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NEWS

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June 1991

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Pittsburgh Neighborhood Reps Confer with the President



President George Bush and Stanley Lowe (center) discuss housing needs and resident-management strategies with neighborhood representatives from eight cities on May 3 in St. Louis.

On Friday, May 3, Harriet Henson, executive director of the Northside Tenants Reorganization Cooperative Association, and Stanley Lowe, director of Landmarks' Preservation Fund, traveled to St. Louis to discuss urban housing needs and resident-management strategies with President George Bush, Jack Kemp, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Bertha Gilkey, President of Cochran Gardens in St. Louis, and neighborhood representatives from six other cities. The conference was sponsored by Urban Women, Inc., and the Cochran Gardens Tenant Management Corporation. It included a tour of Cochran Gardens and a two-hour discussion with the President.

From left to right: Bertha Gilkey, president of Cochran Gardens Tenant Management Corporation in St. Louis; Jack F. Kemp, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Harriet Henson, executive director of the Northside Tenants Reorganization Cooperative Association in Pittsburgh.



Cochran Gardens in St. Louis is nationally recognized as the model for low-income housing cooperatives under resident management. Born out of a rent strike beginning in 1969 to protest slum conditions, the Cochran Gardens Tenant Management Corporation now meets the needs of 3,250 residents living in 704 housing units. In a relatively short time, Cochran Gardens has become a community that generates jobs, businesses, talent, creative ideas, and a solid home base for residents who have begun to lead productive lives.

Harriet Henson told President Bush that her organization, Northside Tenants Reorganization (NTR), represents tenant management and ownership aspirations for 297 single female heads of households, currently living in 333 low-income historically significant buildings known as Northside Properties. Henson also told the President that Bertha Gilkey is providing tenant management training support services to NTR, through funding assistance from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, Landmarks' Preservation Fund, and local banks. President Bush and Henson talked at length about NTR's plans for obtaining ownership of Northside Properties and about NTR's immediate plans to develop the \$3.8 million Brighton Place housing development.

According to Stanley Lowe, "The President was very personable and an excellent listener, with an intuitive sense as to the kinds of questions to ask. Both Jack Kemp and Bertha Gilkey have come to Pittsburgh, on separate occasions, but this is the first time we have had the opportunity to talk directly with the President about our

housing needs and strategies. It was a very beneficial experience."

President Bush spoke about project HOPE (Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere) which encourages grass-roots urban housing initiatives such as Cochran Gardens or Brighton Place. He also asked neighborhood organizations to support two new initiatives: the Enterprise Zone and Jobs-Creation Act of 1991, and the Community Opportunity Act of 1991.

Excerpts from George Bush's remarks include the following:

"... three million people live in public housing. Yet barely 9,000 units, barely 9,000, are managed by their residents. I call on Congress to give us full funding — \$855 million in Fiscal '92. We don't just want a piece of the program, we want the whole darn thing: one million new low and moderate income homeowners by the end of 1992..."

"Most members of Congress, you know, say they want to revive our cities. And now we can test them. We can put them to the test. I call on the Congress to support our HOPE program fully. I call on the Congress to pass the Enterprise Zone and Jobs-Creation Act of 1991. And I call on the Congress to enact the Community Opportunity Act of 1991 right now.

"Bertha — Bertha Gilkey — I've got this quote of hers: 'We don't want to be taken care of, we want to take care of ourselves.' That is, to be treated like human beings, not numbers in a housing project.



"And people all across this country said, yes, we want dignity; we want independence; we want responsibility; and we want to own our own homes; and we want to control our destinies. And I would say to the Congress, Congress, you ought to start thinking anew. Give the people a chance now and pass this new legislation, and don't go back to the old answers that have failed the people of St. Louis year in and year out. It's time to think anew. So I am convinced that together we can build upon your success. We can offer new opportunity, new optimism, new hope to people condemned to daily bleakness and hardship.

"So please join me. You do have some power in your hands. Get ahold of your congressman; convince him to think anew and give these new ideas a chance. Because Bertha is right: homeownership builds dignity. Homeownership offers people a real bite of the apple, a chance for the great American dream to come to everybody."



Brighton Place on Pittsburgh's North Side will be the country's first resident-managed Section 8 housing development. Thirty-three vacant buildings, interspersed with those still occupied, will be rehabilitated for \$3.8 million. Landmarks Design Associates has completed the construction drawings, and financing is now being secured from local lending institutions, state and federal sources, and private foundations. Construction may begin this fall.

Landmarks' Preservation Fund Recognized

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group held a Blue Ribbon Community Banking Luncheon and Award Program on March 7, which over 350 neighborhood leaders and representatives of lending institutions, including the presidents of several, attended. Awards were given to the Mayor for her support of PCRG, and to Dwelling House Savings and Loan, Equibank, Mellon Bank, North Side Deposit Bank, Parkvale Savings Bank, Pittsburgh National Bank, Union National Bank, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. An award was also given to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation for the work of its Preservation Fund in the inner city and its support of PCRG, principally through providing Stanley Lowe as its president.

PCRGR was formed to help interest banks in fulfilling the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act of the federal government to obtain mortgage financing for housing and some commercial enterprises in the inner city. Through its efforts, over \$500 million have been committed to inner-city lending.

Senator John Heinz

We join the many friends of the late Senator John Heinz in mourning his sudden death. A leader in the United States Senate, Senator Heinz was even more cherished for his leadership in Pittsburgh. Through his family foundations, his influence could be felt in the arts, in the birth of the Cultural District, and in social welfare. He was a good friend to preservation and initiated the bills to obtain the funding for the preservation of the Carrie Furnaces and the Pinkerton Landing site for the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force. A man of vision and one who was kind and generous, Senator Heinz took a personal interest in every human being he encountered and worked on behalf of all of them. His sudden death is a great loss to us all, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

Welcome New Members

Ms. Jeanne S. Arveson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth A. Barker
Bethel Park Historical Society
Dean & Mrs. Lowry Burgess
John R. Burns
Mrs. Marsha G. Chamberlain & Family
Ms. Charlotte Chottiner
Ms. Virginia E. Curtis
Mrs. Jo Daly
M. Bradley Dean
Ms. Marion E. Fisher
Ms. Carolyn Flinn
George A. Goetz
Greensburg Garden & Civic Center
Mrs. Sarah H. Hamilton
Peter Y. Herchenroether & Family
Sidney Hills
Ms. Hazel M. Johnson

William C. Keck
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Krupitzer & Family
Samuel D. Levine
Lincoln School PTO
Ms. Florence K. Lunt
John A. Martin
Mrs. Viola V. Matusa
Clifford Mull
Mr. Timothy M. Opiela
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Peelor & Family
Ms. Joan Renshaw
David Russell
Rick Sebak
Ms. Carolyn Seibert
David B. Smith
Ms. Debra Lynn Turici
Alan VanDine
Mrs. Alberta W. Weikel

The Harriet Ruffin Memorial Fund

We are pleased to acknowledge the following contributors who recently donated to the Memorial Fund established by the family of the late Mrs. Sidney Ruffin, so long a trustee of Landmarks. The donors are: Jean Ballard Hebard; Elizabeth A. Smith; Mark R. Sullivan; Mrs. Richard B. Tucker, Jr.; and Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. Vadnais.

Gifts

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation wishes to thank the following:

- Robert L. Laughlin of PPG Industries, for a print of Grif Teller, *Main Lines of Commerce*;
- Mrs. O.L. Van Slike of Santa Ana, California, for an engraved view of Pittsburgh from the early 1840s;
- David M. Drozd of Munhall, for 28 snapshots of the Flood of 1936;
- Giant Eagle, for four \$50 gift certificates for the Hands-On History Festival. The certificates were awarded to four of the schools which participated in the Festival on May 4.

