

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170

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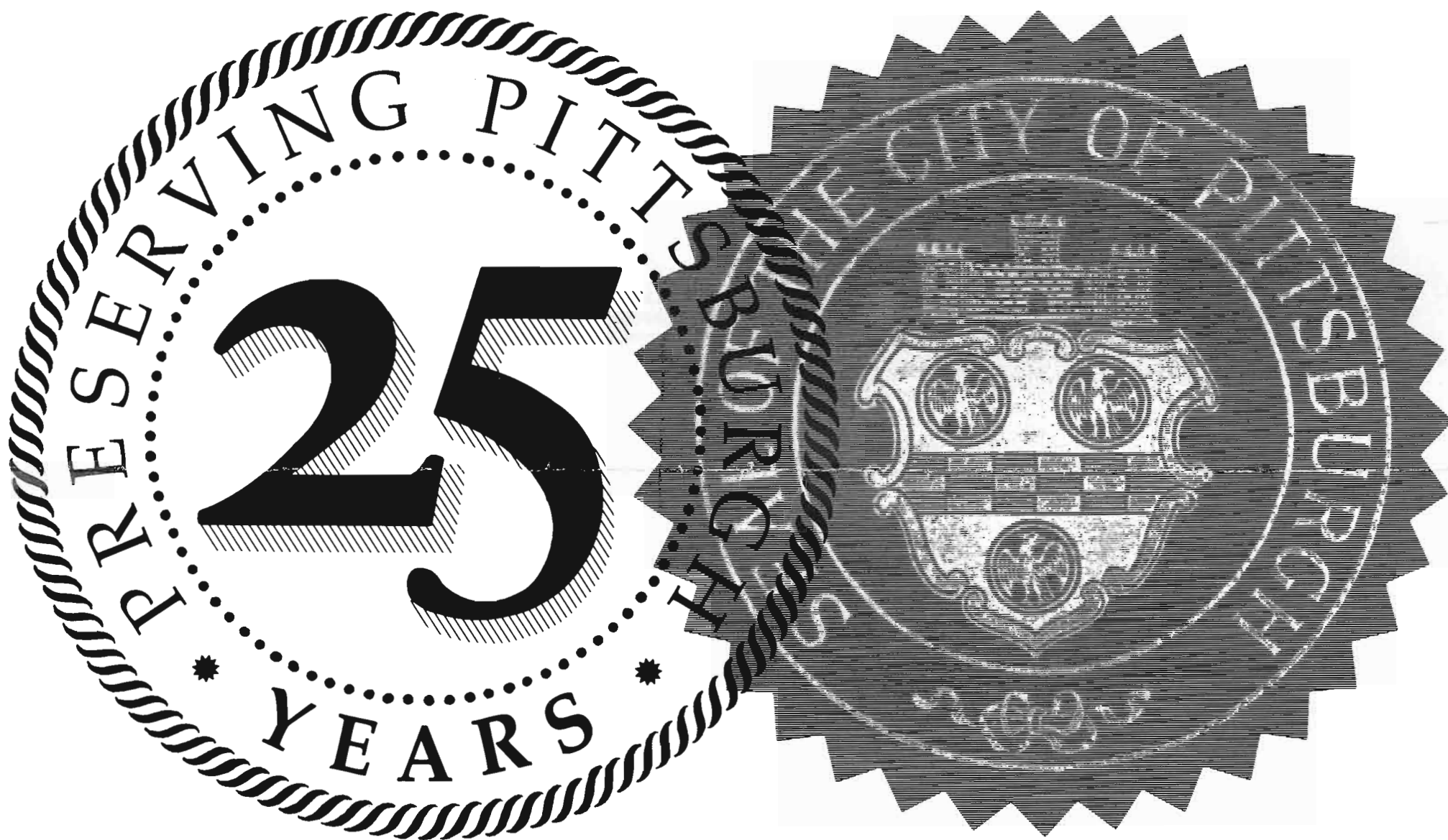
Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 112

Winter 1989-90

- 1989 Highlights
- In the Beginning
- Into the 26th Year
- Preservation Scene

NEWS



Whereas, in 1964 James D. Van Trump and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., while walking along Liverpool Street in Manchester, became anxious about urban renewal and conceived the idea of forming an historic preservation organization to serve Pittsburgh and Allegheny County; and,

Whereas, upon its incorporation on September 30, 1964, the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation established its goals as developing planning and preservation proposals, suggesting legislation, purchasing buildings for restoration and providing publications, tours, lectures and publicity, and, Landmarks has succeeded in accomplishing all of its goals and more; and,

Whereas, in addition to its reincarnation of Station Square and its renowned preservation efforts in Manchester and the Mexican War Streets, Landmarks has fought for the

Resolution

Councilman Mark H. Pollock sponsored a City Council resolution in November praising the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation for 25 years of work. The resolution reads as follows:

preservation of the Courthouse and Jail, Motor Square Garden, the Pennsylvanian, the E&O Brewery, the Braddock Carnegie Library and the Carson Street business district on the South Side; and,

Whereas, the long arm of Landmarks has extended from Allentown to the Mexican War Streets, from Schenley Park to Station Square, from Manchester to Braddock, from South Side to Springdale, from Manchester to Polish Hill and from Collier to Lawrenceville; and,

Whereas, Landmarks' greatest contribution has been its ability to raise the consciousness of the people of Pittsburgh regarding the richness, beauty and significance of its history and how preserving that history ensures a more desirable and livable future.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby thanks, congratulates and commends the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and especially its Co-Founders, Charles Covert

Arensberg, Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. and James D. Van Trump, for their 25 exciting and successful years of work in, and commitment to, the City of Pittsburgh and the County of Allegheny.

Be it further resolved, that the Council implores Landmarks to keep alive for future generations the cherished memories of the region's unique and bountiful past.

In Council November 21, 1989, read and adopted.

Eugene P. DePasquale
President Pro-Tempore

Attest:
Michael Perry
Clerk of Council

Presented by Councilman
Mark H. Pollock

1989 New Members

We are pleased to recognize the following new members who joined Landmarks in this, our twenty-fifth anniversary year. We are grateful to have their membership support and look forward to their participation in our preservation activities and educational programs.

