSBERG

In February 1974 I wrote in the *Post-Gazette* a report about Landmarks, a part of which I quote here to show what our problems were then and how they have since been resolved (or not resolved):

*We have many things to do: the Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Station interior, the South Side Market Square, Lawrenceville, the Neill Log House, the Walker-Ewing Log House in Collier Township, yes, and always Liverpool Street and Manchester.*

*We need to spark the restoration of Pittsburgh's remarkable slope housing, those incredible "clingers" which lend such a picturesque air to the city, and with the disappearance of the dirty steam engine in the valley below, become agreeable and viable dwelling places.*

*We need to worry perhaps about the Union Trust Building, Motor Square Garden, the Presley Neville House and St. Luke's in Woodville, St. Anthony's Shrine on Mt. Troy, even the Court House and Jail. We point to the phenomenal success of both as hard-headed practicalities. City Council has given us a preservation ordinance allowing precious breathing time from the bulldozer, but we don't want to give many "Raw Persimmon Awards" to desecrations of worthy structures.*

We'll take the items in order from the article and briefly recount what has happened with each during the last 15 years.

*The Rotunda of Union Station 20 years ago.*

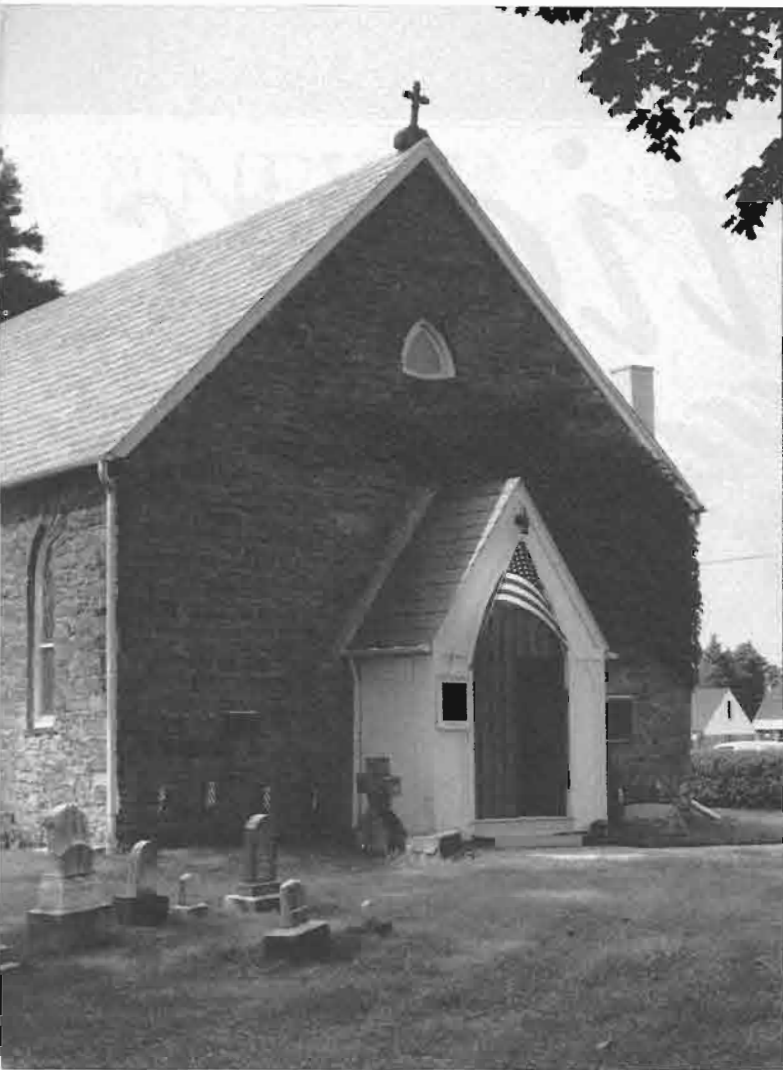
### 1. The Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Railroad Station

We campaigned to save the Rotunda, at least, in 1968, and in 1977 recommended use of the whole building as a hotel. Our proposal was not accepted, but the building has recently been adapted for purposes of habitation. Historic Landmarks for Living, a Philadelphia developer, has converted it into the Pennsylvanian apartment house. It contains a passenger railroad station still, and remains an entrance to the city, looking along Liberty Avenue and over the Convention Center.

*(Continued on page 2)*







*Neighbors: Old St. Luke's and the Neville House, restored.*

## 2. The Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Station interior

With the enlightened aid of Richard Scaife and the Allegheny Foundation, Landmarks has developed and now owns the 42 acres of the old railroad property, and more riverfront property all the way from the Port Authority Bridge to the property of the now-demolished North Pole Ice Cream building west of the Fort Pitt Bridge. The buildings and myriad activities of Station Square pay taxes to the City and County; the revenue generated allows for further development on the site, and eventually will help support Landmarks' charitable activities all over the county. The area, long an unknown and neglected part of the city, is now a thriving specialty center visited by millions of Americans who eat and drink in the old station, ride the boats on the river, look at the Transportation Museum (precursor of a larger transportation museum), and visit the shops in the old whiskey warehouse of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, now known as Commerce Court. So many of the visitors stay in the Sheraton Hotel that Landmarks is planning a friendly competitor right to the west of it.

## 3. The South Side Market House

The City of Pittsburgh now maintains the structure, once abandoned, as a viable meeting place for senior citizens and other neighborhood groups. The little square occupied by the Market House is surrounded by old residences, and by at least two of the gourmet restaurants that have "found" the South Side since Landmarks developed Station Square to the immediate west. We became active in South Side historic preservation in 1968, when we initiated the Birmingham Self-help Community Restoration Program and worked with the City on the South Side Market House.

## 4. Lawrenceville

A remarkable old district of mid- and late-nineteenth-century housing still suffers from Insulbric and metal siding coupled with window-blocking in a deplorable manner, but signs are emerging of a new consciousness of the district's architectural worth. *Mirabile dictu*, a park and marina are planned for Lawrenceville to regain some use of the river after the years since Queen Aliquippa lived there and George Washington fell in on that cold night in December 1756. Landmarks has not been active in Lawrenceville, except in the restoration effort at Allegheny Cemetery and in its redesign study for Doughboy Square in the City Scale program of 1977.