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

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EPVHE & NLTF S

Saturday, June 15
Sixth Annual Transportation Museum Auto Festival
10 am to 4 pm
Stroll among antique and vintage automobiles, talk to the owners about the restoration and preservation of these treasures, watch the skill of the high wheeler bicycle riders, marvel at the sputtering “hit and miss” and antique gas and steam engines. This year’s Festival will feature 1930s Indy 500 racers and WWII military vehicles. At 1 pm the steam cars will demonstrate their power!

The admission donation is \$2 for adults; children under 12 are admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Transportation Museum.

June 26-July 2: Session I
July 31-August 6: Session II
Exploring Architecture Teacher In-Service Course
Two sessions of this very popular teacher in-service course will be offered this summer. *Exploring Architecture* will introduce teachers to architecture as a learning resource. Through slide lectures, walking tours, drawing and construction experiments, and exercises in architectural problem-solving, participants will experience architecture as a creative discipline.
To register call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 394-5761.

Saturday, June 29
Highs & Lows of Pittsburgh Family Tour
10 am to 2:30 pm
Spend a day with Landmarks discovering the “highs & lows” of Pittsburgh. We will begin our adventure by riding the incline up Mt. Washington, rising 367 feet above the Monongahela River. After our descent the subway will take us into the Golden Triangle where we will explore an underground passage linking two downtown office towers. Emerging onto street level for just a moment, we will travel to the top of a Pittsburgh skyscraper to get a bird’s-eye view of the city skyline. From this vantage point, we will explore the architecture and unique characteristics of the tops of Pittsburgh’s famous buildings. Which rooftop tower was rumored to contain a chapel to preserve the church that was demolished at that site? Which rooftop has a weather signal that blinks blue and orange codes? After lunch, our exploration will include the Trinity Cathedral and its adjoining graveyard, once an Indian burial mound. During a scavenger hunt, we will search for lions and gargoyles along city streets and discover much about Pittsburgh’s history and architecture.

Participants: Families whose children are entering grades three through twelve.
Cost: \$15 for adults and \$12 for children, including incline and subway fees. (Discounts are available for Landmarks’ members.)
To register call Diane DeNardo at (412) 471-5808. Registration deadline: June 18.

July 10-19
Pittsburgh Heritage Teacher In-Service Course
Spend eight days exploring Pittsburgh’s past through its architecture. In addition to attending workshops designed especially for them, teachers will participate in art activities and treasure hunts; they will ride the Monongahela Incline and Gateway Clipper, and tour Station Square, the Mexican War Streets, the Golden Triangle, and the ethnic churches of McKees Rocks. From these hands-on experiences, teachers are prepared to use the same techniques in the classroom with their students. To register call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 394-5761.

Saturday, July 13
North Side Discovery
10 am-2:30 pm
The North Side Discovery is designed especially for families interested in exploring Pittsburgh’s heritage through a close-up look at the history and architecture of one special neighborhood. The program offers learning, discovery, and hands-on experiences in a unique location. We will begin the adventure by exploring the Old Post Office Building, today’s Children’s Museum, through an architectural scavenger hunt. Then we head to the famed Mexican War Streets to hunt for more architectural treasures. We will learn to do an architectural sketch and a street grate rubbing. Our day will end by going to the 17th-floor Observation Deck of Allegheny General Hospital to view the North Side and Pittsburgh from above.

Participants: Families whose children are entering grades three through twelve.
Cost: \$15 for adults and \$12 for children, including incline and subway fees. (Discounts available for Landmarks’ members.)
To register call Diane DeNardo at (412) 471-5808. Registration deadline: June 18.

Wednesday, July 17
Shadyside Historic District Walking Tour
6 pm-8 pm
Abortively industrial in the 1790s, somewhat rustic still in 1900, a neighborhood of picturesque houses, big trees, and flowers today, the western part of Shadyside is, in general, a beautiful place. The violations of its beauty inspired a recent movement for City historic designation, strongly advocated, vehemently opposed. Meet us at Rodef Shalom Temple on Morewood Avenue, wear your walking shoes, and see how you feel about this quiet neighborhood as you stroll with us on a summer evening.
Cost: \$2 for Landmarks’ members; \$5 for non-members. Call (412) 471-5808 for reservations.

Sunday, September 8
Restoration Arts Tour
2 pm-5 pm
Planning to restore a house or building? Interested in restoration skills? Need some skilled craftsmen? Hop on a bus with us and travel to craft shops and projects to meet the workers who know the trades you will need and who specialize in restoration work.
Cost: \$10 for Landmarks’ members; \$20 for non-members. Call (412) 471-5808 for reservations.

Sunday, September 29
Oakland Walking Tour
2 pm-5 pm
Oakland has never had a single identity. Villa district, farmland, middle-class neighborhood, medical complex, slum, elegant institutional district: Oakland has been several of these at any given time. Gain a sense, on this tour, of several of Oakland’s present and former selves. More complete details will be announced.

September 1991 (dates to be announced)
Exploring Your City One-credit Teacher In-Service Course
Exploring Your City, a one-credit teacher in-service course, offers a first-hand knowledge of Pittsburgh’s architectural and historical development through a Downtown walking tour, historical slide shows, and instruction in research techniques and architectural styles. Teachers return to the classroom with new insights to share with students in history, geography, social studies, and art. To register call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 394-5761.

Education News

Awards of Merit Bestowed

On Monday evening, April 8, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation recognized 11 individuals, businesses, and neighborhood organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Pittsburgh's historic architecture and increased public knowledge of our historical heritage.

Mrs. Nathan W. Pearson, a trustee of Landmarks, presented framed certificates to the Award of Merit recipients during a ceremony at the Station Square Sheraton, prior to Landmarks' 1991 Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation presented by Bernard Lemann of New Orleans.

Award of Merit recipients are:

- **Lu Donnelly**, for historical research and writing, and other history-related projects.
- **Susan E. Brandt**, for organizing and leading the project to stabilize and restore the Braddock Carnegie Library.
- **Thomas V. and Mary Beth Pastorius**, together, for their enterprise and daring in establishing the Allegheny Brewery & Pub;

Mary Beth, for architectural-historical work in the Sewickley area, historical publications in the *Sewickley Herald*, and curatorship of the 1990 exhibition "Town and Country Living: The Architecture of Longfellow, Alden & Harlow."

- **Michael Zamagias and Damian Zamias**, for restoration/adaptation of the Times (formerly Magee) Building.
- **Architectural Artifacts, Inc.**, for restoration craftsmanship.
- **Rodef Shalom Congregation**, for restoration of their temple.
- **The Helen Clay Frick Foundation**, for the restoration of "Clayton."
- **Homewood-Brushton Revitalization & Development Corporation**;
- **Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation**;
- **Breachmenders**; and
- **East Liberty Development, Inc.**, in each case for outstanding work in improving their neighborhoods, which among other elements includes careful building rehabilitation.



Portable Pittsburgh's Popularity Grows

During the 1990-91 school year, 179 sessions of Landmarks' Portable Pittsburgh program were presented to 5,550 elementary school students by our volunteer docents. Students learn about Pittsburgh's history, from the pioneer days to the present, through a series of artifacts, historic photos, and a 100-foot-long time line. First grade students at O'Hara Elementary are shown here with a selection of the artifacts.

Boasberg, Brink, and Lemann at Landmarks

This winter and spring, three historic-preservation specialists participated in a Distinguished Lecture series sponsored by Landmarks. On February 14, preservation attorney Tersh Boasberg, who is chairman of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission, lectured on historic district zoning. His opinion is that "conservation" districts, with only limited restriction on alteration or demolition, do not work because they are too hard to regulate. He has found through experience that those who have resisted historic districting, nationwide, have come to support and favor it upon actual experience.

