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-president, 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 77 trustees, an office staff of 13, and a grounds crew of 11, as well as 25 tours, 82 docents, and 85 volunteers. We publish a quarterly eight-page newsletter, and, in general, one book a year. Our docents and staff offer about 50 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 spent $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.

Order form


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Name

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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.
Welcome New Members

Ms. Jan Ackerman  
H.E. Brockett III & Family  
Ms. Wills M. Dunn  
Frederick Flugger  
Mrs. Simonne Gable  
Mr. & Mrs. John Goodnight & Family  
Gregory L. Jones  
Dr. Daiz L & Von E Keisner  
Warren R. Kister  
Ms. Lois M. Kost  
Ms. Patricia A. Leibhart  

Ms. Margerie A. Mayhall  
Joel D. Misko  
Ms. Nancy Davis-Peck & Family  
Ms. Rea Reiter  
Mrs. Marie Studebaker  
Jerry Stanfield  
Amy F. Strong & 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 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. Interesting elementary and secondary teachers may contact the Allegheny Intermediary Unit at 396-5761.

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 tour up to train new Portable Pittsburgh docents. Weekly museum sessions from September through November will prepare docents to present our boxes full of Pittsburgh history to area schools. Docents will be like to come out of 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 15th framing the Rachel Carson Homestead in Sprague and the Burnett House in Nantona 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 Iwwe 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 Arendsberg will be presented with the first copy of our anniversary publication titled A Place 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 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, 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 13th.

Sunday, December 3 2:45 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

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 to offer them a free 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 you start, 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 Restaurants; 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.

Donations

Landmarks wishes to thank the following for their donations:

• Charles Burnham, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a wedding cake 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 Photogruphy.
• 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 (681-5333) 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 Lawrenceville 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.

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 make 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 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 sloped 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.

(Continued on page 2)
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-acre, now-trail railroad property, and more riverfront property all the way from the Fort Pitt 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 unloved and neglected part of the city, is now a thriving specialty center visited by millions of Americans who eat and drink in the 605-station, ride the boats on the river, look in 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 unique ways to the Sheraton Hotel that Landmarks is planning a friendly competition 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 inelastic 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. Minipal, a park and marina are planned for Lawrenceville to regenerate some use of the river after the years since Queen Allegheny and Allegheny River fell in on that cold night in December 1756. Landmarks has planned for Lawrenceville, except in the restoration effort at Allegheny Cemetery and in its ride-study of Allegheny Square in the City Scale program of 1977.

5. The Neill Log House in Schenley Station
The Union Trust Building
This elegant Flemish Gothic structure at one time narrowly escaped demolition. Then it became “Melton Bank Center Number Two.” Restored to pristine splendor by Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates with help from Ellis Schmiddles and Landmarks Design Associates, it has even regained its old name of the Union Trust Building.

8. The Walker-Ewing Log House
This 1870 log house in Collier Township is a 1964 historic district that we had sensed a re-emergent interest in for 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.

9. Liverpool Street and Manchester
Liverpool Street together with the Lawrenceville 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, the house, and it is our hope that, through the Schenley Park Centennial Restoration Committee, the house can be opened again for tours.

10. Presley Neville House
We bought the ancient Presley Neville house—“Woodville” and restored it to 18th-century authenticity with the leadership of Arno Center of the Neville House Auxiliary and the Colonial Dames of America and Betsy Marton of the Neville House Auxiliary. For the first time in its 200-year history, the National Historic Landmarks 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 Wohler, 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 Flibbert, enthusiastic patron. 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 221 back to its Richardsonian elegance, and last September, Landmarks released James Van Trump’s masterpiece of the Law, The Court House of Allegheny County which documents the building of Richardson’s Courthouse. At present, Arthur Zinger is chairing a committee to advise on other repairs and restorations of the Court House. While Judge Col- lings is inveighing against the Jail’s overcrowding and even threatening it must be closed, we assume (and hope) he is not spoiling architecturally in any event!

Only the hillside houses, which I referred to in my article of 1974, have escaped our attention. But there is now a movement to develop historically the whole of the Pittsburgh hillsides, and they may enjoy greater occupancy, on the whole, than did our condominium buildings.

Other things have been happening over the 23 years since 1964, too. Louise Ferguson and our education staff have been educating children about Pittsburgh architecture with good help from the Crucible Worthington Beneficial Foundation and other private foundations, but the largest success has been the successful and friendly housing and building problems through our revolving fund. Mary Lu Denny and our directors have been conducting tours primarily in the Pittsburgh area, featuring the city’s history, architecture, and present-day significance. Walter Kennedy and Earl James have been working in the library and out in the field. Earl has his job cut out in both his own Reweed 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. Hott, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988.
The Beginnings

ARTHUR P. ZIEGLER, JR.

Twenty-five years ago Jamie Van Trump and I were leaving our Pittsburgh office where we pubished Charitable 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 part 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, “Gayton.”

