

PH LF NEWS

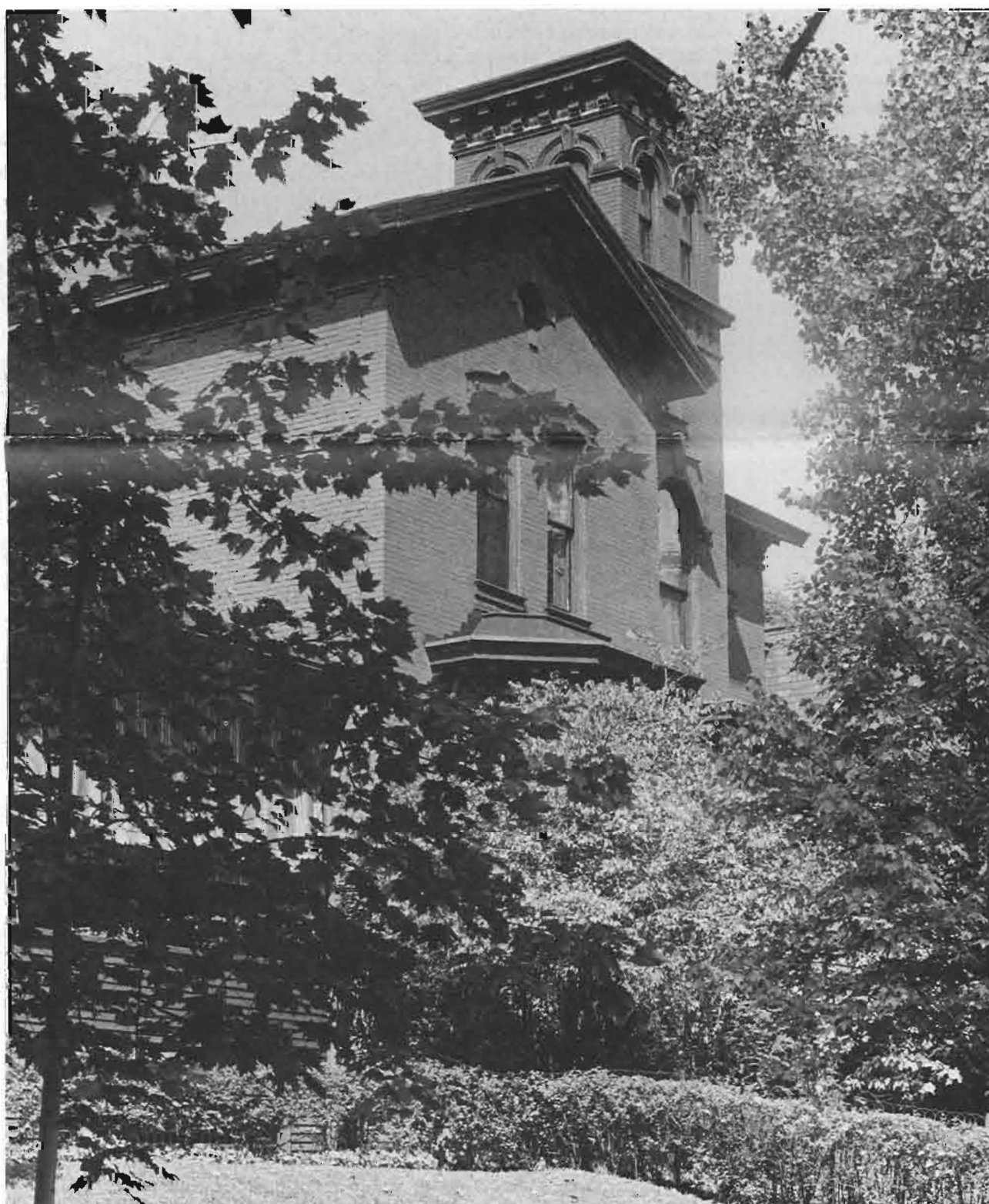
Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 122

February 1992

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Can They Be Saved?
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Good Places
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Landmarks: Our Principles



The fond sense of familiarity

The last two years have seen a fundamental reconsideration of the Pittsburgh historic-preservation ordinance, a State Supreme Court decision that may overthrow all such ordinances, and quarrels over a sizeable number of historic buildings, in and out of Pittsburgh, with property rights and the free exercise of religion among the most prominent issues.

This seems a good time for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to examine and state its own principles and beliefs with regard to preservation advocacy.