## 5. The Neill Log House in Schenley Park (1787)

It collapsed just before we got the R.K. Mellon Foundation grant to restore it but now, the timbers having been reset, the Junior League has furnished it, and for a period of years we opened the house upon request for school tour groups. Now, the City of Pittsburgh is making some needed repairs to

the house, and it is our hope that, through the Schenley Park Centennial Restoration Committee, the house can be opened again for tours.

## 6. The Walker-Ewing Log House

This 1780 log house in Collier Township we received in 1973 and intended to hold as sort of a retreat for our directors and members, but soon found a more profitable use: that of renting it to a person who appreciates such an antique setting 14 miles west of old Fort Pitt.

## 7. Liverpool Street and Manchester

Liverpool Street together with the Langenheim anchor house is 90% restored and inhabited by blacks and whites living harmoniously side by side. Indeed the whole of Manchester is restoration-minded and the owner-occupiers have done a splendid job of saving the good architecture of that area. Liverpool Street's plight in 1964 was the direct inspiration for the founding of Landmarks. It was the subject of our first preservation-oriented historical study, and Manchester as a whole was the place where we learned many of our techniques and practices.

## 8. The Union Trust Building

This elegant Flemish Gothic structure at one time narrowly escaped demolition. Then it became "Mellon Bank Center Number Two." Restored to pristine splendor by Burt Hill Kosar Rittleman Associates with help from Ellis Schmidlapp and Landmarks Design Associates, it has even regained its old name of the Union Trust Building.

## 9. Motor Square Garden

This great domed market fell into disuse and disrepair like its neighbors in the East Liberty planning mistake that we had opposed. Now these are embarked on a new life: Motor Square through imaginative restoration by Schmidlapp and Landmarks Design Associates, and East Liberty by giving its streets back to traffic and the people.

## 10. Presley Neville House

We bought the ancient Presley Neville house "Woodville" and restored it to 18-century authenticity with the leadership of Anne Genter of the Neville House Advisory Committee and the Colonial Dames of America and Betsy Martin of the Neville House Auxiliary. For the first time in its 200-year history, the National Historic Landmark house was open for public tours this June.

## 11. St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Nearby, St. Luke's Episcopal Church (1852) has been restored too with our help and is now a distinguished community church, with numerous weddings and religious services. We and local citizens formed the Old St. Luke's Auxiliary to see to the restoration.

## 12. St. Anthony's Shrine

St. Anthony's Shrine on Troy Hill, thanks to the ceaseless ministrations of Mary Wohleber, one of our trustees, is doing well. Its 19th-century carved wooden Stations of the Cross and its highly-decorated interior are now in good condition.

## 13. The Court House and Jail

Since 1974 the County has indeed become aware of the international value of Richardson's masterpiece. First, Richard Scaife donated the money for the fountain and other improvements to "Katie's Park," named after Katie Flaherty, enthusiastic sponsor. The fountain is fashioned of the same granite used in the Court House itself; the fountain and courtyard designs are ours. Next, the lawyers of Allegheny County restored Court Room 321 back to its Richardsonian elegance, and last September, Landmarks released Jamie Van Trump's masterpiece *Majesty of the Law: The Court Houses of Allegheny County* which documents the building of Richardson's Courthouse. At present, Arthur Ziegler is chairing a committee to advise on other repairs and restorations of the Court House. While Judge Cochill is inveighing against the Jail's overcrowding and even threatening it must be closed, we assume (and hope) he is not speaking architecturally in any event!

Only the hillside houses, which I referred to in my article of 1974, have escaped our attention. But they still manage to cling tenaciously to the Pittsburgh hillsides, and they enjoy greater occupancy, on the whole, than do our condominium buildings.

Other things have been happening over the 25 years since 1964, too. Louise Ferguson and our education staff have been educating children about Pittsburgh architecture with good help from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and other private foundations. Stanley Lowe has been staunchly helping inner-city neighborhoods with their housing and building problems through our revolving fund. Mary Lu Denny and our docents have been conducting tours primarily in the Pittsburgh area, featuring the city's history, architecture, and present-day significance. Walter Kidney and Earl James have been working in the library and out in the field. Earl has his job cut out in both our own Riverside Industrial Walk and in trying to bring an industrial museum to reality in the Monongahela Valley. Maybe the wolf will produce friendly pups!\*

\*See *And the Wolf Finally Came* by John P. Hoerr, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988.



*South Side Market House; St. Anthony's Chapel.*





*Sad times in Liverpool Street, mid 1960s.*

## The Beginnings

ARTHUR P. ZIEGLER, JR.

Twenty-five years ago Jamie Van Trump and I were leaving our Pittsburgh office where we published *Charette: Pennsylvania Journal of Architecture*, heading to a northern suburb. We took a short cut through the Manchester area of Allegheny and found ourselves in the 1300 block of Liverpool Street, amazed at the handsome Victorian housing and the beauty of the block, with the Langenheim house in the middle flanked by double houses with elaborate Victorian porches.

We stopped the car and began to walk the block, taking in the beauty of it as the sun was setting to the west. A black resident asked us what we were doing; when we told him, he said, "You better look fast, Mister, because it is all going to be demolished." The next day we checked and learned that not only was Liverpool Street listed for demolition but so was the entire Manchester neighborhood, and much of Central North Side and the Mexican War Streets area were under similar threats. An elevated highway had been proposed to run through the Allegheny Commons, up Monterey Street, and across the back of the Mexican War Streets to the proposed East Street Expressway, which would slice through East Allegheny.

Alarmed, we called upon the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania for whose journal we both sometimes wrote. Our partner in *Charette* at the time felt that a proposal to that group would be a good way to start. Stanton Belfour, then president of the Pittsburgh Foundation, was also the president of the Historical Society. He said to us that he never believed in setting up new organizations if it could be avoided, but in this case he recommended that we do so. The Society at that time tended to be scholarly, moving at a more leisurely pace than preservationists could enjoy. "Start a new organization, and I will help you," he recommended.