Ms. Jan Ackerman
Mrs. W.C. Adams
Dr. Siamak A. Adibi & Family
Ms. Marcia B. Agnelly
Allegheny West Merchants Association
Armstrong Group of Companies
Arts in the Parks
Jeffrey Auld
Peter S. Austin

Ms. Audrey Bachman
Ms. Joanne B. Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Barcellino
Thomas J. Barefoot Jr. & Family
David Baumbach
W.J. Baumgarten
Ms. Sonja K. Bayly
William J. Belardi
Ms. Beth B. Benckart
Ms. Marsha Berger, A.I.A.
Bernie Bernadowski
Michael J. Bernard
Vic Bertolina
Ms. Rosemary Beynon
Ms. Christine A. Bishop
Mrs. Henry V. Blaxter, Jr.
Eric J. Block
Ms. Muriel Bohn
Ms. Elizabeth Booker
Robert A. Boyer
David M. Brashear
Neal R. Brendel & Family
H.E. Broadbent III & Family
William Brocius
Judge John G. Brosky
Ms. Elaine Brown
F.H. Brown & Family
Burchfield School Parents Association
Ms. Maureen A. Butler
Ms. Josephine Butz

Ms. Catherine Callagher
Ms. Anne S. Camic
Thomas P. Campbell
Peter J. Caruso & Sons
Ms. Erika Cayton
Ms. Marie B. Cellier
Central Christian Academy
Stanley R. Cleva
Mr. & Mrs. James Colker
Albert S. Conti & Family
Ms. Doris J. Crawford
Mrs. Frank Csuk
Mr. & Mrs. Louis A. Cutter & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Louis E. Dalverny & Family
John Hunter Dane
Mr. & Mrs. S.A. Davis
The Hon. Michael M. Dawida
Mr. & Mrs. Howard E. Dean
Ms. Cindy Delaney
H.B. Dickensheets
Mr. & Mrs. Paul K. Dodworth, Jr.
Ms. Ann Dom
Ms. Willa M. Dunn
Duquesne Catholic School

William J. Ebersole, Jr.
Ms. Thelma Ryan Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. John Eld & Family
Harold A. Emery
Equimark Corporation
James Russell Etter
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Evancheck & Family
Stephen J. Evans
Ms. Christina Eureka

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Faberman & Family
Donald K. Felsing
Finley Middle School PTA
The Hon. D. Michael Fisher
Ms. Dorothy J. Florence
Fredrich Flugger
Dr. William R. Fortner
Mr. & Mrs. Mark D. Freier
John C. Fussenegger

Mrs. Simone Gabel
Ms. Louise Galayda
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gard & Family
Ms. Pat Gill
Sanford Gold
Ms. Mary Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. John Goodnight & Family
Ms. M. Kathleen Gray
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Greer & Family
Charles W. Gregor & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Louis P. Greulich
Miss Dorothy M. Grimm
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Grosscup
Ms. Nancy K. Grote
H. Yale Gutnick

The Hon. Barbara Hafer
Mrs. Ethel Hagler & Family
Ms. Gretchen Haller
Byron Harriger
Mrs. Marilyn S. Harrison
Mrs. Esther D. Hartman
Mrs. Malcolm Hay
Mrs. William G. Heiner
Mr. & Mrs. Benson G. Henderson
Mrs. Paul Henry
Ms. Tina Herman
Ms. Lois G. Hertz
Mr. & Mrs. George Herwig & Family
W.H. Hollinshead
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Houston
Ms. Peggy Huber
Carl Hughes
Ms. Rebecca Humphrey

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Imbriglia & Family
R. Imperato
Ms. Linda Indovina

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Jarrell & Family
Ms. Barbara J. Jenkins
Ms. Elizabeth K. Johnson
Ms. Gwynne Jones & Family
Gregory J. Joyce

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Katarincic
Mr. & Mrs. Michael S. Katz
Ms. Nan K. Kaufman
Doctors Dale L. & Von E. Keairns & Family
Ms. Sandi Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Ketter
Mrs. James H. Knowles
Ms. Lois M. Kost
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Kramer
Rudy M. Kuchta

Harry D. LeClere & Family
Ms. Patricia A. Leiphart
Lawrence Levine
M.J. Levine
Ms. Judith Lewis
Liberty Elementary School
Ms. Dorothy A. Lindner
Ms. P.C. Locotos
Roy Lubove
Joe Luciana
Ms. Marie K. Luckman
William D. Luft
Ms. Florence K. Lunt

David R. Majka
Mrs. Marge Malaskovitz
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard S. Mars & Family
Christopher H. Marston
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Ms. Ruth McCartan-Morley
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Ms. Grace H. McConnel
Richard H. McCoy & Family
R.B. McCune
John McDonald
Ms. Glenna McElhone
Ronald C. McEwen
James M. McLaughlin
Ms. Jane E. McMullen
Ms. Kathryn Rogulin Meinzer
Mrs. Edith M. Mellon
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Merrick
Ms. Judith A. Merritt
John T. Metzger
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Ms. Barbara H. Mihalke
Ms. Constance Watters Miles
Mrs. W. McCook Miller
John A. Mills III
Joel D. Mlecko
Jim Mong
Ms. Jacqueline Morice
Ms. Margie Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Mounts & Family
Ms. Charlotte A. Murray
Mrs. Marie Murray

Dr. & Mrs. Conrad F. Nagel III & Family
Ronald J. Nardozzi
Ms. Judy Norbutt
Northgate School District
Ms. Gladys T. Nothmann
Ms. Margaret Nutt

Ms. Linda J. Ocepek
William R. Oliver
Dr. Karen Smith Ombres
Mr. & Mrs. George P. O'Neil
Ms. Anne Marie O'Toole

Mrs. Esther Y. Palkovitz
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Panza & Family
Ms. Betty Lou Parke
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pearlman & Family
Robert B. Pease & Family
Ms. Barbara Pelkington
Ms. Kathy Petty
Ms. Carolyn Pfatteicher
Ms. Virginia F. Pitts
Henry Posner III
Martin Posner
E.J. Powell
Richard Price
Ms. Carol Prorok
Ms. Mary Ann Provenza
Ms. Nancy Davis Pryce & Family

Ms. Eileen I. Quigley
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew R. Quinn & Family

Ms. Joan L. Rastetter
Ms. Judith A. Rearick
Ms. Jan Cook Reicher
Ms. Bea Rettger
Mrs. Gleyne Richards
William M. Robinson
Ms. Margaret Rothfuss & Family
Ms. Ruth J. Rowbottom
Edmund S. Ruffin III
Edwin Ruh, Jr.
Ms. Cynthia J. Russell
Mrs. C.W. Ruzzini

Tom Sadd
St. Teresa of Avila School
Mrs. Lois Scherder
Ms. Blanche Schiller
Ms. Janet E. Schlarb
George C. Schmidt III
Ms. Melinda Schnap
C.P. Schneider
School House Arts Center
R. Stewart Scott & Family
Joseph Serrao
Ms. Helen M. Shields
Ms. Kate Banov Silverman
Mrs. Helen E. Singer
Ms. Susan Singer
John A. Sluganski
Ms. Helen V. Smith
Mrs. Richard C. Smith
Ms. Catherine Snyder
Mrs. Marie Snyder
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Robert L. Stefancic
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Mrs. Nancy B. Stewart
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Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Tallerico
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Ms. Louise F. Wells
Fred Wickstrom
David E. Willard
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Willison
Ms. Mary Lou Wilson
Winchester-Thurston School
Ms. Sara M. Winokur
Daniel A. Winters & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce M. Wolf & Family
Ms. Gloria K. Wolak
Mrs. Thomas A. Woodward
Ms. Pat Wooten

Ms. Debra Young
Mrs. Norman F. Yount

Bill Zain
Mrs. James C. Zankel
John L. Zavodnick
Jack R. Zierden



The Virgin Mary and the Croatians: apse painting by Maximilian Vanka at St. Nicholas, Millvale.