On March 12, Peter Brink of the National Trust for Historic Preservation spoke on historic preservation in the 1990s. He quoted Vincent Scully's observation that historic preservation is "the only mass popular movement to affect critically the course of architecture in our century," but cited examples to show that it is not all-powerful, and stated that more needs to be done to convince property owners and the general public. He called for a balanced view of the property owner's rights as opposed to the interests of the whole community. As a third point, Brink urged computerized simulation of possible development as a means of establishing specific zoning in historic areas. He also pointed out the importance of involving diverse ethnic groups in preservation, of using preservation to combat the effects of poverty, and of close alliance with the environmental movement. He then spoke, in detail, of the preservation of places of worship as a special problem of the present, and



Bernard Lemann of New Orleans

concluded by speaking briefly of the National Trust in the next decade.

On April 8, Professor Bernard Lemann of New Orleans reviewed the traditional architecture of New Orleans against the background of life in the city, and illustrated some of its preservation triumphs and losses. (His letter to us, written after his lecture, is printed below.)

Landmarks sponsored this lecture series because of the growing interest in the new historic preservation ordinance now being pondered. At this time, we have yet to know its probable contents.

Architecture Apprenticeship

This year "high school" for 20 juniors and seniors included a visit to an architectural firm, a walking tour of downtown Pittsburgh's historic architecture and new developments, a visit with an architect and a city planner, and a day exploring the Architecture Department at Carnegie-Mellon University.

For eight years now, Landmarks has sponsored the *Architecture Apprenticeship* in cooperation with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Gifted & Talented Program.

A special feature of this year's apprenticeship included a visit to Landmarks Design Associates (LDA), the master architects of Station Square. Students discussed future development plans for Station Square with LDA President Ellis Schmidlapp, and saw architectural sketches, design plans, and a model of the site. Eve Picker, Urban Designer, Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, discussed several city projects in progress and in the planning stages, including their work on Herr's Island and Fifth Avenue downtown. Cherie Moshier, AIA, Design Alliance, discussed her firm's work, and then critiqued the apprentices' final projects of an in-fill building on Fourth Avenue. A look at the restored Courtroom #321 at the Allegheny County Courthouse and the newly restored Koppers Building lobby were just two of many stops during a full day walking tour of downtown Pittsburgh. At CMU, fourth and fifth year students discussed their study abroad programs in such places as Northern Africa, China, Europe, and Scandinavia.

One apprentice said he gained "ideas about design and insights into the vast

number of skills needed to be an architect." Another said, "I learned how many different aspects of architecture there are and I now realize that preservation is just as important as building new buildings."

Students and teachers interested in receiving information on the apprenticeship can call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at 371-8484.

Tours, Tours, Tours

Landmarks' volunteer docent staff has been busy this spring presenting church tours, illustrated slide lectures, All-City tours, and individually planned student field trips.

In April, we hosted the VINTAGE senior citizen program for slide lectures and church tours featuring "Our Ethnic Neighborhoods and Congregations." Brentwood Century Club learned about "Architectural Styles of Western Pennsylvania" and Asbury Heights residents enjoyed the "Pittsburgh Parks & Sculpture" slide show. In May, students from South Hills Home Educators, Fox Chapel Area High School, Perry Elementary School, North Side Catholic schools, Avalon Elementary School, and Tracy Elementary School joined our docents on Pittsburgh city walking tours. Spouses of the Eastern Vascular Society joined us for bus and walking tours during their convention weekend.

Groups interested in learning more about our private tour and lecture service may call MaryLu Denny at (412) 471-5808.

A Letter from Bernard Lemann

On April 8, Bernard Lemann, an architectural historian of New Orleans, addressed our members and showed slides of that wonderful historic city. After his lecture, we gave him a copy (in fact our last copy) of *Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County*, published by Landmarks in 1985. He wrote later to our architectural historian Walter Kidney as follows:

Dear Walter C. K.:

I have been reading in your book and it is a superb re-cap after that splendid visit. I have called the chief editor of the next New Orleans volume, to say that my rare last copy of the Pittsburgh book must be studied as a beautiful model; it puts ours to shame.

This morning, waking early, I spent an hour before rising, thinking of all the things I failed to say in my talk. I can tell that you see cities as works of art — collective products in time. It was like a tale of two cities (and I missed a great chance to say it). For two days, coming from here, I was engulfed by the Pittsburgh region and history. Boulders, steel, rushing streams, blast furnaces, a proud place at the center of the American story, where work gets done. That evening I was trying to convey an image and flavor of a place that dreams and floats, somehow survives its cleavages (it had to separate for a while with distinct municipalities) and comes together in fantasies at Mardi Gras. Our two cities have a wonderful give-and-take. As I watched from my hotel window that marvelous view — city lights, river boats, people dancing — I thought that our end of the river filters up to you somehow, just as the Pittsburgh story has penetrated to New Orleans. What we have not yet learned here is that it's time to recognize that America is moving into the post-industrial age. Your river front museum-park will carry a meaningful message.

I am ever so pleased to have your book, have read most of the text and skipped around in the inventory. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Bernard.

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The Pittsburgh International Folk Theatre performs for students, teachers, families, and friends. At right, one of the many carefully-crafted student projects.

The 1991 Hands-On History Festival: An Educational Showcase

On May 4, twenty-six classes from eighteen schools participated in the fifth *Hands-On History Festival* sponsored by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's education department.

It was a sight to see. The Festival tent at Station Square was filled with hand-made exhibits, art activities, students, families, teachers, and friends. About 1,500 people talked with the student exhibitors and participated in a variety of special events. People took rides in antique cars, built architectural columns out of cardboard tubes; made gargoyle masks; drew buildings and bridges that were added to the ever-growing city mural; guessed the names of eight mystery artifacts; made brass rubbings of historic plaques; watched pioneer craftsmen Nancy and Wilbur Stewart demonstrate the use of carpentry tools, household wares, and farm tools. Everyone enjoyed a folk-dancing performance by the Pittsburgh International Folk Theatre, and a jazz performance by the South Fayette High School band. The gentlemanly Pa Pitt was the mascot of the day, amusing Festival visitors with historical anecdotes of Pittsburgh.

The student exhibits featuring the history and architecture of school communities and Pittsburgh were creative, innovative, skillfully made, and educational. Each exhibit reflected an enormous amount of a student's time and creativity.

Student projects included hand-made quilts; a model park for the South Side community; hand-painted paper-bag buildings; three-dimensional streetscapes of houses; jigsaw puzzles made out of historic photographs; a display of glass including antique glass from Glassport; slide shows on the Railroad Strike in Pittsburgh of 1877, on human rights, and on the history of Pittsburgh; a log cabin representing Penn Hills as a rural farming community over a century ago; and a town of cardboard houses showing Penn Hills past and present. There was a wonderful series of models showing Pittsburgh transportation through the years, including a model of the Duquesne Incline and a motorized, battery-operated model of the Monongahela Incline. Eighth graders from Woodlawn Middle School designed and wrote a historically-accurate newspaper. Students from Chartiers Elementary corresponded with children in a Russian kindergarten, and had a selection of drawings and letters to show. Students from Springdale Junior High School exhibited a selection of clothes, photos, old text books, and artifacts from a museum they created in the basement of their school. There were a "History of Pittsburgh" board game, a series of poster drawings documenting Pittsburgh firsts, an ingenious battery-operated Pittsburgh trivia game, and many other excellent projects. In addition to the school projects, 60 students designed bridges and entered them in the "Great Pittsburgh Bridge-Building Contest."

The Festival was a real success for all involved. One teacher commented that "this is the nicest thing we have done for our school, and in our school, for a long time." Another teacher added, "These students are truly citizens of Pittsburgh now, after all their hard work."