*Helen Clay Frick's house, "Clayton".*



*Beginning of hope for the Langenheim house.*

That same week Helen Clay Frick had invited her long-time friend Jamie to dinner, and as they talked about historic Pittsburgh, as they so often did, Jamie told her of Liverpool Street and its danger. She asked that he and I call upon her the next afternoon to discuss it further. As we sat with her the next day, in her house so untouched since the time of Henry Clay Frick, the whole world seemed historic: an appropriate location, it turned out, to start a preservation group.

She asked how we would begin to save Liverpool Street, and we said that we would like to do an architectural analysis showing that preservation was less costly than demolition, and pointing out the architectural and human values of the area. She asked to whom to write a check and without thinking, we said "Pittsburgh Landmarks." In a few days we had a check for an organization that did not yet exist.

In the meantime, Jamie said that there was a Pittsburgh resident who was a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and that perhaps she would help us. We called on Barbara Hoffstot, who became a founding member; she has served as our vice-chairman for a quarter-century. We also called upon Jamie's life-long attorney Charles Arensberg, long devoted to the art of architecture and to its enhancement of humane values; he signed on as our chairman. A friend of Mrs. Hoffstot and Mr.

Arensberg, Bill Oliver, then treasurer of Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, agreed to be treasurer. Stan Belfour gave us the funds to acquire a slide projector and take photographs in order to create a show on the need for preservation in Allegheny County; I took that show on the road three to five times a week for over five years to build our membership and our support.

We had two other significant meetings in those early weeks. One was with the residents of Manchester to see if they would like to join together in a new kind of preservation program, one designed to restore a neighborhood for the people who live there: a new idea, it turned out, in the preservation movement nationwide. It turned out to be the first effort in the nation to restore a largely-black neighborhood, using the buildings as a means of creating both civic pride and economic value for and with the residents as well as saving an architectural legacy for Pittsburgh.

The second meeting was with Calvin Hamilton, the director of the Department of City Planning. We wanted to find out why the renewal programs under way or planned called for widespread demolition of hundreds of buildings and major monuments. Already gone were the more significant buildings in the Point area of downtown, the Diamond Market House downtown, and the Lower Hill district, which should have been saved and developed as a

fine historic downtown residential neighborhood.

The heart of Central North Side was falling for a project known as Allegheny Center; the Allegheny Market House was to be sacrificed, and scheduled was the Allegheny Post Office. Ober Park was gone along with Boggs and Buhl, and soon the proposed end of the Allegheny Library would be announced. Had the plans been permitted to go forward, almost all of the historic residential area of the entire North Side as well as South Side would have been removed. Plans like those for East Liberty, calling for malling it and developing a mini-beltway around it, seemed as if they could lead only to ruin. Soon the Fourth Avenue Post Office would crumble, theaters and hotels would give way, and our railway stations, like that of the Pennsylvania Railroad in East Liberty, would be crushed into rubble.

Calvin Hamilton astounded us, first with all this information and second with his statement, "If someone doesn't organize and do something to oppose these plans, we will carry them out. If you organize and oppose, I will help you." He became a founding trustee of the organization and gave us a great deal of guidance. During our first two years we waged strong battles against these misguided and expensive plans, which would not only have cost us our architectural heritage but brought great disruption to the lives of thousands of people. We worked to establish participation and support for the retention of these neighborhoods and buildings.

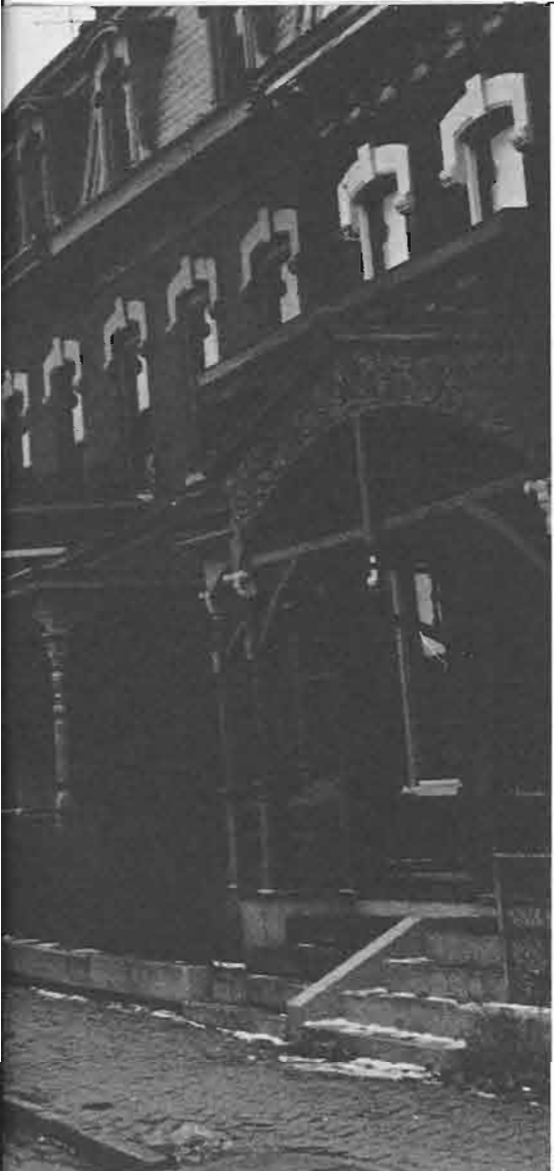
Our fledgling group augmented its numbers by soliciting other trustees and officers and members and supporters, and we quickly found ourselves deluged with requests for help from individuals, neighborhood groups, and local historical organizations.

We learned that there was an organization in the city devoted to black history, the Western Pennsylvania Research and Historical Society, and we formed a working relationship with it; Gilmore Williams of that society served as trustee of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation until he died in 1988.

Overwhelmed with requests and unable systematically to prioritize the needs, we raised funds to undertake what came to be the first county-wide survey of architecturally-significant buildings in the nation, published in 1967 as *Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County*. For two years Jamie and I drove every street and road throughout the county, and walked a great many of them as well, to get an overview of what our architectural heritage was and what shape it was in.

And so we all began to create an enlightened force that has helped to reshape our city so that as we plan for its future, we honor and we reuse its historic fabric, its buildings and neighborhoods, parks and sculpture, bridges and walls as a humanizing influence on our lives.





## The Mexican War Streets

LOUISE BOESEL

The 25th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation brings back many fond memories of my part in the beginning of the restoration of the Mexican War Streets. These memories also include my staunch allies Arthur Ziegler and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks staff, who were also heavily involved in their own area restoration projects.