Whom Landmarks Serves

People react to their physical environments with varying amounts of appreciation and concern. Landmarks exists for those who feel genuinely at home in a community of Allegheny County, and for whom the appearance of a house, a street, an open area, a public building, a prominent engineering work, any or all, calls up a strong impression of beauty or power, or evokes a fond sense of familiarity. Landmarks is interested in the elements that create the conceptually evasive thing called the character of a community; in its architectural and scenic beauty; and in whatever gives a perspective back into its past history.



Shadyside from Squirrel Hill, 1910(?). Rodef Shalom remains to maintain the continuity.

Standards such as those expressed by the National Register or historic-preservation ordinances tend to distort the real reasons for preservation. Surely we do not preserve a building or district for the academic reasons most commonly given, for the benefit of historians — even architectural historians — and it would be shaming if we did so primarily for tourism. We should be preserving things for us.

History

History is casually assumed to consist of 1) what happened in the past, or 2) the study of what happened. Until recently we at Landmarks were primarily concerned with places built or planned 50 years ago or more, reacting to modern buildings, planning, and development that threatened our area's character and the visible traces of its past. We are coming to a new sense of history, however, as a continuum of past and future. We can imagine the history of a community as a cable, formed of strands of varying length, toughness, and prominence: each individual strand ending somewhere along the way, every section of the cable unique, yet the cable a unity from end to end. A preservationist, using this analogy, is one who tries to assure that the cable is not rotted or hacked at, who tries to assure that the essential quality and culture of his community remain, whatever changes occur.

For this reason, we feel that Landmarks should apply critical methods to proposed *new* buildings and development, accepting the simple fact of change that comes with them, but using our best judgment and effort to guide the change. We hope to comment in print, as early as possible, on conspicuous upcoming projects, and advise on their design where the historic character of a community or neighborhood is involved.

Continued on page 12

PH NEWS

Welcome New Members

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation welcomes the following new members, who recently joined Landmarks. We look forward to their participation in our work and special events.

Ms. Stella C. Cafaro	Miles McGoff
Ms. Colleen C. Derda	Kevin Murphy
Robert M. Dunkerly	Ms. Mary R. Perry
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Corporate Members

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation welcomes the following Corporate Members.

Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
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Make Your Gift Count Twice!

You may be able to double the value of your membership or year-end contribution to Landmarks if you or your spouse are employed by one of the many area companies that generously match employee contributions to non-profit institutions. Check with your employer to secure the appropriate forms; then, submit these forms to Landmarks with your contribution. We will complete our section of the forms and forward them according to your company's instructions.

We thank the following companies which matched employee contributions to Landmarks in 1991:

American Express	Mellon Bank
Chevron Corporation	PPG Industries
Consolidated Natural Gas Co.	Sony Corporation
Exxon	Tandy Corporation
Federal Express	TRW
Gulf & Western Industries	United Parcel Service
H.J. Heinz Company	USAir
May Stores	Westinghouse Electric

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

GOALS

- ◆ To preserve the historic architectural fabric of Greater Pittsburgh
 - individual buildings
 - neighborhoods
 - historic commercial areas
 - parks and public sculpture
- ◆ To preserve major artifacts that contributed to the industrial development of the region
 - the Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts at Station Square
 - the Transportation Museum
 - the Steel Heritage Task Force
- ◆ To preserve major engineering monuments
- ◆ To educate the public about the history, architecture, and culture of the region
 - educational programs for students, teachers, and families
 - publications
 - tours, lectures, videos, and exhibits
- ◆ To contribute to the new economy of Greater Pittsburgh by developing tourism based on our architectural, engineering, and industrial history, and on the development of our historic riverfronts
- ◆ To continue a well-managed, soundly-financed membership organization to implement these goals on a long-range basis

PHLF News is published six times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. It is supported through membership dollars, proceeds from Station Square, and advertising revenue.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.	President
Louise Sturgess	Editor/Executive Director
Diane C. DeNardo	Director of Education & Marketing
Mary Lu Denny	Director of Membership Services
Eric F. Dickerson	Advertising Sales Manager
Walter C. Kidney	Architectural Historian
Stanley A. Lowe	Director of the Preservation Fund
Albert M. Tannler	Archivist
Greg Pytlík	Designer

Thank you, Trustees

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks the following trustees of our organization who generously contributed to our year-end appeal.

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Education News: Landmark Survivors

The *Landmark Survivors* video, a recent project of our education department, is being distributed to area schools. The 40-minute video, intended for high school and adult audiences, highlights the life stories of seven surviving Pittsburgh landmarks: the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail, Fort Pitt Blockhouse, Smithfield Street Bridge, Clayton, Kennywood Park, Fort Pitt Boulevard, and Station Square. The video can be purchased through Landmarks and is also available on loan to schools through the Film Distribution Library of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

In addition, the video has been purchased by historic preservation organizations across the country. The video serves as a model for communities interested in educating their school children about local history and historic preservation efforts. Forty-two schools and historical organizations have purchased copies of *Landmark Survivors*.