The next Hands-On History Festival will be in the spring of 1993 — so begin thinking of project ideas now! Call Diane DeNardo (412) 471-5808 if you would like us to send you a copy of our publication, *Hands-On History Inspiration* (\$6.50), that contains "recipies" for many tried and true hands-on history projects.



The opening-day parade: the Allderdice High School marching band.



Hand-painted paper bag buildings

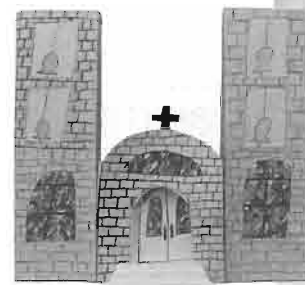


Rubbing an historic plaque

Festival Participants

We are pleased to recognize the following schools who participated in the 1991 Hands-On History Festival. We thank all of you for your creativity, inspiration, and countless hours of hard work. We truly appreciated your effort and involvement:

Allderdice High School
 Arsenal Middle School
 Assumption Elementary School
 Beltzhoover Elementary School
 Blackhawk School District
 Central Elementary School
 Chartiers Elementary School
 Glassport Central Elementary School
 Phillips Elementary School
 Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts
 Reizenstein Middle School
 St. Agatha
 South Fayette High School
 South Side Area Elementary School
 Springdale Junior High School
 Robert L. Vann Elementary School
 Washington Elementary School (Penn Hills)
 Woodlawn Middle School



A South Side church

Fine-tuning a bridge



Adding PPG Place to the city mural

Building an architectural column



Volunteer Thanks

Landmarks' education staff would also like to thank the more than 40 volunteers who helped us during the Festival. With great patience and enthusiasm, the volunteers helped Festival visitors participate in the special events and art activities . . . and many volunteers helped our staff set-up and dismantle the Festival.

Watching a pioneer craftsman



The Phillips Elementary School quilt



Student exhibits



Making gargoyle masks



A busy, exhausting day

PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE:

Walter C. Kidney

This continues a PHLF News series showing aspects of architecture and building in the Pittsburgh area that may have gone unnoticed. The series is intended to develop among its readers a critical sense that will create a demand for better architecture, planning, and development in the future.

The trend of technology seems to be away from the big, articulate, and very possibly dramatic toward the small, hidden, and quiet: such, at least, is the case with prime movers. The Newcomen engines of the early eighteenth century were so big that their houses were, in a sense, part of them, supporting some of their parts; their strange assemblies of valves, levers, and thongs that halted the levers were articulated enough, though in a foreign language; and as for drama, they were about the first engines ever built, and ran on the weight of the air. From that early point, nearly 300 years ago, engines have become smaller, more subtle, more efficient. Yet not a century ago, there were still mighty and articulate engines in and around Pittsburgh that had to be suitably housed.

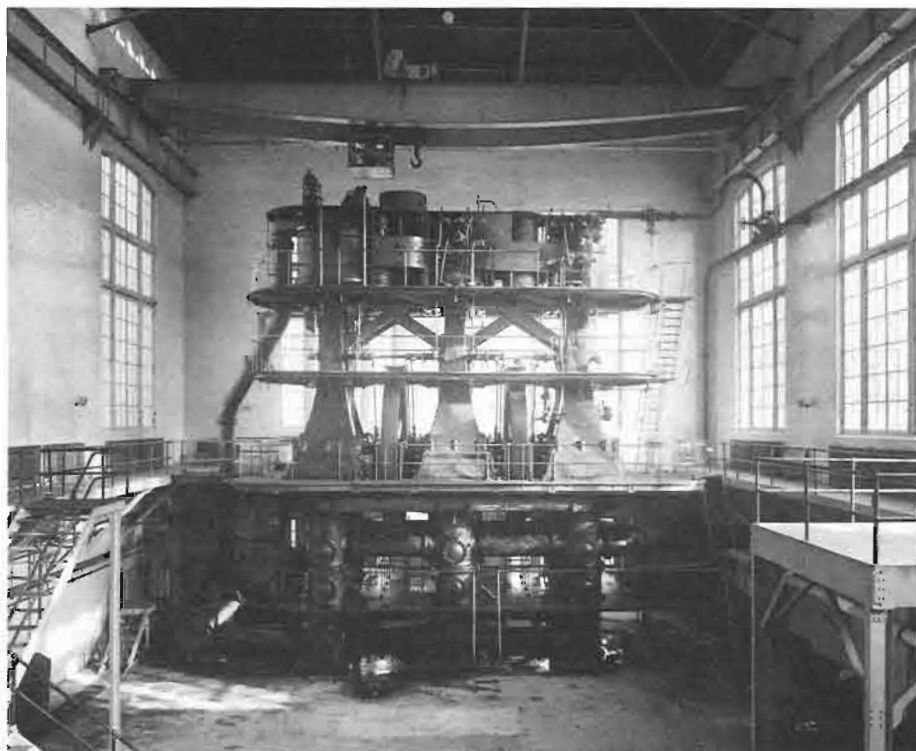
Except for the Carnegie Tech engine house, all these engine rooms still remain, though with some loss of ornament, roof tiles, and chimneys. But they are not inhabited as they once were; it is all but certain that none of these engines now exists.



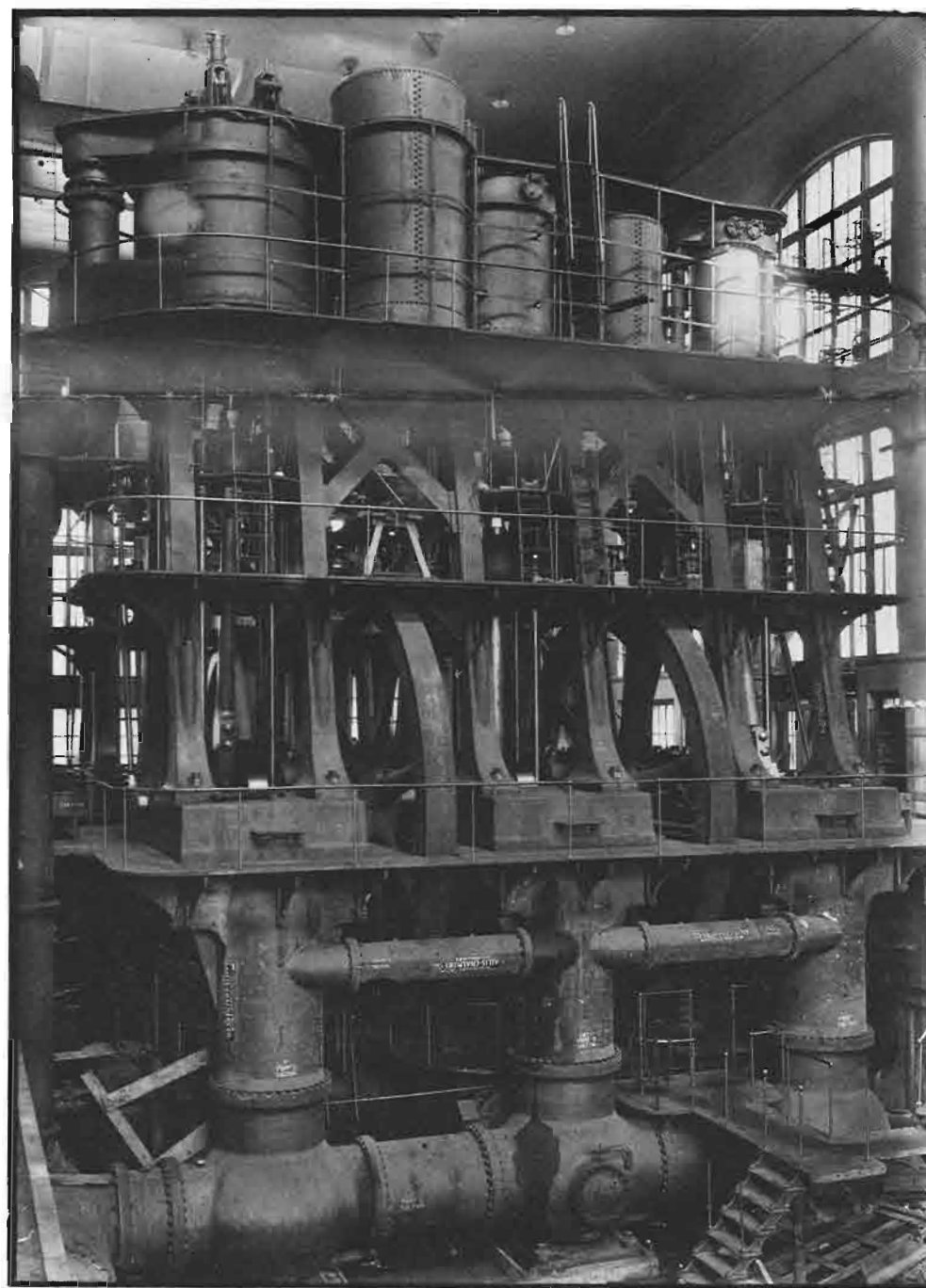
Archives of Industrial Society, University of Pittsburgh.