It was in the spring of 1966 that Barbara Hoffstot and Charlie Arensberg and I walked these streets and discussed the need for the preservation of the architectural integrity and charm of this area. At that time, there was a "For Sale" sign on 1213 Resaca Place. It had always been a suppressed desire of mine to restore an old house, so I seized the opportunity and bought it.

This was the beginning which culminated in my restoration of seven houses in the Mexican War Streets and one in Allegheny West. For many years, I maintained these properties as rental units, which resulted in quite a few of the tenants leaving to become owners and restorers of their own homes in the neighborhood. Because of its proximity to Downtown, the Park, hospitals, etc., the area attracted many young men and women, professionals and homemakers.

The foundation of the Mexican War Streets Society and the initiation of the War Streets House Tours were instrumental in creating a supportive community atmosphere. Three cheers for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation!

1213 Resaca, restored.



## 25 Years

JAMES W. KNOX

How pleased I was 25 years ago when invited to be a charter member of the board of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. It was exciting to be a part of the birth of such a vital organization which has meant so much to all of Western Pennsylvania.

As a regular attendee of the board and committee meetings I observed goals and dreams become reality; and all this came at an important time in the history of our community.

I recall that, as the Allegheny Center area was being planned for redevelopment, the plan to tear down the vacant Old Post Office was presented at a board meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that the building should be preserved and perhaps used as the headquarters for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. It was rumored that Alcoa, the developer, wanted the building razed as soon as possible and that the Redevelopment Authority agreed.

As in so many other situations the board, under the leadership of Charles Arensberg and Arthur Ziegler, developed a course of action and strategy. As I recall, a group effort was to be made to raise funds to purchase the building, and I was delegated to visit Mayor Joseph M. Barr and request no demolition until the board had a chance to raise funds to purchase the property.

I immediately made an appointment to see the Mayor. He was gracious and cooperative. He wrote to the Redevelopment Authority presenting the request of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation board. Several days later I was called to the Mayor's office, where he handed me the reply to his letter. The letter made clear that the Old Post Office Building was of no historic or architectural significance, that Alcoa wanted the land, that demolition should proceed forthwith, etc. Mayor Barr looked at me and said, "Well, there's the answer, Jim. I guess that's it."

I wasn't very pleased with the letter or the Mayor's reaction. After a couple of deep breaths I responded rather testily: "I know that's the reply, but who the hell is Mayor of Pittsburgh?" Without batting an eye, he said, "I am!" I said, "That's good to hear; now see that a delay in the demolition is granted to allow our board to explore purchasing the building." The Mayor did exactly that — and the rest is history. The board was pleased to have the time needed to explore the situation. This was a giant step forward.

When I think of the many important projects advanced and implemented by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, these words of Woodrow Wilson come to mind: "Man shall continue to dream dreams, and one day he shall awake and all that shall be gone will be his sleep."



Old Post Office Museum



James at home.

## A Stroll with Walt Whitman

He said, "Come in" when I knocked. I went inside his apartment of sunlit windows, books piled high like monuments to literature, faded magazines scattered around like remnants of demolished buildings.

James Van Trump sat in the middle and extended his hand. He looked like Walt Whitman in a wheelchair. His white hair flowing down to his shoulders. A huge mustache framing his bald head.

We shook hands. He had invited me to lunch at an Oakland hotel. I had sent him some columns about old buildings and a book of poems I had written. We wrote letters to each other until now.

I wanted to talk about architecture. About his love of Victorian decoration. Stained-glass gingerbread, stone statues on high ledges.

We hit it off right away because we both knew how to relate buildings to people. How to see past the brick to the lives interwoven in the mortar. We talked for an hour about emotions, dreams and lives that were etched in the history of architecture.

Then I pushed him through the elegant hallway into the elevator out to the lobby thru the glass doors and almost upset him on the sidewalk.

Out on Oakland streets I pushed the wheelchair. We crossed at the light as cars waited, engines rumbling.

Inside the restaurant, we stepped back in time when people took three hours to eat. Nourishing the mind and the stomach.

We sipped coffee and memories.

Then we returned to the streets. Walt Whitman in his wheelchair pointing out his favorite buildings as the summer sun warmed my back.

HOWARD BRONDER

James in 1984.







## Pride in Landmarks

KATHLEEN MCM. PEARSON

Since I'm a stranger to these parts by birth, belonging to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has been a great pleasure, not only for the historical "walks" my husband and I like to take, but for the lectures and restorations which fill me with pride. Those undertaken on the North Side were my first contact with the Foundation, and I still use the North Side for my *first* tour for visitors.

In the center of Sewickley there is the Flatiron Building. It is charming and once held an ice cream parlor, I understand. At least one doorway was surrounded with lattice work when I first knew the building; there is another door right at the point of the flat iron. Over the years, it had fallen into disuse, and was used for storage by a nearby grocery store and was owned by the store owner and his brother. The garden clubs in Sewickley (there are nine of them!) had for many years been trying to improve the business area, urging merchants to clean-up and paint-up and generally make the area more enticing for customers. So I felt that we should show what we could do to add to the improvement. I found four other ladies who thought this was a good project, and then because of the stories Arthur Ziegler tells us at board meetings about helping this family and another to purchase property, I asked him if Landmarks could do the same for us. "Yes," he said, and we got the property for a fair price, which would not have been the case otherwise.

Then came the real issue: could five women agree on ways to convert this building into attractive apartments, what colors to use, what materials would be best, etc. At last we decided to ask Arthur again for his expertise. In the end, thinking of insurance, upkeep, rentals, etc., it seemed wise to give the building to Landmarks. We did, and they renovated the building and have been renting it ever since. Not long ago Arthur warned us that Landmarks could no longer own rentals, so we/they put it on the market and it was sold to an art gallery, International Images. The owner has put a great deal of money and effort into the building, and it's a very successful gallery. But all this was possible because of Landmarks, who once again came to the front to make a renovation possible.