Trustees' Silver Anniversary Fund

This year, the following trustees made a special contribution to Landmarks' Silver Anniversary Fund. At the board of trustees meeting on November 3, 1989, the trustees unanimously agreed to contribute the proceeds of the Silver Anniversary Fund to help fund the writing, photography, and publication of a major book documenting the significant religious architecture of Pittsburgh. Walter Kidney and photographer Clyde Hare have been working on the publication for several months that will feature 60 churches and temples in the Pittsburgh region. The publication was planned in conjunction with WQED-TV's documentary "Holy Pittsburgh," which was most recently broadcast on December 13.

Charles Covert Arensberg
Clifford A. Barton
Mrs. Jeanne B. Berdik
Mark Stephen Bibro
Mrs. Kenneth S. Boesel
Charles H. Booth, Jr.
Mrs. Susan E. Brandt
Anthony J.A. Bryan
Donald C. Burnham
Mrs. Guy Burrell
C. Dana Chalfant, Sr.
Mrs. James H. Childs, Jr.

John P. Davis, Jr.
Arthur J. Edmunds
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Edwards
Mrs. Leonore R. Elkus
Mrs. David L. Genter
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Thomas O. Hornstein
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Robert F. Patton
Mrs. Evelyn B. Pearson
Mrs. Nathan W. Pearson
Mrs. Sidney Ruffin
Richard M. Scaife
Mrs. Steven J. Smith
G. Whitney Snyder
William E. Strickland, Jr.
Congressman Doug Walgren
Mrs. Robert Wardrop
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Winokur

Gifts

Landmarks wishes to thank the following for their generous gifts:
• Barbara D. Hoffstot, of Shadyside, for 105 architectural books and periodical issues;
• Maggie McPhearson, of the J.R. Weldin Co., for a world map;
• Mary M. Maziotti, of Lawrenceville, for a photograph of downtown Pittsburgh in the flood of 1942;
• Edith M. Mellon, of Penn Hills, for four Nixon Theatre programs;
• Charles Burlingham, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a wedding cape of c. 1880.
• Howard V. Worley, Jr., of Brentwood, for a copy of Worley and Poellot, *The Pittsburgh & Western Virginia Railway*.

Landmarks is interested in photographs, prints, maps, books, periodicals, and other records of Allegheny County's architecture, engineering, settlement, planning, industry, and transportation, well as in art and literature by those from the Pittsburgh area. Furniture, genealogical documents, personal memorabilia, costumes, etc. are best offered to other institutions.

Charitable Fund Established

It is with deep appreciation that we thank Thomas O. Hornstein, trustee of Landmarks who has established a charitable fund at the Pittsburgh Foundation from which he will make grants from time to time to Landmarks.

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

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. Presid
Louise King Ferguson Editor/Executive Direc
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Walter C. Kidney Architectural Historian and Archi
Stanley A. Lowe Director of the Preservation Fu
Susan K. Donley Education Consult
Greg Pytlik Desig

1989 Highlights

Very briefly, we are highlighting what our program staff of eight accomplished this year with the support and involvement of our trustees and members.

Through the Preservation Fund we extended five loans totaling \$680,000 to various neighborhood groups, making possible the restoration of 82 housing units. In addition, Landmarks contributed \$400 so that the North Side Tenants Reorganization could charter a bus and travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with HUD secretary Jack Kemp, Senator John Heinz, and Congressman William Coyne to discuss the Brighton Place low-income housing project. We also provided loans and on-going technical assistance to projects supported in previous years such as Allequippa Place, the E&O



Brewery, and St. Mary's Priory, and to the 21 Union National Bank/Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group neighborhood organizations.

Major preservation issues for our staff this year centered on the Courthouse and Jail, Fourth

Avenue District, endangered religious properties, and the City's historic preservation ordinance.

The Hands-On History Festival on April 15 kicked off our education agenda. More than 1,000 students, teachers, and visitors attended. Thirty-one schools submitted projects and 84 students made bridges. During 1989, our docents led nine membership tours and 75 private group tours, presented 24 slide lectures, and offered 196 sessions of *Portable Pittsburgh* to area schools. Sixty-seven teachers participated in three inservices and 25 students were "apprentices in architecture." Most importantly, we were successful in augmenting our Revolving Fund for Education by \$170,000, thanks to two major grants.

Torrence M. Hunt, president of the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association and a trustee of Landmarks, and Charles C. Arensberg, vice-president of ACHA and chairman of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation: at the presentation of Landmarks' plaque to the Cemetery in 1989.



One of the oldest houses in Homestead (left). The Pennsylvania station of 1907 (below). Workers' row houses in West Homestead (bottom). These photos were taken as part of our Homestead survey.



In honor of our twenty-fifth anniversary we published *A Past Still Alive* and a special PHLF News supplement of memoirs; WTAE-TV and WPXI-TV created television features on our work; the Spanierman Gallery of New York City hosted a benefit reception of Gorson paintings; and we hosted an anniversary neighborhood tour and champagne reception.

As a member of the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force we helped secure \$350,000 in federal funds to support formal studies of selected historic sites in Allegheny County, and \$535,000 in appropriations for 1990. Our Preservation Fund recently loaned the Task Force \$25,000 towards a total of \$75,000 required to relocate the 48-inch universal rolling mill of 1898 so that it can be preserved on the Homestead site.

Some "miscellaneous" work of note:

- Five artifacts were placed on the Riverside Industrial Walk.
- National Register nominations were completed for Homestead and the Compass Inn in Laughlinton.
- Owners of 10 houses by Peter Berndtson were awarded special plaques, and seven historic properties received our Historic Landmark plaques.
- The living room and dining room were redecorated in the Neville House, which opened for public tours in June.
- A new membership brochure and accompanying literature was printed, and a membership campaign was launched.
- The November antiques show was our most successful ever; and this event, followed by our December 30 ethnic church tour planned in conjunction with WQED-TV's "Holy Pittsburgh," brought our twenty-fifth year to a memorable conclusion. ■



Two beneficiaries of the Preservation Fund in 1989: infill housing on Sheffield Street (above) and Carrie Furnaces (below).



At the 1989 Hands-On History Festival: two participants and a mural (left); Whitney Snyder offers vintage car rides (above).





On the balcony of the Old Post Office Museum in the early 1970s: Charles Arensberg, Jud Brooks, Barbara Hoffstot, Arthur Ziegler, John Dencler, Chester Le Maistre, and James Van Trump.

In the Beginning

Barbara Hoffstot

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was founded in Stouffer's Restaurant, on Craig Street in Oakland, in 1964. If we had known to what heights and distinction the organization would rise, we might have chosen a more prestigious place. On the other hand, isn't it lucky we didn't meet in some saloon of low repute?



Charles C. Arensberg, Chairman

Jamie Van Trump asked me to meet Arthur Ziegler in order to do something to aid Pittsburgh: it was all that vague. I had known Jamie over many years, while he was working on Mrs. Roy Hunt's collection of botanical books and prints. As he rambled over Pittsburgh collecting lore, all who knew Jamie came to look upon him as a walking encyclopedia. He informed me that Arthur was teaching and helping to publish a Pittsburgh-based architectural magazine. My credentials in preservation were as a trustee of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I went along to this luncheon to find out what these two had to say about Pittsburgh. I admit that, at this time, I had not turned my eyes on city preservation.