Conspicuous on the South Side is the Mission Street Pumping Station, shown here as built in 1912. Standing about 160 feet above river level, it relayed water sent to it some 400 feet higher to storage tanks.

Below: One of its triple-expansion steam pumping engines, each delivering 700,000,000 gallons a day. There were two, and space was allowed for two more.



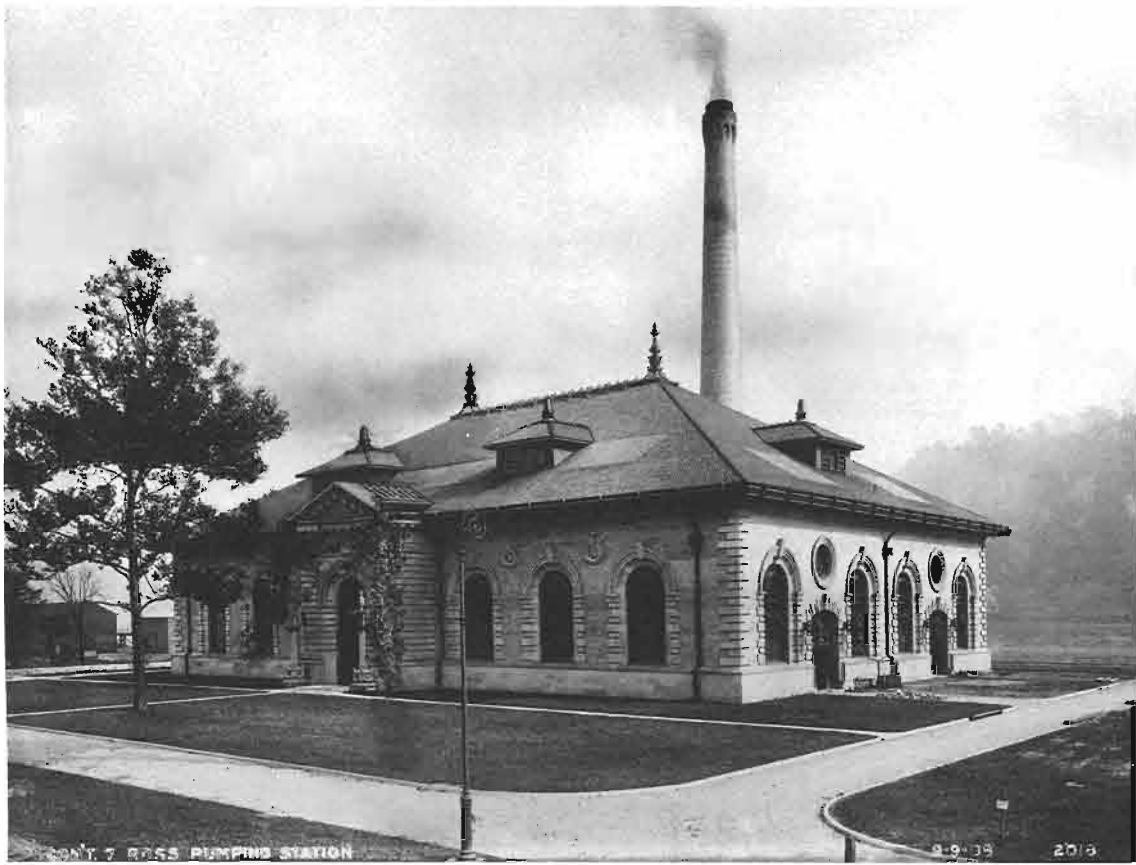
Archives of Industrial Society, University of Pittsburgh.



Left: The architect of the Mission Pumping Station, Thomas H. Scott, designed the similar Aspinwall Pumping Station, seen here in a modern view.

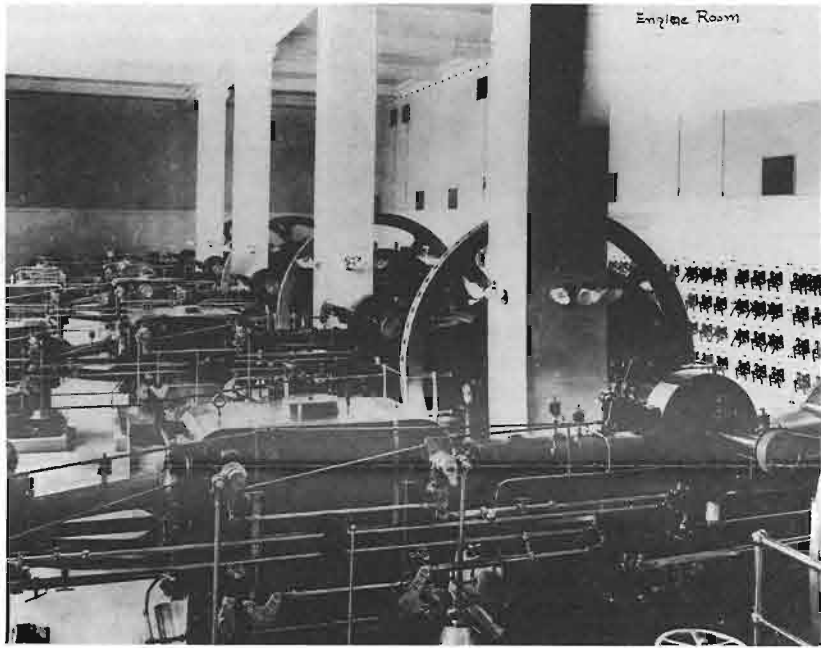
Above: One of its Allis-Chalmers triple-expansion pumping engines, near the end of construction in 1914 but not yet painted. Four engines distributed 80 million gallons a day from the Aspinwall filtration beds to a large part of the city.

Engines and Their Homes



The nearby Ross Pumping Station of 1908 used turbines, and required less overhead space. It drew up to 250,000,000 gallons of water daily from the Allegheny River and sent it to the filtration beds. The architects were Rutan & Russell, designers of the Hotel Schenley.