Landmark Survivors was funded through a grant from the Henry C. Frick Educational Commission and created by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, in cooperation with students in the Advanced Production Class at Fox Chapel Area High School.



The Noah's Ark at Kennywood Park, 1940s.



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E P V H E & N L T F S

Mark your calendars now, so you can attend the tours, lectures, educational programs, conferences, and special events planned for the members and friends of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808 for further information.

Thurs., March 5, Lecture: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sat., March 7, Tour: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

Exploring the Interior Architecture of Pittsburgh's Downtown Landmarks

Offered through Pitt's Informal Program, this illustrated lecture and walking tour will feature the most interesting interior architecture of downtown Pittsburgh: including, Richardson's grand stair at the Allegheny County Courthouse; the newly restored Art Deco lobby of the Koppers Building; and the multi-dimensional use of aluminum at Alcoa's headquarters. Call Pitt's Informal Program at 648-2560 to register.

Tues., April 21, 8 p.m.

Distinguished Lecture & Awards of Merit

James van Sweden, whose firm is the landscape architect for Station Square's new River Plaza and Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts, will address us on his firm's accomplishments nationwide, and its plans for us. Oehme, van Sweden Associates, located in Washington, D.C., is noted for naturalistic gardens with different beauties the year around. Landmarks will also recognize individuals and organizations who have furthered the cause of historic preservation in its annual "Award of Merit" program.

Free to Landmarks members,
\$2 for non-members

Sat., April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Exploring Your Neighborhood

This two-credit teacher in-service course is offered by Landmarks through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU). Teachers will learn how to use their school's neighborhood as a "classroom." Teachers will be introduced to research techniques using artifacts, architecture, historic photographs, newspapers, city directories, interviews, and the landscape itself to investigate the history of their local community. Call the AIU at 394-5761 to register.

Wed., April 29, 6 to 8 p.m.

Mt. Lebanon Walking Tour

Architectural historian Elaine Wertheim of Mt. Lebanon and Landmarks' archivist Al Tannler will guide us through the novel residential development of Mission Hills, where neat houses of contrasting styles border tree-shaded streets. Following the tour, the group can adjourn to a local restaurant for a Dutch-treat dinner.

Tour fare: \$2 for Landmarks members
\$5 for non-members and guests

Fri., May 15, Reception: 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Sat., May 16, Conference: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Religious Properties Conference

This conference, held at Calvary United Methodist Church and sponsored by the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, the City of Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, Preservation Pittsburgh, and Landmarks, will inform the public of religious-building preservation problems in the Pittsburgh area; initiate a constructive dialogue among preservationists, religious property owners, clergy and public officials; and offer practical advice regarding religious property restoration, maintenance, financing, and community service.

Reception: \$30 Patron; \$50 Benefactor
Conference: \$15 per person, including lunch

Sat., May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Antique Auto & Engine Festival

The Station Square Transportation Museum's seventh annual festival features the first public display of seven cars made in Pittsburgh, and more than 100 antique and vintage automobiles, engines, motorcycles, bicycles, and toys. Come listen to the caliope, and learn the secret of riding a bicycle from the 1890s.

Suggested admission donation: \$2 for adults; children admitted for free

Sun., May 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Neville House Antiques Show

Twenty antique dealers from the tri-state area will display and sell quality antique furniture, prints, china, glassware, jewelry, and fabrics. The historic Neville House of 1785 in Collier Township will be open for tours. Suggested admission donation: \$3, including a house tour

Wed., June 3, 6 to 8 p.m.

Lawrenceville Walking Tour

This picturesque old neighborhood, once a town, was developed by Stephen Foster's father. Its steep streets have attracted fewer outsiders than the South Side, but people are slowly discovering its beauties. Butler Street, at the base of Lawrenceville, is busy and commercial; but a block or two away, the somewhat narrow residential streets are calm and solid, and thoroughly Victorian. Members of the Lawrenceville Historical Society will join Landmarks in leading this tour.

Tour fare: \$2 for Landmarks members
\$5 for non-members and guests

Thurs., June 4, Lecture: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sat., June 6, Tour: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

The Oakland Civic Center and Schenley Farms

Offered through Pitt's Informal Program, this illustrated lecture and walking tour will introduce participants to the City Beautiful movement and the architecture of the Oakland Civic District and Schenley Farms. The tour will feature a variety of architectural styles in these Pittsburgh showcases. Call Pitt's Informal Program at 648-2560 to register.

Sun., June 7, 2 to 5 p.m.