These same garden club ladies decided that our park in the center of Sewickley needed renovation, mostly to cut down on upkeep. A horrible concrete jungle was proposed which was rejected by most citizens. To counteract that plan three of us joined in an effort for a new plan, and hired LaQuatra and Bonci to give us a plan. We raised the funds, and the park was dedicated one year later. Once again, Landmarks has come to the front and honored us and Mr. LaQuatra for his design and the pretty park.

You can see how proud I am of Landmarks' efforts.

*The Flatiron Building.*



## Station Square

ARTHUR P. ZIEGLER, JR.

Station Square began as a happy coincidence. For many years the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation had concentrated on demonstrating its belief that historic neighborhoods should be restored rather than demolished, and had allocated most of its energy and its fundraising efforts on behalf of the neighborhoods. We had also been active in trying to save a number of individual buildings. We saved the Allegheny Post Office and the Neville House, for example. We had undertaken the first county-wide inventory of historic buildings in the nation, and we had begun a publications program that had received a number of awards for writing and design excellence.

However, we realized keenly that Pittsburgh was then the third-largest corporate headquarters city in the United States and that preservation was not a consideration of most businesspersons as they planned commercial and retail development. Therefore we felt that we should undertake a reasonably large-scale project of perhaps one major older single building and restore it as office space, and possibly for retail or restaurant use, to show, just as we had originally with our study of Liverpool Street in Manchester, that it made economic sense to restore rather than demolish. In fact we felt that not only would costs be lower and disruption to the area involved reduced, but that historic buildings would attract more visitors and therefore more business to restaurants and retail shops.

For many months we searched for a project. We looked at the South Side market house, the Homewood trolley barns, the B&O warehouse on the North Side, and various other warehouse buildings, finally targeting buildings owned by Pittsburgh National Bank and adjoining structures on Fourth Avenue, Wood Street, and Forbes Avenue. We prepared a plan that called for the development of an arcaded shopping center to be located in the smaller buildings adjacent to the old Colonial Trust Company arcade, using the arcade as the main hallway and principal feature. A nondescript building on the corner of Forbes and Wood would be demolished for a small entrance park.

About the time that we were looking at this project, I received a call from Donald Collins at the Allegheny Foundation, a Scaife family trust, in which he said that the principals of the Foundation wondered why we didn't have something like a Ghirardelli Square in Pittsburgh: "What are you doing



*Inset, top left: Peoples Bank Building, a unit of the Bank Center. The potential of Station Square: the Freight House (above) and the passenger platforms (left). Station Square as it is today (below).*



about it?" Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco was one of the earliest mixed-use projects in historic buildings in the country. In the past, Scaife family funds had frequently been the first contributed to pioneering work that Landmarks wanted to undertake, including our revolving funds in Manchester, the Mexican War Streets, and South Side, as well as acquisition and restoration of the old North Side Post Office.

The Foundation agreed to fund additional studies of the PNB buildings, but as we completed our feasibility studies another group asked if they could take over the project and be the developer. Because we were not at all confident, we gave our drawings to them, released our options, and began to look for another project. They in the meantime shrank our original concept and developed a project to be known later as the Bank Center. That Richard Scaife wanted a lively public space in Pittsburgh featuring retail and restaurants as well as artifacts and public space, features that would attract people, and that Landmarks desired to do a demonstration project to prove that preservation could mean good business and could create an attractive environment, proved to be the best of coincidences.

As our next target we chose the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad terminal building, and I examined it in more detail. I realized that the railroad had over 40 acres under its control with no mortgage on the property, all located along the Monongahela River with a wonderful view of the skyline of the city. I also realized that no one placed much value

on the property, and that only one plan had ever been advanced in recent years for its development and had failed in the planning stages as it should have, because it called for demolition of all the existing buildings.

The opportunity seemed splendid, because we could not only save half a dozen historic buildings but also apply our own principles of urban planning regarding open space, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, and other vital concerns and see what validity they had.

Unfortunately the railroad would not negotiate with Landmarks, feeling that we did not have business stability. Only by asking Mr. Scaife for permission to reveal his backing of the project was Landmarks able to lease all 40 acres and all buildings on terms that permitted development, with lease payments that were low in the initial years and ascended as development went on. The Allegheny Foundation funded the initial studies, totaling \$350,000. We produced a comprehensive plan and held a meeting of civic leaders to acquaint them with it, only to find that we could not arouse much belief in the potential of the project: in fact, no financing was available. The Allegheny Foundation then gave us risk capital, as it had in the cases of the neighborhoods, by providing \$5,000,000 in funding. The idea was to do the same thing we had done in Manchester: take these dollars and risk them to start the project on a cash basis and demonstrate its feasibility to the community. That we did.





## Memories

MARY WOHLEBER

What a flood of memories the request to contribute to this anniversary issue brought to mind. Here are just a few. It was fun just to write about them. These all occurred in the late 1960s or early '70s.

At this time Landmarks was in the Benedum Trees Building and our quarters were cramped. If I remember correctly *Charette* was still there with Charlie Shane. There was a long hall with offices opening from it. Kathleen Smith was the secretary. I went in, as a volunteer, one day a week. The second week I showed up I was told to sort out a large trunk of period clothing that had been donated. The clothes were musty and dusty. The only open space was the floor. I was on my hands and knees with piles of clothing up and down the hall. One of the office doors opened and a tall, thin, young man came out, gave me one horrified look, rolled his eyes heavenward as if to say, "I know I'm not seeing what I'm seeing," and hastily retreated back into his office and slammed the door. I didn't know WHO he was then — I do now!

Some time later, still at Benedum-Trees Building, I was called at home by Lee Zelinski the *new* secretary, saying she needed me. When I got to the office she told me a lecture and slide presentation was scheduled at the Court House and no one was there to give it. I had never even seen a projector close up, let alone operated it, and I had never given a lecture (except to my children). She said it was for a group of Girl Scouts and kept saying "I know you can do it, Mary." She also said the slides were of Pittsburgh — no problem! When I walked into the room I nearly died; it was a Tri-State Conference and even the National President of the Girl Scouts was there! I was sweating butterballs and wishing I knew some magic words to make me fade into the woodwork. My welcome speech was well received and I pushed the little button for the first slide — it was a "sewer drop." It is very hard to become loquacious about THAT — after a long, silent pause, I did the only thing I could think of — I laughed and the whole room laughed with me, and after I told them the circumstances of how and why they got ME. We had a grand time, and Landmarks got a handsome check and a delightful letter. So for the next 10 years I was a volunteer lecturer for the Foundation.