They certainly had a lot of ideas; I was impressed. Three ideas were of immediate importance: to survey the entire city and publish a survey book, to preserve rather than demolish North Side, and to gather together a select group of important citizens who could help us with work or money to start the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The three of us staged a command-performance cocktail party at the H-Y-P Club, and believe me, "staged" is the right word. We plied some 75 important-to-us people with good beverages and exhorted them to rise to the defense of our city by helping us. Charley Arensberg, our selection for leading us, was then and there carried away with enthusiasm and, bless him, is still carried away with enthusiasm. Never since has the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation been so weak and vulnerable as in those early days when Jamie, Arthur, Charlie and I were the spokesmen for the organization.

But back to the discussion about the city-wide survey. "Great Scott, do you mean for us to look at every building on every street?" "Absolutely." "But we'll need some help," having no idea on how to raise the troops. I then asked how the survey was to be paid for, as well as the cost of publishing the survey book. Both of them, facing me and continuing to stare solemnly at me, stated in almost identical words, "We thought you would know where to find the money." At last I knew why I had been invited to lunch!

Wildly casting around for an answer, I weakly said, "Well, I know Adolph Schmidt." Well known in Pittsburgh over many years for his civic activities and for guiding the Andrew Mellon Educational and Charitable Foundation, Adolph is largely unknown for having written the criteria of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In the 1960s, the National Trust was growing by leaps and bounds but spilling rather messily in various directions. There was a need to state firm and positive guidelines and aims. It fell to Adolph to grasp the essentials, discard the unneces-



The Triangle Building

sary, and write it all coherently. It was Adolph Schmidt, then, who charted the course of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Pushed as I was by Jamie and Arthur, there was no backing off or even breathing time allowed to me for further consideration. Adolph graciously agreed to see me in his office, high up in the Mellon-US Steel Building. I was somewhat intimidated, as dealing with business chiefs in their lairs was no ordinary matter for me. Adolph listened, considered my proposal and request for what seemed to me a considerable time, and finally said, "All right, I'll give you the money although I would not ordinarily give this proposal a high priority." I burst out laughing; what a triumph and what a putdown to receive! But I quite understood, for at that time Adolph was the chairman of a United Nations committee on world population, and undoubtedly he felt Pittsburgh's buildings could hold on a bit longer while he coped with the problems of over-population.

We made the survey. I did walk on a few streets with maps of our own improvisation, checking the condition and status of each house. We published the survey book. We learned the hard way, not for the last time, that we had underestimated the costs, but we were successful in raising all the necessary funds. In fact, this small band of amateurs funded the project 100 percent, and our survey was the first county-wide survey made in the preservation field in this country. To us of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation goes the credit for original and innovative ideas and the successful implementation of a survey now routinely used throughout this country.

Our earliest office was in the Triangle Building at Seventh Avenue, Smithfield Street, and Penn Avenue. It was a room of about 10 by 10 feet. Arthur sat in the middle with office supplies, newly-printed brochures, and survey forms stacked around the four walls. This allowed Arthur a generous six-by-six feet space at the very least; that is, until we were able to afford a secretary who had to be fitted in. One day,

Arthur looked up from his desk to see, filling the doorway, Ted Hazlett himself, a very big man. Ted was then the head of the Andrew Mellon Educational and Charitable Foundation. He had been one of our important-to-us guests at our H-Y-P cocktail party to launch the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and we hoped — expected — a nice contribution from him. Silently he scrutinized the room, then said, "Well, you certainly are not using your contributions on perks and frills."

The City administration wouldn't return our telephone calls. Yes! small pinpricks like this had to be endured on a daily basis; the truth of the matter was that we were not important to the ongoing business of the city. As I write this 25 years later and after over 100 million dollars worth of preservation work done by us or at our instigation, I cannot help but grin at those early frustrating memories. On one occasion, I was sitting in the Harrisburg office of Dr. S. K. Stevens (Steve), the very able director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. We were waiting for the monthly meeting of the Commission to begin when a member of the Pittsburgh City Planning Department entered. He told Steve he had come to get an environmental impact statement from him in order to have the City qualify for some Federal funds. Laughing heartily, Steve pointed to me and said "Ask Mrs. Hoffstot for she represents the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and you have to begin with your city's local organization." "In fact," continued Steve, "you didn't need to leave Pittsburgh; you only needed to make your request to Arthur Ziegler." Following on these remarks, our telephone calls were answered promptly, and one day we received from the City administration a lovely present in the form of a complete collection of City building-coverage maps which proved invaluable to us.

Almost the first order of business for Arthur was to go to Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, to learn about a revolving fund. Historic Savannah and Historic Charleston were the first to initiate this imaginative concept. It was beautiful in its simplicity: to raise sufficient money to restore one house, sell the house to preservation-minded people at cost or only a small profit, then reinvest in another house restoration and continue on and on until entire districts had been restored. Our own revolving fund began in the Mexican War Streets in 1966, through the generosity of Dick Scaife, and we are still at it 25 years later, throughout the city.

*To me a preservationist
is like a fireman who
answers all fire bells.
How can you put
a fire or a preservation
crisis on hold?*

We bought our first house at 1233 Res Street. We paid \$8,500 for the house and put \$40,000 into it, for we learned as we went along. Ellis Schmidlapp was immensely imaginative in creating attractive living space from such tired and deteriorating buildings. In one house we bought, nine families were crowded into nine rooms; we provided attractive apartments for three families.

We had plunged into the inner city, and we could have created "gentrification," but we agreed to try to restore the neighborhood with and on behalf of the residents, inviting newcomers to acquire slumlord-owned housing. In the part of the North Side we were looking at, a good-sized unrestored house could be bought for as little as \$60. Ten years later, the restored houses in the area were selling for \$70,000 to \$80,000, by providing subsidized units for low-

Recollections

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.



The Rotunda of Union Station 20 years ago.

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.