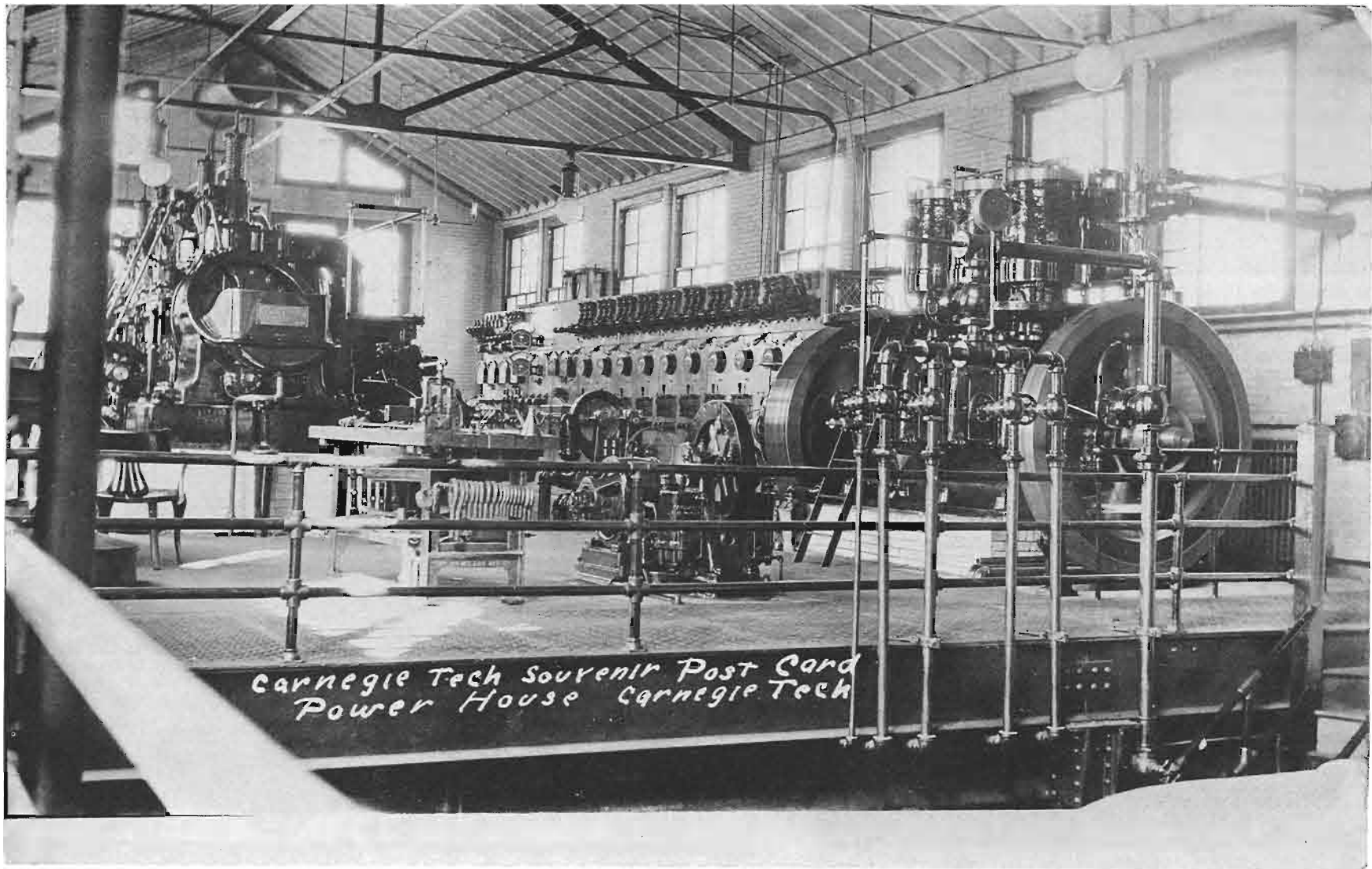
In this same 1910 period, institutions often generated their own electricity. Here is the 1907 engine room of the Carnegie Institute.



Below: A postcard of 1908 shows the generating plant, probably powered by gas engines, at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.



Right: Its temporary building is shown beyond the steps of Machinery (now Hammerschlag) Hall, under construction in 1913.



Preservation Scene



The Syria Mosque

On April 5, Walter Kidney read the following statement on behalf of Landmarks in support of designating the Syria Mosque in Oakland as a City landmark:

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation regards the Syria Mosque as a building of value to the community in two ways. First, it has established itself as a favorite auditorium and meeting place; this, at least, has been its past, attested to both by newspaper articles, radio and television programs, and the remarks of individuals in telephone calls to us. There is an obvious wave of sentiment for keeping the building and the question of its possible future as a medium-sized auditorium should be considered in pondering the question of designation. Second, Syria Mosque has been a harmonious element, if not the most conspicuous, in the city's most distinguished public area. Built in 1915, its architects were Richard G. Schmid and Harris H. Huehl, Chicago specialists in Masonic buildings. The Scottish Rite Temple of 1923 in New Castle is theirs as well. As a combination of clubhouse and public hall, Syria Mosque has been a completely appropriate element of the Oakland Civic Center. Its architectural treatment, though willfully exotic, is subordinated to a simple mass whose height, along the street, is compatible with those of the adjacent Pittsburgh Athletic Association and Masonic Temple and other buildings within sight. It is a good member of the group that surrounds the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial. The sphinxes by Giuseppe Moretti are in themselves remarkable features of the street scene. The replacement of this building would have to be done with great imagination and care to maintain the beauty of this place.

In Pittsburgh, which had proposed the Syria Mosque nomination, the Schenley Farms Association, many individuals and neighborhood groups, and the Historic Review Commission agreed that the idea of landmarking the Syria Mosque had merit.

However, National Development Corporation already had been issued a demolition permit for the Syria Mosque site at the end of March; the permit was valid for six months. National Development does not yet own the Syria Mosque, but it does have a sales agreement. If National Development acquires title within six months, it can proceed with demolition.

The Historic Review Commission is continuing with the landmark designation process in hopes that the National Development Corporation will not acquire title in time. If the demolition permit expires, then the Historic Review Commission could recommend to City Council that the Syria Mosque be given landmark designation, and it could be saved.

Reports of a possible sale appeared a year or so back. Around this time, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was asked to list Oakland buildings warranting preservation; we listed Syria Mosque as one

building among a number fronting the Soldiers' Memorial and Cathedral of Learning lawns, the group as a whole being in "A," the highest category of importance. Had the City and the Historic Review Commission completed its current project of nominating all "A" buildings and districts for designation, the suddenness of the current campaign would have been avoided. The Commission is, in fact, just beginning, awaiting the drafting of the new City historic preservation ordinance.

When the question of the sale and demolition of the Syria Mosque arose in mid-March, Landmarks' President Arthur Ziegler wrote to Jack L. Weaver, the Recorder of Syria Temple, the owners, to make the following points:

- Syria Temple should not demolish the Mosque as part of the sales agreement;
- the community deserves to know the developer's plans for demolition/construction before the building comes down;
- any replacement is almost certain to be inferior as a work of architecture;
- every possibility of continuing use should be explored.

Still, the Shriner's resolution to sell the Mosque went through at the end of March, and National Development Corporation promptly obtained a demolition permit.

Landmarks explored two obvious possibilities that the University of Pittsburgh or DiCesare Engler, which hires the auditorium frequently, might want to buy the Syria Mosque. Yet the building appears to consume much more money than it earns; its physical plant is deteriorating; an old air-conditioning system has ceased to function; and possible subsidies have been drawn to the downtown Cultural center. The City Rehabilitated is replacing the City Beautiful.

Lacking someone who can acquire the building for \$10 million and continue its operation, an alternative would be to permit the erection of a building on the open lot portion of the Mosque property and, hopefully, turn to the University of Pittsburgh for ownership of the Mosque itself. The University of Pittsburgh tried to buy the Mosque for several years, and could possibly use the Mosque as an assembly hall, as could other Oakland institutions.

The parking lot joining the Mosque has always been a vacuous space. If a structure were to be erected, about 50 feet tall at street front and nine stories to the rear, it might not be offensive, and indeed it might complete the original Oakland plan for that corner.