Now we come to the saving of the Old Post Office on the North Side. When a decision is made to save a building the first consideration is funding. I was told that the board had decided to give a reception at the Post Office to acquaint people with the building and the site. I was given a lady's riding habit, some baby clothes, shawls, pictures, and other objects to set up small displays of the period, and also the key to the building. Arthur forgot to tell me there was no electricity and all the windows were boarded up. I was also to do some cleaning up — not too much, as Arthur wanted the guests to see just how much was needed to



*Inset, top left: 1219 Buena Vista Street being cleaned. A Resaca Place doorhead; Warren Schweitzer restores a cornice bracket.*

restore the building. I took my son Stephen with me, a ladder, broom, and other cleaning supplies. When I turned the key and opened those great doors — I'll never forget the utter devastation that greeted us. Stairways hanging from the walls, bricks, mortar, jumbles of assorted benches, doors, boxes, and just plain rubbish, all deeply covered with plaster dust. I walked into that dark, huge cave-like space, lighted only with shafts of light from high up — looked up at the dome, and fell in love with that building. We worked there two days, the reception was held, and it was a huge success, as with all Arthur's ideas. The message of need was for all to see, without a word said: the building spoke for itself.

And here it is about the Mexican War Streets project — exciting. Arthur and Jamie had walked the streets of the North Side and decided that the Mexican War Streets was their choice for our first restoration project on a large scale. They had picked out a house on Resaca Place as our first house restoration. It had been a boarding house and the occupants had left but nothing else had. It took days just to clean out the indescribable debris. Just to watch that house come alive again was a thrilling experience. The purpose was to show the neighborhood and the city what undiscovered treasures we had, their potential and hopefully spur others to do the same. Our first house tour there was an education for the hundreds that attended. We showed finished houses, some in the process of restoration, others that had just been sold with plans of what was to be done with them on the walls, others that were for sale, and some that were just sad and neglected. Landmarks' volunteers helped, in each house, with information and served as an invaluable link to encourage on-the-spot interest.

Today everyone can see the grand result of Arthur's and Jamie's ideas and their vision of what could be, and we as members are their beneficiaries.

I could go on forever as Landmarks has been interwoven in my life since 1968! ■

## From the Inside

WALTER C. KIDNEY

I first made acquaintance with Landmarks around 1967, when I was on the staff of *Progressive Architecture* and had my more-or-less home town as part of my assigned territory. I would drop in on Arthur and Jamie to collect the news and hear the architectural and planning gossip, and eventually wrote an essay on the aesthetic of Pittsburgh, its plans, and its perils as of that time. (Great High Schools, Mon Plaza, Group STL, where are you now?)

In the 1970s and '80s I did a good bit of freelancing, and in the course of so doing was increasingly blotted up, so to speak, by Landmarks, to the point that, though I still charge by the hour, I have become something of a nine-to-five, five days a week.

This is a curious workplace, and I may by now be spoiled for anything else. In my *Progressive Architecture* days there was a certain amount of interest in "total design," a sort of office tyranny by drafting board: you shall have a corporately-selected work of Modern Art on your wall; you shall have an official plant in an official pot, and it will stand in a certain exact spot. Office protocol and decorum to match. *We* are not without art, and not without plants, but the art is the spoils of the Pittsburgh heritage, nicely framed but definitely not of a soundly-trendy type, and our plants — very fancy ones they can be, too — arrive spontaneously. Apart from these amenities, our visual image wavers. We are a dozen people, more or less, operating in offices that seem spacious until you reckon in several acres of more or less significant paper in cabinets, cartons, boxes, and heaps, not to mention on bookshelves. These make all the difference, and we can be baffled over where to put some new thing, a precious acquisition or a new wad of routine correspondence.

Consider the James D. Van Trump Library, our showplace. Jamie made a permanent gift to us of 4,000 books, and to this more has been added. We could come close to building the William Penn Hotel anew from the original plans, re-create all the moldings of Calvary Episcopal Church, present a fair idea of what the Hillman house at Fifth and Morewood might have been. A benefactress gave us 1,100 drawings by the engineer Samuel Diescher, with an oaken cabinet to keep them in, and somehow we acquired first-rate photographs from the 1870s of iron bridges. We have very nearly a complete run of city directories from 1858 to 1970, and can show you on maps every building that stood in Homestead in

1900 or in Oakland in 1923. Furthermore, the main room of this library is graced with antique furniture and historic art. But: the top of a cabinet is a surface on which paper can lie; a shelf unoccupied by books is ditto ditto; a floor is a surface on which cartons may be dumped, or American flags be strung out for inspection. Now and then there is a purge, every scrap compelled to justify its existence; but the jungle soon creeps back.

So it is, even in the reception area. Station Square traffic signs lean against a wall awaiting posting, book cartons stand three deep awaiting storage. Indeed, we are like an old warship, where even the flag officer's pilastered and paneled cabin includes the breech of a cannon among its furnishings. Not too deplorably, either: the best image of an office is one of work being gotten out. A lot of office managers would have the vapors at the spectacle we present, but those who know us best will understand.

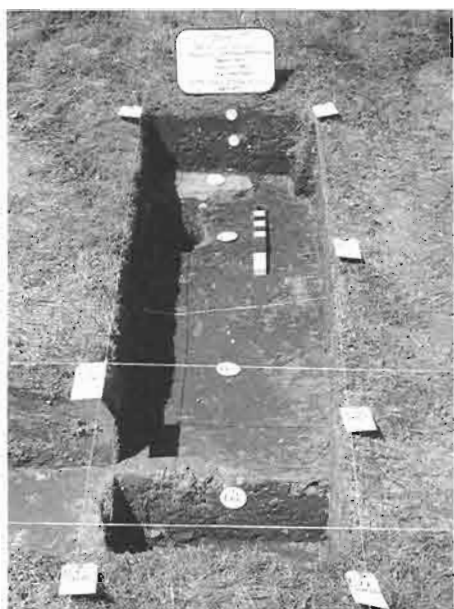
We are also a fairly individualistic group of people, collaborating as individual cases require but more or less in charge of our own types of activity and working our own hours. We are people, rather than job descriptions. For my part, I sometimes have to think of what my title is, and ask myself, Is that what I am? I am simply me, and seem to be accepted as such.