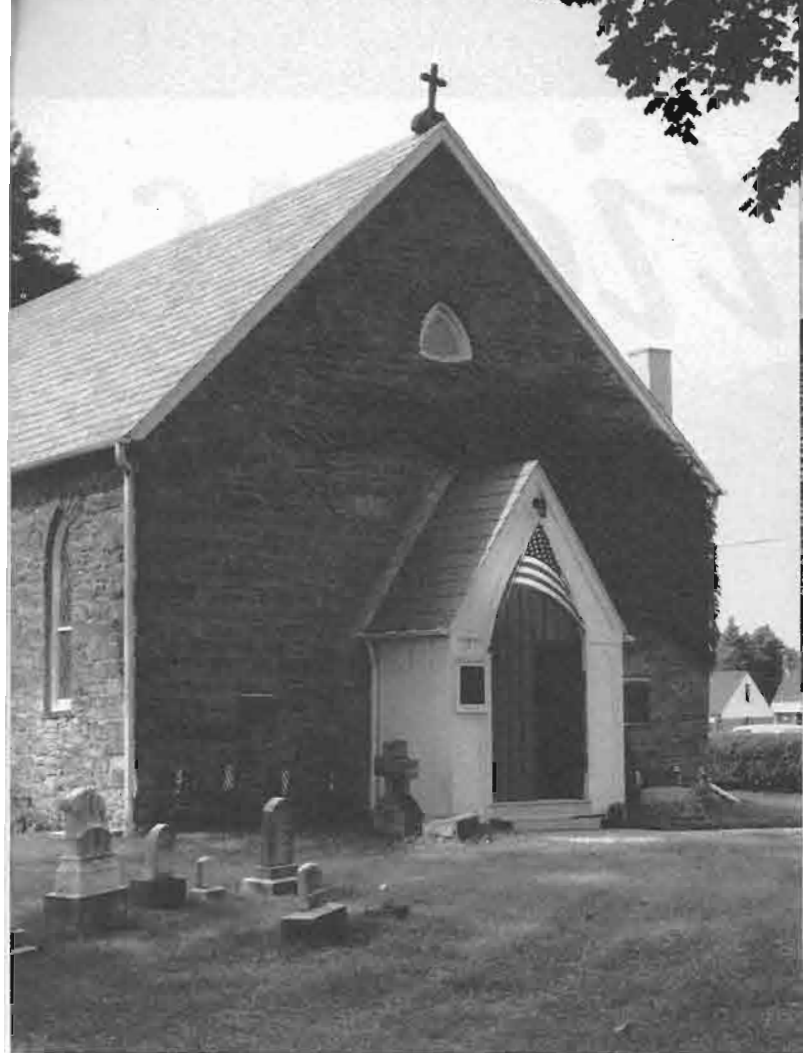
We'll take the items in order from the article and briefly recount what has happened with each during the last 15 years.

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 Insellbric 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.



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.



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

Sad times in Liverpool Street, mid 1960s.

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



Jamie 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' Vari 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 BRONDE

Jamie in 1984.





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-fiver, 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.





1233 Resaca Place, after restoration

moderate-income people, we have not disturbed the demographics to such an extent that they are excluded. We upgraded and thereby preserved these row houses, and we helped young people and those of lower incomes to have attractive and comfortable homes. Through West Park Court, the elderly moved to subsidized new units within the neighborhood.

We next found ourselves in the garbage business. Arthur and I went over to one new house one day, chiefly to admire our preservation work. As I remember, our house was on or near a side alley and there, leaning against the wall, were layered mounds of garbage bags. We were incensed at this sight near our beautiful restoration. We asked one of the inhabitants when the eyesore would be removed and how long it had been there. He was so used to this procedure that he had quite a time understanding why we were so upset. Finally he told us there was no regular collection and no one seemed able to change the system. Returning to the office, Arthur put in a call to the right person in the right department of the city, and quickly a more effective system came into being. We made quite an impact on that neighborhood with our rapid success. We had rallied to their support and, in turn, the neighborhoods came to be big supporters of our plans and projects. It was a mutually beneficial education although it was surprising to us to find garbage part of our work.

On and on we went, delving into myriad problems and constantly being surprised. We received great support from the black residents in the area, and most particularly from Dorothy Richardson. A respected leader of her community, she took me on a tour of her part of the North Side and told me bluntly that since we had injected ourselves into this area it was up to us to adhere to the City laws and to force the City administration to enforce their own laws. As many as nine and twelve families were living in unsanitary conditions on three floors, and Mrs. Richardson wanted decent housing for the legal number of families. Dismayed, I said, "How can we evict so

many? Where will they go?" Even more bluntly, Mrs. Richardson told me that this was our problem to solve and that now we were so visible publicly we had better deliver. I gulped and silently considered her words. Finally I said to her, "We can't possibly do this on our own. If you will join our board, we may succeed and I know we certainly are willing to try." Dorothy Richardson agreed to join us, is still with us, and has always been a tower of strength. Her wisdom and understanding of her area have sustained the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in whatever success we have had in our work on the North Side.

We next became involved in gardening: from garbage to gardening! Often we hear the criticism that we are involved all over the place, that we spread ourselves too thin, that we should concentrate on one thing at a time in one place at a time. I have never agreed with this point of view. To me a preservationist is like a fireman who answers all fire bells. How can you put a fire or a preservation crisis on hold?

Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, one of the most dedicated and effective preservationists of our time, urged the President to hold a national conference at the White House to discuss environmental problems and arrive at definite solutions to be implemented. At the conference, the President called on all the governors to hold similar conferences in their states. Governor William Scranton obeyed and, at Harrisburg in the late 1960s, invited specific people to attend.

I was privileged to be there, as were Arthur and Charley. Enthusiasm brought forth great collaboration and many fine ideas. To me, the best performance came from the only woman to address the conference, Mrs. James Bush-Brown, the founder of the Ambler Horticultural School. She spoke on gardening in the low-income Spring Hill section of Philadelphia. She introduced us to window-box gardening and small park projects on abandoned lots. Her incredible pictures of espaliered roses rising to the second story on some of the



A garden-block enthusiast; Manchester

row houses were enough to make me turn to Bill Swain, a partner of the landscape architecture firm of Griswold, Winters, and Swain, and say, "Why can't we do this in Pittsburgh?" With Bill's enthusiastic assent, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation had a new project.

We invited civic leaders, garden club members, and City officials to a luncheon to listen to Mrs. Bush-Brown eloquently describe in detail how to accomplish this project. Having already viewed her slides I enjoyed watching the audience reaction, beginning with blank surprise moving into absorbed interest and ending with rapt commitment. Over and over again, Mrs. Bush-Brown admonished us all that the project could only succeed if we asked the neighborhood residents to join in the initial planning and then do much of the work themselves. She told us that we would reap vandalism if we controiled all the details. At the end of her lecture I overheard the Superintendent of City Parks say to her, "Mrs. Bush-Brown, you have made me understand why we have so much vandalism. I will follow your advice."

The Garden Club of Allegheny County adopted the neighborhood project as their own. The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation asked for donations of lumber from Sears Roebuck, for paint from PPG, and from the City an empty lot where a house had been pulled down. Arthur gathered together the homeowners to explain the window-box and small-park project. With Mrs. Bush-Brown's stern admonition in mind to include the homeowners at all levels, Arthur asked them to tell him what they wanted. The answer was total silence. Realizing that the attendees had never been asked but always told about public improvements, he explained all the options and asked them to make small drawings; then he would return for their answer.

Returning, he found considerable enthusiasm and many drawings which had come about from several neighborhood meetings. The consensus of opinion was for a park with children's play equipment, a shade tree with a bench, a few flowers, and a white picket fence. Arthur took their drawings to Ralph Griswold, one of our earliest board members and senior partner of the firm of Griswold, Winters, and Swain. Looking over the simple plan, he stated the kind of tree best placed there and where it should be sited, the proper drainage, and the best planting material for the area.