A good example of such a building is the University Club, which at its street front rises about 50 feet and then, almost unnoticed by the public, rises much higher to the side and rear.

Landmarks has been in contact with Pitt and with the Schenley Farms Association to see if such a solution can be reached. Our staff continues to devote many hours to the Syria Mosque issue, considering the various alternatives brought to our attention by interested parties. We will report again on the Syria Mosque in the next issue of PHLF News.

Work on the Courthouse

The work thus far on the Allegheny County Courthouse is utilitarian in nature: repair to roof valleys and gutters, with window and masonry repairs to come. Cleaning the stonework is indefinitely postponed, and cleaning the roof tiles, which would leave the building's mountainous roofs a deep orange, has not been considered. The Courthouse Advisory Committee has, however, urged that the present chaotic array of signs and notices, here and also in the County Office Building, be replaced by uniform signs and notices in minimum number.

The Koppers Building

"Business Never Looked Better" is the rental slogan at the Koppers Building of 1929, and the presence of genuine Art Deco is stressed in words and pictures. The public interiors are a mixture of careful restoration and tactful addition in the original spirit, and have only two conspicuously doubtful features: a cold quality of light from some fixtures and the too-conspicuous palm trees. The building in downtown Pittsburgh on Grant Street is a treat to visit, and we hope that new brochures equal to the unusually handsome old ones will become publicly available.

Who Wants Burke's Building?

As of the beginning of April, Burke's Building, the handsome 1836 work of John Chislett, was still deserted. The Greek Revival edifice, the first built in Pittsburgh specifically for office purposes, stands at 209 Fourth Avenue, immediately east of PPG Place. Interested parties should get in touch with Carol F. Ferguson, 111 Grandview Avenue #702, Pittsburgh, PA 15211; (412) 488-0586.

A Chance on Bingham Street

The City of Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission has found "merit" in the South Side Planning Forum's nomination of 901-11 Bingham Street, the two surviving masonry buildings of the Mackintosh-Hemphill plant, as City historic buildings. Under the present ordinance, this offers up to eight months of legal protection. 901 Bingham Street is a two-story office building of the 1890s, treated as a simple arcade and built of golden-brown brick in a random variety of shades. The spandrel area above the second-floor arches has a simple diaper pattern of lighter and darker brick. The effect is elegant in a simple way, and it is possible to guess at a Philadelphia architect, more sophisticated than his Pittsburgh colleagues, or possibly some unusually advanced Pittsburgh firm such as Longfellow, Alden & Harlow. The other building is a carpentry and pattern shop in a similar brick, with a very nice textural contrast between this and the stone lintels and sills. The springing of the arches from corbels going the "wrong" way is a little daunting, maybe an attempt at sketching out Palladian windows. Both buildings are quite handsome, and we hope that they will survive in use.

Sewickley Residents Honored

G. Whitney Snyder and Mary Beth Pastorius were named Man and Woman of the Year by the *Sewickley Herald*, the former for a variety of civic activities including the maintenance of the quality of Sewickley Heights, the latter for numerous reasons, notably her curatorship of the exhibition "Town and Country Living: The Architecture of Longfellow, Alden & Harlow." Whitney Snyder is a trustee of Landmarks, founder of the Station Square Transportation Museum, Chairman of the Industrial Artifacts Riverwalk Committee, and a generous donor of artifacts. Mary Beth, a member of Landmarks, is working with us on the Longfellow, Alden & Harlow publication, and is one of our Award of Merit recipients this year.

Vandergrift

Landmarks has taken an interest in Vandergrift, the model industrial town in Westmoreland County that F.L. and J.C. Olmsted designed in 1895. The town lies within a bow of the Kiskiminetas River, uphill from the site of the Apollo Iron and Steel Company that commissioned it. Of the plan only half was realized, and that underwent the minor derangements visible in any plan designed to an ideal. A preservation group, the Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society (VVMHS), has been actively pursuing the preservation and rehabilitation of the town's mercantile district and of the Casino, its combination theatre and town hall, with its surroundings. In the last year, a State Historical Marker for the town has been erected, a museum opened, and a feasibility study for the Casino completed by a New York architect, John Petrarca; the last suggested office and theatre or gymnasium use. Landmarks has given consultation, and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has a permanent arrangement for consultation. CMU's school of architecture studied the town in its many aspects and offered design solutions of varying likelihood. In late winter, the Borough Council was being asked by VVMHS to remain in the Casino to give, in the short term, a reason for retaining and restoring it pending the adoption of one of the feasibility study's proposals.

Where Did Washington Land?

Our chairman Charles C. Arensberg wrote the *Post-Gazette* earlier this year correcting the renaming of Herr's Island as Washington's Landing. He demonstrates that George Washington and Christopher Gist spent the freezing night of December 29, 1753 on Wainwright's Island just off Shannopin Town, which is to say up around 40th Street in Lawrenceville.

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Aluminum Smelting Pot Dedicated at Station Square

On March 13, Alcoa president C. Fred Fetterolf presented an aluminum-producing smelting pot to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation; it is one of the major artifacts displayed along the Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts at Station Square.

Those taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left to right): Torrence M. Hunt, Sr., a retired vice president of Alcoa and a trustee of Landmarks; Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks; Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff; C. Fred Fetterolf, president of Alcoa; Jack Wagner, president of City Council; and G. Whitney Snyder, chairman of Shenango Furnace Company and chairman of Landmarks' Riverwalk Committee.

Following the dedication ceremony, Jay Bruggeman of Alcoa spoke to students from South Side Catholic School and described how aluminum is made and how the smelting pot was used.



The Hell Gate Section

At the beginning of April, a remarkable artifact made a quiet arrival at Station Square. This is a mockup of a section of the arch of the Hell Gate Bridge, made up around 1915 by the American Bridge Company. The actual arch, with its curved stiffening truss above, was the greatest steel arch then built, 978 feet in span and part of a 17,000-foot viaduct. The Hell Gate Bridge crossed a branch of the East River in New York City, connecting the Pennsylvania Railroad with New England. The section is 10'6" high, 5'0" wide, and this sample is 3'0" long. Plates are as thick as two inches, and the whole massive section is an assembly of riveted plates and angles designed to take a pressure of 150,000 tons. The engineer was Gustav Lindenthal and the architect Henry Hornbostel; two persons who, like the fabricator of the steel work, have strong Pittsburgh associations.

Riverwalk Design Team

The team that will design the Station Square Riverwalk has largely been chosen. Ehrekrantz, Eckstut & Whitelaw of New York will be the planners; Oehme, van Sweden & Associates of Washington, D.C., the landscape architects; and Landmarks Design Associates of Pittsburgh, the architects. The lighting consultant has yet to be chosen, and there is a possibility of a collaboration with the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Rachel Carson Homestead Association

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association and Landmarks Design Associates have completed the historic structures report funded by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. This project has resulted in two options for restoration of the homestead: first, to remove all additions made to the homestead since the family left in 1929; or second, to convert the additions at the homestead into an orientation theater and gift center. The Association plans to implement one of these proposals in the fall of 1991 to be completed in time to celebrate Rachel Carson's 85th birthday and the 30th anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring* on May 27, 1992.

The Association also announced plans for a 1992 symposium concerning the worldwide impact of *Silent Spring* and Rachel Carson, to be jointly sponsored by the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham College, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and the Rachel Carson Homestead Association.

Magee to Return

The Pittsburgh Department of Parks and Recreation informs us that the bust of William Addison Magee, now in storage, will be re-erected "at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Bigelow Boulevard behind the USX Building in conjunction with the City Centre project." This is good news.