This seems a little casual, but after all Arthur and Louise have to face 73 directors twice a year with an articulated work plan, get it approved, and deliver. A quarter-century has gone by, and we are still here; indeed, I have the feeling that we have gotten ever more competent in our operations as time has passed. We have to be sure that we stay imaginative, know why we exist, understand what we could and should be doing and respond to a changing environment, and the fact that we are small, individualistic, and not too formal helps keep us fresh. ■





# Preservation Scene



## Neville House Dig

New archaeological work took place at "Woodville," the Neville House in Collier Township, in May. Ronald C. Carlisle, of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, directed the week's work. The dig revealed a hamlet of the Monongahela peoples, planters and hunters who lived in the area between 1000 and 1600 A.D. These remains are by no means the oldest found on the property; others dating as far back as 9000 B.C. have been found at "Woodville," and the Wrenshalls, last private owners, were already collecting Indian artifacts on the property in the 1860s.

## Lock House Adaptation

The No. 2 Lock House of c. 1905 on Neville Island is undergoing restoration and adaptation. The brick-and-stone building will contain a ground-floor restaurant (including, eventually, a banquet annex) and 6,000 square feet of office space on three levels including a new mezzanine. Completion date is unknown, but some time this fall seems likely.

## Historic Review Commission Awards

The City of Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission has given awards to architects and owners of the following buildings that stand in City Historic Districts or are City Landmarks:

- 27-28 Market Place: a new facade by Urban Design Associates in the Market Square Historic District.
- 435 Market Street: restoration of terra cotta and a new storefront by Steve Casey in the same District.
- 1312-22 Sheffield Street: design and construction of five infill housing units by Tom Mistick & Sons, Inc. in the Manchester Historic District (Landmarks' Preservation Fund offered technical assistance).
- Byers-Lyon house (Byers Hall, CCAC): restoration of a City Landmark at Ridge and Galveston Avenues by Hayes Large Suckling Fruth and Wedge.

## Syria Mosque

We understand that a study is under way to determine if Syria Mosque is to be sold, and there are rumors of its possible replacement by a hotel, office building, or parking garage. Syria Mosque itself is not one of our greatest works of architecture, but in its public role, its dimensions, and its taste, it fits very well into the Oakland Civic Center. Its site is no ordinary parcel of exploitable land, and whatever happens, it should not be treated as such.

## Shadyside Historic District

The nomination of western Shadyside as a City Historic District has passed its preliminary review by the Historic Review Commission, with informational meeting and public hearing to follow, probably in September. City Council, having received HRC recommendations, will probably decide on the matter in late October. In the meantime, proposed exterior work, including demolition, within the nominated area must have HRC approval.

The proposed District lies between Neville Street and Aiken Avenue, its main southern boundary being Fifth Avenue and its northern boundary being drawn so as to include all the Wallingford Street houses and everything south of the Busway and east of Amberson Gardens. The actual boundary is irregular, excluding some modern developments as well as the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Notable large buildings include the Church of Christ Scientist, Congregation Rodef Shalom, and the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, as well as houses from the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries. The controversial Walnut Street shopping area lies immediately to the east of and thus outside the proposed District boundary.

## St. Peter's, Oakland

A Development Committee, interested citizens and a Diocesan representative, has been formed to work out a means of saving the fabric if not the function of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oakland. This is a work of the well-known John Notman, and with its 1852 completion date the oldest church in Pittsburgh. The Diocese is determined to secularize the church in September regardless of what happens, and thus the question is one not only of commercial use of the land and/or buildings apart from the church buildings but of a new function, providing or receiving necessary financial support, for the church itself. The Historic Review Commission made a recommendation to City Council early in August for nomination of the church as a City Landmark.

## Priorities for the '90s

In response to a request from the Department of City Planning, Walter Kidney wrote this statement suggesting what the priorities of City Planning and the Historic Review Commission should be in the 1990s. It is an articulate statement, well worth sharing here with our members.

"Regarding Priorities for the Nineties these are *my* ideas: Study the character of the city as a whole, the things about it that create what is good and distinctive in the physical environment. Educate the public and those who design and build the environment in these things. Anticipate social and economic change and its implications for the environment. Attempt to guide change so that the new environment evolves from the best of the old and continues it. Hope for if you can, try for in any case, present-day architecture, planning, and development equal to any of the past so that the reactionary side of historic preservation will end. If we can face change with confidence, historic preservation can concentrate on its natural task, that of preserving buildings and other places specifically essential to the character and culture of the city."

## Fourth Avenue District Plaque

Landmarks has erected a special bronze plaque, on the Fourth Avenue front of the Union National Bank, to call attention to the Fourth Avenue National Register District. In these times, when the erection of a City Historic District and the possibility of a large new downtown mall are in question, calling attention to the historic character of the area is especially important. The plaque summarizes the history of this important financial district as well as the architectural styles and architects represented. The District extends unevenly between Forbes and Third Avenues, Smithfield Street to a point west of Wood Street, and includes both block fronts on Fourth Avenue between Smithfield and Wood.



## Lawrence Paint

The Lawrence Paint Building, at the western end of Station Square, has received a new roof, gutter and downspout system, and brick pointing to maintain it until a new use can be found. It is a strong, capacious building on historic ground, a future anchor to a major and very distinctive development, and planning is underway.

## Fund Raiser for Library

On June 29 a concert by the River City Brass Band was held in the music hall of the Carnegie Library of Homestead. Underwritten by a grant from the Allegheny Foundation, the concert was the first benefit for the Library, whose 90-year support by USX and its predecessors ended last year. Four hundred fifty attended the reception and concert. The River City Brass Band rehearses in the concert hall twice weekly, and thus knows and values the space. The Library hopes that such benefits will be annual events. Landmarks assisted in arranging the event, and many of our members attended.