After a final discussion with the neighbors to state that we did not have the manpower to put up the picket fence or to plant the flowers and trees, the homeowners volunteered their services as well as including their children to handle the picket fence. This solved the vandalism problem! The City, accepting the donation of play equipment from Mrs. B. F. Jones, one of our earliest and most

devoted supporters, offered to install the play equipment.

The lumber, nails, and tools were delivered to the neighbors who then made the window boxes. On the day duly appointed for the planting of simple plants such as marigolds, petunias, and coleus, there was a great gathering of the homeowners, the Garden Club members and Landmarks personnel. Enthusiasm was at a fever pitch! The Garden Club ladies had donated the plants, and dozens of flats were strewn about on the street.

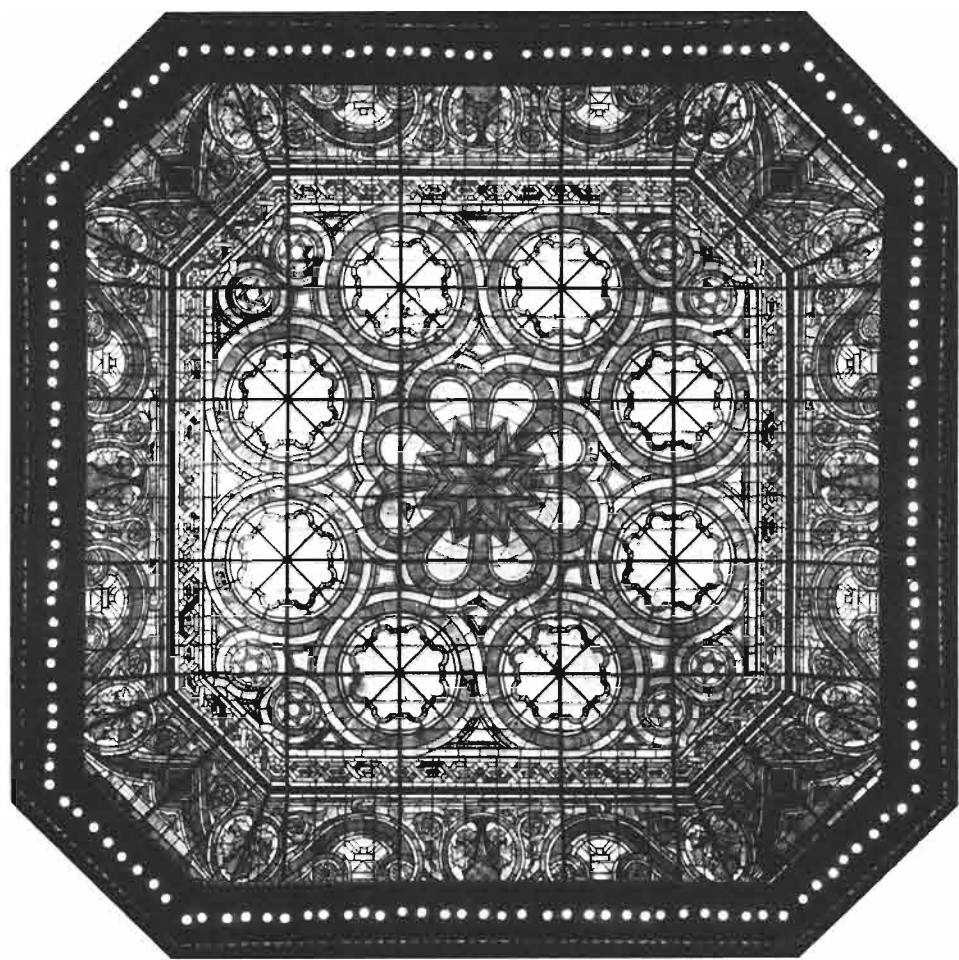
The Garden Club members explained how to fill the window boxes with soil, each person then choosing her plants, and all along the street the planting began with comments and questions flying. What little trouble we had came from the Garden Club members who would plunge in to demonstrate the right way to do things. We had to run around saying to the ladies "Don't do that"; "Put your trowel down"; "Ask the window-box owner to water the plant herself."

The initial street being planted, other streets wanted to join in, seeing the lovely display of flowers on house after house. This project, through the Boyle-Lorraine Street block club and the good efforts of Ethel Hagler, now one of our Trustees, has gone on for over 20 years. The window box gardens can still be seen. The project brought much pleasure to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the members of the Garden Club of Allegheny County, and most important, to the homeowners.

A neighborhood street in Manchester, June 1967



Preservation Scene



The skylight of Rodef Shalom



The stonework of St. Peter's looks bad under the soot, but is it?

Lost Stones of Pittsburgh

At this moment, at the end of November, City Council has decided to cast loose St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The Historic Review Commission had recommended its designation as a City Historic Landmark, and some Council members were disposed to agree. The Diocese, however, had apparently-powerful arguments against keeping the church standing at all. Its stonework was said to be dangerously decayed, and the Diocese thus to have a serious liability problem as long as it stood. Furthermore, a picture was painted of a congregation depopulated and demoralized by crime. On November 28, City Council made its final vote against designation. On the same day, it was revealed that Oxford Development Co. had offered the \$1.6 million for the cleared site we have been hearing of. Oxford, of course, may still be interested too in replacing the choicest part of the Fourth Avenue National Register District with a very big, street-crossing mall. Heritage and Oxford are thus at odds, it seems, in two places at once.

We tried on St. Peter's, working with the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation to find sympathetic buyers and adaptive-use ideas, and toward the end we were agitating for a six-month delay, allowing for an engineering examination and further search for developers: but to no avail.

St. Michael's, Elizabeth

St. Michael's R.C. Church in Elizabeth, whose original portion dates from 1851, was still in danger at the end of summer, and Save Our Church (P.O. Box 151, Elizabeth, Pa. 15037) was organizing a mail appeal to Bishop Wuerl. St. Michael's received a Landmarks plaque in 1987.

Landmarking of Churches

State Senate Bill 1228 was under consideration in mid-autumn. This would exempt any property that is owned by a religious organization and used "in furtherance of its religious purposes" from any kind of landmark status imposed without consent of the organization. This would be retroactive. Thus, a church used as a church would clearly be at the mercy of its congregation or diocese. Whether its deconsecration or non-use would automatically offer its protection, for instance as an element of a historic district, seems unclear. Furtherance of a congregation's religious purposes might be interpreted as extra parking space on the site of the old church, allowing more souls to be saved in a new one. The bill was tabled in mid-October, but was due for further consideration.

Windows Gone

The Braddock M.E. Church, across Parker Street from the Carnegie Library, was stripped of its Victorian glass and boarded up early in the fall. Pews and other furnishings appear to have been removed as well. In mid-autumn, the future of the building itself was vague, with rumors of various uses planned by the present owner or prospective purchasers. The church is a handsome work in brick by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, built in 1889 and enlarged at some later date. It seems likely that it can be bought at a low price, as is.



St. Wenceslaus Church

St. Wenceslaus Closing

The church of St. Wenceslaus, visible on the North Shore west of the Sixteenth Street Bridge, closed October 15. It was built in 1900 for a Bohemian congregation begun in 1871, and contained at least one outstanding stained-glass window. At mid-October, no plans for the disposition of the church had been announced.