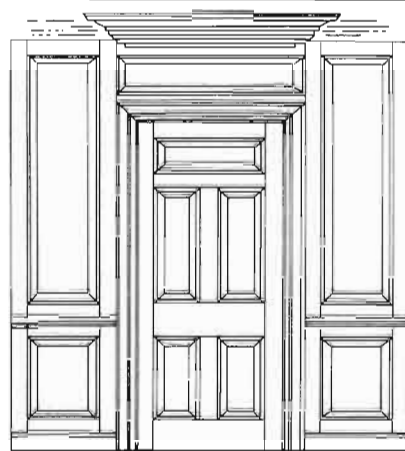
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Historic Architecture and the Pleasures of Dining

Walter C. Kidney

Those who know the Eastern Seaboard know the pleasure of dining in an old house, where the food is up to the standard of the wood-work, and both combine for a happy experience. We, too, have our buildings that wear their antiquity gracefully, with the promise of a special dining experience. Here, we are briefly mentioning six Pittsburgh-area restaurants housed in historic buildings.

Angel's Corner

Externally, Angel's Corner in Oakland seems like the rather bland 1930s church of some Eastern rite, with three rather Byzantine cupolas to hint at the ethnic character of the congregation. Two features catch the eye, though: the handsome, lightly polychromed angel sculpture right at the corner of the church, and the straight-sided pointed arches of the side windows. The latter are a little suspicious, not bland at all. Inside, in fact, you are in a Victorian frame church, with dark, molded wood-work. The windows are filled with a mildly-colored patterned glass — all except the bottom panels, which are of raucous solid colors — but the rest is of quite another time. A pamphlet reveals the history: a frame Methodist church of the 1880s, taken over by a Greek Catholic congregation early in this century, stuccoed in 1922, then redesigned externally and given a brick veneer around 1930.

On a bright summer evening, with sun coming through the glass, the effect was most agreeable. We wondered, though, whether the place would be too dark at other times, dependent as the large space is on table candles and widely-spaced, dim sconces. One might flee for light to the old choir loft, lit with chandeliers and used as a cocktail and dessert space.

The food was rather pricey but very good, to judge from cream of chicken soup, oysters Mornay, Cornish hen, and sole. Dessert may need a little caution, as the specialty, bishop's cake, is too sweet for some tastes.

Bloomfield

A few restaurants in Bloomfield are showing appreciation, these days, for their Victorian commercial fronts. We cannot vouch for the food, which looks from menus as if it would be simple and quite possibly good, but there is considerable pleasure to be gained from the restored fronts and interiors that, whether the originals or not, are consistent with the fronts. *Damico's Place* at 4744 Liberty Avenue is especially good in this respect; so is *Aussie's Downunder Pub & Grill* close by at 4617. This stretch of Liberty Avenue has other well-treated Victorian fronts as well, though with uninteresting restaurant interiors or non-restaurant businesses behind them.

The Cross Keys

The Cross Keys in Fox Chapel is not a purely historic building, inside or out, but a large component of the present fabric does go back at least to 1851, when it was the G.F. Thomas Tavern; it received its present name in 1876. Outside, three components are visible: a five-bay brick house, the oldest part, which has a doorway with sidelights and a transom light with heavy Federal-style moldings; a wooden addition of c. 1900, with siding that tapping reveals to be modern imitation clapboard; and a good-looking porch that joins both. Inside, the hallway wall has been stripped to reveal its crude salmon-brick construction; dropped ceilings and imitation beams cover the dining areas; there is a little old wainscoting; the window muntins are, at least to some extent, fake over single panes; the stair is genuinely old; and moldings, doors, and mantelpieces date from all periods, including the earliest, probably the 1830s or '40s. Cross Keys would benefit

from a quality redesign into which many genuine and interesting old components would be integrated.

Its quiet, restful quality makes it a favorite in the Fox Chapel area, which a little surprisingly has nothing else quite like it. Such old restaurants, dark and domestic inside, are rare in this area.

Three of us who had supper there last fall had approximately the same reaction to the actualities of the elegant menu as we had to the building itself in its present condition, a mixture of pro and con, a feeling that better is possible. The general impression was one of blandness and perhaps a lack of distinct flavor on the part of the specific ingredients that looked so attractive on paper.

There is a simpler lunch menu that may be more successful in consequence, but we have not tried this.

Mann's Hotel

Although this is at present a neighborhood tavern and serves not much more than turtle soup, Mann's Hotel is worth remembering, partly because plans for turning it into an up-market restaurant in a restored building may some day come to fruition, partly because this still is — and would remain — an unprettified holdover from the past. A small part of the building goes back either to 1803 or 1812, with much more from 1855 to 1895. The nucleus of the place, though, is a bar room of the plainest kind, a true 1900 interior in a building fabric a lot older. The ceiling slopes, the floor slopes, nothing is quite level or plumb, the windows offer but a dim light, there are few lights of any kind, a big stove supplies the only heat,



Angel's Corner: the polychromed sculpture of an angel is just visible at the left corner of the church.



Two Bloomfield restaurants with Victorian character: Aussie's Downunder (right) and Damico's Place.



The earliest part of the Cross Keys, c. 1840.



The Victorian front and 1900 bar room of Mann's Hotel.

and there is little decoration but an abundance of pictures. The hotel has at various times served as a store, a jail, a post office, an inn, and housing for oil-field workers (there was a small local boom in the 1890s). Never a locale of great events, never a prestige restaurant, Mann's Hotel has nonetheless coexisted with McKees Rocks' general history for over a century and a half, and shows this in its appearance.

Hyeholde

Most Pittsburghers who can afford to do so know Hyeholde, one of the last grand flourishes of the Eclectic period in local architecture. William Kryskill, the owner, defied the Depression to open the restaurant in Coraopolis on New Year's Eve, 1936. The style is vaguely French Provincial with a randomness of effect due in part to Kryskill's being his own architect, building much of the place himself, and using salvage materials. The results are possibly a little daunting to the tidy-minded but full of incident from the great hall-like Refectory to much smaller spaces up or down a few steps. We had mixed feelings about the food, given its price, feeling that perhaps it could have been more . . . extraordinary? though in fact it was all excellent, and it was certainly a treat in



itself to be in such a place, an Old World house on a wooded hilltop, on an early evening in late summer. As examples of food and prices on the warm-weather menu: sauteed shrimp in a blue cheese and lime cream sauce \$7.50, salads \$2.50 to \$3.25, stuffed chicken breast \$15.50, grilled salmon \$19.50, desserts \$4.50: expensive though not outrageously so. An 18-percent service charge is added. A "Dining with Heart" menu is available for those who have to watch their health.



The design-it-yourself architecture of Hyeholde.

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Pittsburgh in 1908

This photograph is from an album of photos donated to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation by Richard Scaife. The album includes family photos, as well as photos of the Great Flood in 1907, and the Sesquicentennial in 1908.

Here is Fifth and Liberty Avenues in downtown Pittsburgh, on October 1, 1908, during the Greater Pittsburgh Day Parade that was one of the Sesquicentennial events. Two triumphal arches define the ends of a "Court of Honor" along Liberty Avenue between Grant Street and the parade's turning point. A horse-drawn float, bearing a world globe and a number of girls, is just making the turn

through the close-packed crowd. Monuments of fibrous plaster await it in Fifth Avenue. Improvised grandstands of boxes, ladders, and monument bases, as well as real if roughly carpentered bleachers are in use, though a few people seem to have given up on seeing anything.

Very little of this scene remains, today, though the exceptions are notable: Union Station in the background left; 300 Sixth

Avenue, then new and with its cornice; the Farmers Deposit National Bank on the left side of Fifth Avenue, long before its present slipcovering of sheet metal; the Frick Building, with the now-gone Carnegie Building just in front; and, to the far right, the present 100 Fifth Avenue building.



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