Brighton Place



901-05 Western Avenue

## Preservation Fund Activity

No new Preservation Fund projects are ready for announcement, but there is news to report on projects in progress. On July 18, the Historic Review Commission gave its approval to the half-million-dollar project at 901-05 Western Avenue. This commercial conversion of three 1850-period buildings, originally houses, was begun with an \$80,000 loan from Landmarks' Preservation Fund. The house rehabilitations at 1300-09 Pennsylvania Avenue, benefiting early from a Fund loan guarantee, have received a HUD award for both affordability and good design. Landmarks Design Associates were design consultants. At Brighton Place, the Fund will lend the Northside Tenants Reorganization a further \$155,000 to leverage a total of \$4.1 million for the Brighton Place Housing Development, 44 units in 30 rehabilitated buildings. At Alequippa Place, two of the eight four-unit buildings under rehabilitation were opened at the beginning of June, and are rented. Fund loans for 1009 Manhattan, 1256-58 Decatur, and 1311 North Franklin Streets have been repaid. Call Stanley Lowe at Landmarks (471-5808) for further details.

## Allegheny West: a City District?

On June 2, the greater part of Allegheny West was nominated as a City Historic District, using a boundary similar to but not identical with that of the National Register District. The boundary extends north far enough to include the North Avenue houses opposite Emmanuel Church and southward to include the Byers-Lyon and Chalfant houses. The extreme west and east boundaries are Allegheny Avenue and Brighton Road. The nomination is likely to meet with opposition, but the staff of the Historic Review Commission has recommended creation of the District. City Council's approval is ultimately necessary.

## Bicentennial Trees

*Bicentennial Trees of Allegheny County* is now available. This is a catalogue of all trees in the county known to be at least 200 years old. The Bicentennial Tree Committee, of which Landmarks' landscape supervisor Richard Liberto was a member, found some 200 such trees, the oldest being a 398-year-old white ash in Mount Lebanon. The catalogue is illustrated, and offers basic information about each tree, including its location and age. Copies cost \$5.50, and can be ordered from the Bicentennial Commission, 441 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.



Trustees, staff, and friends of Landmarks join J. Jackson Walter (left) after the news conference on June 27.

## Steel Industry Heritage Task Force

### Good, Bad, Good News

The Steel Industry Heritage Task Force received strong support at a news conference called by Senator H.J. Heinz on June 27th, at the Carrie Furnaces site in Swissvale. Joining Senator Heinz to call for the preservation of the Carrie Furnaces and the Pinkerton Landing site and associated buildings were J. Jackson Walter, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Dr. Brent Glass, State Historic Preservation Officer for Pennsylvania, Mike Bilcsik, former steelworker and Task Force Steering Committee member, and Jo Harper, Task Force Chairperson.

Senator Heinz, who secured initial funding to support Task Force planning efforts, reconfirmed his view of the significance of this preservation project and pledged his support to obtain continued federal support.

J. Jackson Walter stated, "These industrial sites illustrate events in the history of American labor that hold national significance. The steel industry has shaped the lives of our citizens and the outline of cities for generations."

However, the spirit of the occasion was dampened somewhat by the fresh memory of recent fire which had destroyed one building the Task Force had been attempting to preserve on the Homestead Works.

On the budget front, although the \$660,000 requested of Congress for fiscal year 1990 to support Task Force planning had not been included in the House version of the budget, Senator Heinz was successful in adding \$535,000 to the budget during Senate consideration. Other funding possibilities include a Pennsylvania state budget line item allocating \$550,000 for Heritage Park Planning.







## Membership SURVEY

Just who is a member of Landmarks?  
Please help us plan for the future and  
meet the needs of our members by com-  
pleting the survey form below.

What is your membership category?

- Individual ☐  
Family ☐  
School/Non-Profit ☐  
Senior Citizen ☐  
Corporate ☐  
Life Benefactor ☐

What age are you?

- under twenty ☐  
20-30 ☐  
30-50 ☐  
over 50 ☐

How many children under the age of 16  
do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

(Please give their names and ages)

Please state your occupation.

What is the range of your family income?

- under \$20,000 ☐  
\$30,000-60,000 ☐  
over \$60,000 ☐

Please list the names of other historical  
societies of which you are a member  
(such as the National Trust, Smithsoni-  
an, or Historical Society of Western  
Pennsylvania).

What prompted you to join Landmarks?

Have you ever attended any of our tours?

How do you hear about our events:

- newsletter ☐  
special tour cards ☐  
ads in *ALL ABOARD* ☐  
another member ☐  
newspaper feature stories ☐

What kinds of events would you like us  
to have in 1990?

- family programs ☐ yes  
adult education/architecture  
& history ☐ yes  
local architectural tours ☐ yes  
tours to other cities ☐ yes

Please give us your ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you buy our books? ☐ yes ☐ no

Do you patronize the Cornerstone?  
☐ yes ☐ no

Does our newsletter give you enough  
information on the work we do?

- ☐ yes ☐ no

Suggest any other information we should  
include in the newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_

What do you see as our priorities as the  
preservation organization serving Al-  
legheny County?

Thank you for taking the time to com-  
plete this form. Please mail it to Diane  
DeNardo at Landmarks.

## Pittsburgh Heritage & HANDS-ON-HISTORY

This summer, Landmarks offered  
two courses featuring the history  
and architecture of the Pittsburgh  
region to elementary and secondary  
teachers. Sue Neff taught the  
*Pittsburgh Heritage* course to 24  
teachers and Susan Donley taught  
*Hands-On History: An Introduction  
to Classroom Methods in Local  
History Research* to 18 teachers.

*Pittsburgh Heritage* participants  
toured the Mexican War Streets,  
McKees Rocks, the Golden Tri-  
angle, and Station Square. Slide  
shows, lectures, and art activities  
filled the eight days. The teachers  
built bridges, sketched buildings,  
built origami paper-folded houses,  
made books, and created a mural  
of block-print buildings. By the end  
of the course, teachers had gained  
an appreciation of Pittsburgh's his-  
tory and architecture and were  
equipped with skills and project  
ideas that they could use to enrich  
classroom study in the fall.

The *Hands-On History* course  
combined lectures by noted Pitts-  
burgh scholars and educators with  
hands-on workshops and field  
trips. Teachers developed the skills  
of a "detective" so they could  
explore the local community with  
their students. They discussed  
archival materials and statistical  
data; oral history techniques and  
folklore; and artifacts, architecture,  
the landscape, and photographs.

Both courses will again be  
offered next summer. Call Diane  
DeNardo (471-5808) at Landmarks  
for details.