That same week Helen Clay Frick had invited her long-time friend Jamie to dinner, and as they talked about historic Pittsburgh, she sometimes 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 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 ask 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 demolitions 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. Our Park was gone along with Bogen 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 making it and developing a ribbon highway 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 astonished 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 been destructive of our architectural heritage but brought great disruption to the lives of thousands of people. We worked for public participation and support for the retention of these neighborhoods and buildings.

Our fledgling organization 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 country-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 we can look back on it with 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 stomach ailments 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 Hofflot and Charlie Armstrong 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 Tour were instrumental in creating a supportive community atmosphere. Three cheers for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

The Mexican
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 Armstrong and Arthur Ziegler, developed a course of action and strategy. As I recall, a group effort was 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 proposing 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, but 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 was not 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."

The Mexican
Resaca, restored.

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 walked 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 up on him on the sidewalk.

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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 Armstrong and Arthur Ziegler, developed a course of action and strategy. As I recall, a group effort was 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 proposing 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, but 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 was not 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."

The Mexican
Resaca, restored.
Station Square

ARTHUR P. ZIEGLER, JR.

Station Square is 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-side 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 businesspeople 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 building, the Homewood trolley barns, the Pittsburgh National Bank, the & Lake Erie Railroad terminal building, and the railroad had over 40 acres under its control. We were not at all confident, we gave our drawings to them, released our options, and began to look for another project. Then in the meantime shrank our original concept and development 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. Then in the meantime shrank our original concept and developed a project to be known later as the Bank Center. That Richard Scacle wanted a lively public space in Pittsburgh featuring retail and restaurant buildings, finally surging 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 building, using the arcades as the main building and principal feature. A redbrick document building on the corner of Forbes and Wood would be demolished for a small entrance park.

A bout the time that we were looking at this project, I received a call from Donald Collins at the Allegheny Foundation, a Stölte family trust, in which he said that the principals of the Foundation wondered why we hadn’t something like a Ghirardelli Square in Pittsburgh. “What are you doing about it?” Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco was one of the earliest mixed-use projects in historic buildings in the country. In the past, Scacle family funds had frequently been the first contributors to pioneering work that Landmarks wanted to undertake, including our own studies in Manchester, the Manchester 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. Then in the meantime shrank our original concept and developed a project to be known later as the Bank Center. That Richard Scacle wanted a lively public space in Pittsburgh featuring retail and restaurants, as well as architecture 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 had 40 acres under its control with no mortgage on its property, all located along the Monongahela River with a wonderful view of the skyline of the city. I also realized that no one had 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 street space, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, and other visual concerns and see what validity they had.

Unfortunately the railroad would not negotiate with Landmarks, feeling that they did not have business stability. Only by talking Scacle 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 increased as development went on. The Allegheny Foundation funded the initial studies, amounting to 75,000. 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 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.

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" I get to, but for the lectures and reunions 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 Flotron Building. I am at once held an ice cream parlor, I understand, at least one doorway was surrounded with ice 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 existing for customers. So I felt that we should show what we could do to add to the improvement. I invited 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 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 we 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 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 a bandstand (we all dream to have down-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 Bond 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 Flotron Building.
When I got to the office she told me a lecture was made to give a reception at the building and the site. I was given a lady’s board had decided to give a reception at the building and the site. I was given a lady’s words to make me fade into the woodwork. She said it was for a group of Girl Scouts who had been given an essay on the aesthetic of Architect and had no one there to give me a close-up, let alone operated it, and I had never been a lecturer (except to my children). She said she was a group of Girl Scouts and kept saying “I know you can do it.” She also told the slides were of Pittsburgh — no problem! When I walked into the room I realized it was a Tri-State Conference and even the National President of the Girl Scouts was there! I was sweating butterflies 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 logacious about SEAT — 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 in 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 in the site there was a lecture hung ridinghabit, some baby clothes, shawls, pictures, and other objects to set up small display stands 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 also had to do some cleaning up — not too much, as Arthur wanted the guests to see just how much was needed to 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 me. Stairways hanging from the walls, bricks, mortar, jumbles of assorted benches, doors, boxes, and junk plates, all deep 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 Besace 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 sold 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!
Shadyside Historic District

The nomination of western Shadyside as a City Historic District has passed its first public hearing by the Historic Review Commission, which was held in September. The nomination aims to protect the historic character of the neighborhood, which includes significant examples of Victorian architecture.

Preservation Scene

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**Membership Survey**

Just who is a member of Landmarks?

Please help us plan for the future and meet the needs of our members by completing 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)

State your occupation.

What is the range of your family income?
- under $20,000
- $20,000-40,000
- over $60,000

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 programs would you like us to have in 1990?
- Family programs
- Adult education/Architecture & History
- Local architectural tours
- Tours to other cities

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 Allegheny County?

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

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**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 Triangle, 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 history 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 Pittsburgh 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.