Historic Preservation Ordinance

In November, amendments to Pittsburgh's Historic Preservation Ordinance were under consideration by City Council. The proposals were devised by the Historic Legislative Review Committee, of which Landmarks' Earl James is a member. Any Pittsburgh resident or property owner would be eligible to nominate a property, on proof that its owner had been notified of a possible historic designation. The Historic Review Commission would then have 45 days to consider designation. In the meantime, building and demolition permits would not be issued, without HRC consent, for a maximum of eight months or until City Council had made its final decision. The City Planning Commission, meanwhile, would be considering impact of designation on surrounding properties and neighborhoods, with HRC and CPC members making separate recommendations to City Council, which would have 90 days to hold a public hearing and make its decision. The above applies to districts as well as individual properties; the amended legislation contains other provisions as well.

Positive Development

In response to an August 31 editorial, "Neighbors or Nay-sayers," Earl James of Landmarks spoke up a few days later for the neighborhood organizations the *Post-Gazette* had declared opposed to development. His rebuttal described Pittsburgh's neighborhood organizations as "among the most professionally run and progressive of any city in the country," and defined a "positive development" favored by most organizations and undertaken by some themselves. Such development typically includes a historic-preservation element, and when it does Landmarks' Preservation Fund is often found to have helped.



Two houses by Peter Berndtson

Plaques for Berndtson Houses

On September 10, owners of 10 houses by Peter Berndtson celebrated the success of a campaign to get Landmarks to award their homes special plaques. The houses, dating from the 1950s and '60s, are too recent to qualify for the regular Landmarks plaque, but the Plaque Committee agreed that Berndtson's houses, "Usonian" works showing the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright in his later years, have permanent cultural value and deserve recognition. The occasion was a nostalgic one, since half the houses were occupied by the original owners, who remembered "Peter," dead since 1972, with continuing affection. As far as they knew, no one has ever willingly moved out of a Berndtson house.



The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial (top) and Rodef Shalom as we have known them.

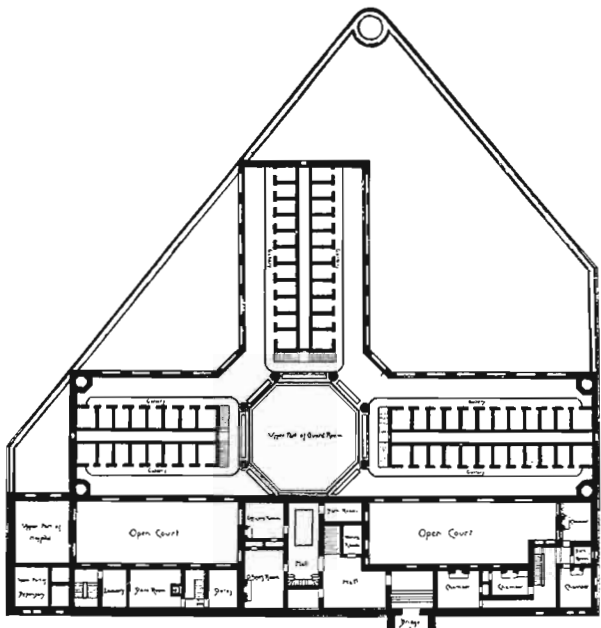
Hornbostel in Temporary Disarray

In mid-autumn, two of Henry Hornbostel's proudest buildings presented an unusually disorderly spectacle. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial lawn was totally dug up for installation of a 900-space, four-level underground parking garage. The lawn, restored to its original profile, will not be back until some time in 1991, probably, around the end of summer. At Rodef Shalom, some terra-cotta work has been cleaned in place but much has been removed for restoration or copying. The faded polychromy of the main door frames is under study.



Landmarks in Philadelphia

Stanley A. Lowe and four other members of Landmarks' staff were in Philadelphia in mid-October for the National Trust convention. Stanley, a member of the Board of Advisors, served on the Finance, Administration, and Audit Committee. Earl James was moderator of a panel, "Transportation and Industrial Heritage," and participated in a study group on the preservation and reuse of Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia.



The Jail as finished in 1886. The cell blocks stand, island-like, within the walls.

An Extended Courthouse

Justice Robert E. Dauer, appreciative of the beauty of the Allegheny County Jail, urged in a letter to the newspapers early in October that it be saved; specifically, he suggested its use as a Courthouse annex. A demand for courtroom space and for centralization of various offices of the criminal-justice system exists, and this conversion does seem to Landmarks a reasonable, obvious way of meeting it. With the internal cell blocks removed, interior space would be abundant and connected not only with the street but with the Courthouse itself via footbridge. Sheriff's vans could still drive into a courtyard of the Jail for secure transfer of prisoners to either building. The Jail as a Courthouse annex sounds very good to us.



Go Fourth seeks to protect a rich architectural mixture; Fourth Avenue and Smithfield Street.

Fourth Avenue

Go Fourth: Committee for the Preservation of Pittsburgh's Wall Street has developed a mission statement and articulated its goals. It is working with local corporate and civic leaders to state economic incentives for historic preservation. Fourth Avenue between Smithfield and Wood Streets is the area particularly under consideration, but so are other properties in three blocks. The Committee's earlier move to create a City Historic District has been ended as unproductive, but public education on the historic and architectural value of the area is continuing.

Demolitions at Heinz

The renovations announced for the North Side Heinz plant last March involve the demolition of four of the brown-brick buildings long familiar to Pittsburghers. The oldest building of the complex, the Bottling Building of 1896, is already down, and the adjacent Bean Building of 1912 and Meat Products Building, and the Shipping Building that faces East Ohio Street are to go. In their place will come some storage space, roadways, and a small park. The whole work is expected to be finished in 1992.

Braeburn Electric Furnace

Station Square's Industrial Walk got its first riverside display on September 6: a six-ton electric steel furnace from Braeburn Alloy in Lower Burrell, Westmoreland County. The furnace, built by the American Bridge Works around 1915, made steel by melting scrap and alloying elements with the heat of an electric arc. When the steel was melted and homogenized, the whole furnace tipped forward like a teapot to pour the steel

into a ladle, which carried it away for casting. The display has been designed to show the whole furnace mechanism, as well as a ladle waiting to receive the steel.

Gratitude goes to Duquesne Light for the use of a powerful crane that unloaded the successive trucks of parts, and of course to Braeburn Alloy for donation of the furnace.

Setting down the bull wheel that tipped the Braeburn furnace.



E&O Discovery

A Boston collector of brewery memorabilia has sold the Allegheny Brewery 15 architectural and engineering drawings related to the Eberhardt & Ober Brewery. These include drawings for the main building by Joseph Stillburg, tinted ink-on-linen drawings for machinery, and drawings for an elevator, a stable, a boiler house, and a tall building for melting, cooling, and lagering purposes. Besides Stillburg, best known for the now-gone Petroleum Exchange and the Ursuline Academy that preceded Carlow College, Edward M. Butz (Western State Penitentiary) and William Kauffman (Fayette and Westmoreland County Courthouses) signed designs for E&O. The drawings were apparently removed from the underused Brewery in 1962, and it is something of a miracle they are back.

The Prince's Book

Prince Charles has just come out with a book, *A Vision of Britain: A Personal View of Architecture* (Doubleday, \$40.00) that articulates his ideas on modern architecture, planning, and development (usually very adverse) and his preference for traditional architectural styles, materials, and building scale. Prince though he is, he takes a populist view: architects, planners, and developers, utterly self-centered, have created cold and impersonal places; a study of tradition will create architecture fit for humans to live in. The Prince writes very articulately, if naggingly at times, and now and then gets off a good line. On the International Convention Centre in Birmingham: "Choosing my words to be as inoffensive as possible, I said I thought it was an unmitigated disaster." For a caption of him at the controls of a crane, wrecking detested public housing: "I am told that crushed tower block, mixed with soil, makes a very good basis for growing roses." The allusions and the pictorial content are British, but the argument has relevance for American preservationists and those seriously interested in what will be built henceforth. The book, incidentally, is very well illustrated, and is valuable for this reason as well.

Howe-Childs Gatehouse

The old gatehouse of the Howe estate, also known as Willow Cottage, was found this autumn to be seriously deteriorated. It appeared that the owner had genuinely attempted to maintain the house and gain financing for its repair, but without success. Willow Cottage, which dates from around 1860, is much the oldest element of the Fifth Avenue Millionaire's Row, between Shadyside and Squirrel Hill. The Historic Review Commission met in November and voted to postpone a decision pending an independent survey of the damage.

Lighting, Accomplished and Attempted

The tower of Allegheny General Hospital has been floodlit, and presents a very handsome sight in the evening. A few years ago, Landmarks met with Hospital officials to persuade them not to demolish the tower, an Italian Romanesque work of 1930 by York & Sawyer. Now, this notable feature that signals the North Side to distant neighborhoods is visible day and night.

On the evening of October 25, the Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion presented a demonstration of several ways of lighting Pittsburgh's river bridges. Unlike the Smithfield Street Bridge with its twin arches of bulbs, the light on the Fort Duquesne and Sixth Street Bridges was directed onto the bridges — piers, docks, superstructures — by bridge- and shore-mounted floodlights. Some effects were handsome, rather spectral, but the experimental lighting would have to be shaded in practice to avoid driving and navigation hazards. One informed estimate suggested a budget of \$25,000 a month to light 12 city bridges. Strings of bulbs, as used on the Smithfield Street Bridge, seem to define the structure more neatly and be more readable from a distance, and present little or no visibility impediment at night.

Airport Preservation

Various proposals are in preparation to save part or all of the original 1949 terminal at Greater Pittsburgh Airport for any of a variety of uses. As built, the terminal was a symmetrical Modernistic work, with two splayed front wings terminated in unwind-dowed masses bearing eagles in relief. An illuminated fountain and formal landscaping led to the curved entrance colonnade. Some of these features are still in place, and it will be interesting to see if this original part of the terminal can find a new existence.



The Mitchell house, Osborne

Threat in Osborne

Landmarks has joined others to write on behalf of the Mitchell or Murdock house, 1207 Beaver Road, Osborne. The house is a very well-preserved Second Empire frame building, well-proportioned and detailed, on a property of nearly three acres. Early in the fall Osborne officials approved subdivision, and a developer drew up a plan of five lots. The house, along with two of the lots, was offered for sale, but strong possibilities of its demolition existed. In mid-October, the borough council learned that Dr. Lawrence Gipson had bought the house and its surrounding land to inhabit and restore. Two smaller homes closer to Beaver Street will be built on the remainder of the property.



A PAST STILL ALIVE

Published by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in honor of its twenty-fifth anniversary

A Past Still Alive creates a new appreciation of Pittsburgh and the region. It is both nostalgic and visionary — a perfect holiday gift for those who love Pittsburgh.

In three evocative essays, Walter Kidney describes the special character of Pittsburgh's architecture and topography and the difference historic preservation has made in the city's quality of life. The three essays are titled "What We Have Lost"; "What Remains, and Why"; and "Creative Preservation." Following the essays is a chronology of Landmarks' accomplishments in preservation and education since 1964. The 142-page soft-cover publication is illustrated with 304 black and white photos, both historic and modern day.

September 29, 1989

Dear Walter:
The other night after the party at the Frick Fine Arts Building, I came back here and read your book — it was really good and I could hardly lay it down. I am very pleased that such a sensibility as yours manages to keep hold on the many activities of Landmarks. Your philosophy of the Foundation's existence and its work I think is particularly noteworthy. Sincerely,

Jamie

Jamie Van Trump

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At the anniversary party: Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president; Louise King Ferguson, executive director; Charles C. Arensberg, chairman; Ann Wardrop, trustee; Stanley A. Lowe, director of the Preservation Fund.



Stanley Lowe listens to a member.

Into the 26th Year

Neighborhood work, advocacy, industrial preservation, and education will be our principal activities as we enter a second quarter-century.

Through Landmarks' Preservation Fund, we will continue to provide technical assistance and low-cost financing/loans to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County preservation organizations, community-based neighborhood groups, economic development organizations, and civic development councils, in order to help preserve historic buildings and sites from demolition or unsympathetic alteration. In 1990, we will continue working with 21 neighborhood/community organizations in the Pittsburgh region. In particular, many exciting renewal projects will be underway in the North Side: in Manchester we will begin Phase III of the Home Ownership for Working People program; the Brighton Place low-income housing development project will move forward; and we will work with North Side neighborhood groups to revitalize the Federal Street/North Avenue area.

We will advocate positions on various preservation issues in 1990 regarding the Courthouse and Jail, the Fourth Avenue National Register District, the endangered religious properties issue, and the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

We have a full education agenda: teacher inservices in the spring, summer, fall, and winter; a summer weekend *Pittsburgh Heritage* adventure for families; daily classroom sessions of *Portable Pittsburgh*; regular tours for our members and friends; and the publication (most likely) of three major books, including a handsome one featuring the history and architecture of Allegheny Cemetery.

If funding is secured, we will complete National Register nominations for Braddock, and the Hill District. We will support the renovation of the Braddock Library, maintenance of the Homestead Library, and continuing renovation of the Neville House, Old St. Luke's, the Rachel Carson Homestead, and the Walker-Ewing log house. We will continue our involvement with the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force and work to acquire portions of the Homestead Works and Carrie Furnaces for museum purposes. Along the riverfront at Station Square, our industrial artifact walk will grow, adding drama to the site and creating a unique attraction for Pittsburgh.

These are the major activities which will occupy our staff time and energy. We are looking forward to the challenges of 1990, both to what we are expecting and to the unforeseeable. We encourage our members to participate in our tours and educational programs, volunteer in our office, and to call us with preservation concerns. Together, we will make 1990 a worthwhile year. ■



Diane DeNardo, director of education, and Mary Lu Denny, director of membership services.



Ann Wardrop, trustee, and Walter C. Kidney, historian.



Earl James, director of preservation programs and services.

The offices of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation are on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square. Come visit us!