The Romantic Landscape of Allegheny Cemetery

This 300-acre sanctuary of trees, lawns, and monuments is a world of its own, a Victorian dream of peace. To explore it is one of Pittsburgh's great experiences. Wear your walking shoes and meet Jennie O'Donnell of the cemetery administration and Walter Kidney of Landmarks at the Butler Street Gatehouse for a delightful afternoon stroll over shaded hillsides.

Tour fare: \$2 for Landmarks members
\$5 for non-members and guests

Summer (dates to be announced)

Hands-On History Institute

This three-credit teacher in-service course offered by Landmarks helps teachers develop the skills of a "detective" so they can explore the local community with their students and use the community as a resource for enriching traditional classroom curricula. The institute combines lectures by Pittsburgh scholars and educators, hands-on workshops, and field trips in an exciting five-day exploration. Call the AIU at 394-5761 to register.

Summer (dates to be announced)

Pittsburgh Heritage

Teachers will spend eight summer days exploring Pittsburgh's past through its architecture in order to enrich their classroom curricula. They will attend workshops, participate in art activities, treasure hunts, incline and Gateway Clipper rides, and tour Station Square, the Mexican War Streets, the Golden Triangle, and the ethnic churches of McKees Rocks. *Pittsburgh Heritage* is a three-credit teacher in-service course offered by Landmarks. Call the AIU at 394-5761 to register.

Summer (dates to be announced)

Pittsburgh Heritage II

In response to teacher requests, Landmarks is introducing *Pittsburgh Heritage II*, a five-day, two-credit in-service. This course is for teachers who have completed *Pittsburgh Heritage*. A study of local history through the built environment will be done on-site at the following locations: Mt. Washington, Sewickley, the Strip District, Squirrel Hill, and Oakland. Call the AIU at 394-5761.

Wed., July 15, 6 to 8 p.m.

Troy Hill Walking Tour

Mary Wohleber, Landmarks trustee and native of Troy Hill, will lead Landmarks' tour of this German neighborhood 200 feet up. The climax will be a tour of St. Anthony's Chapel, with its thousands of religious relics. Following the walking tour, the group is invited to the old Eberhardt & Ober Brewery at the foot of Troy Hill for a Dutch-treat dinner at the Allegheny Brewery & Pub.

Tour fare: \$2 Landmarks members
\$5 non-members and guests

Wed., Sept. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.

Dormont Walking Tour

Al Tannler of Landmarks will lead us through the streets of Dormont, especially along West Liberty Avenue. This is the South Hills trolley suburb at its finest, still flourishing after eight decades. We will end with a Dutch-treat dinner.

Tour fare: \$2 Landmarks members
\$5 non-members and guests

Fall 92 (dates to be announced)

Exploring Your City

Teachers gain a first-hand understanding of Pittsburgh's architectural and historical development through a Downtown walking tour, historical slide shows, and instruction in research techniques and architectural styles. This is a one-credit teacher in-service course offered by Landmarks. Call the AIU at 394-5761 to register.

Fall 92 (dates to be announced)

Exploring Pittsburgh's Architectural Treasures

Art Deco, Romanesque, Moderne . . . Can you classify your favorite building? This illustrated lecture and walking tour offers an introduction to the architectural styles of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. Walter Kidney and Diane DeNardo of Landmarks will lead the walking tour, which will concentrate on the architecture of Fourth Avenue and Grant Street. Call Pitt's Informal Program at 648-2560 to register.

Wed., Oct. 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thornburg Walking Tour

Pittsburgh's Shingle Style/Arts and Crafts suburb has been a wooded hillside place of escape from the city for nearly a century. Landmarks' guides Walter Kidney and Al Tannler will lead us through this spectacular western suburb in the Chartiers Valley.

Tour fare: \$2 Landmarks members
\$5 non-members and guests

Sun., Oct. 18, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Albert Gallatin's Friendship Hill

This bus tour to Friendship Hill, the 1789 home of Albert Gallatin near Uniontown, will take us behind the scenes of the newly-completed restoration project with Marilyn Paris, superintendent of Friendship Hill.

Tour fare: \$15 Landmarks members
\$25 non-members and guests

Thurs., Nov. 12, 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Antiques Show Preview Party

Fri., Sat., and Sun., Nov. 13, 14 & 15

Fri. & Sat.: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sun.: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fifteenth Annual Antiques Show

Thirty-one prestigious antique dealers from 14 states will display and sell quality 18th- and 19th-century furniture, paintings, prints, china, glassware, jewelry, carpets, and fabrics in the grand ballroom of the Station Square Sheraton.

Preview party: \$37.50 per person
Suggested admission donation: \$4 per person

Sat., Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holiday Bus Tour to Brookville

Celebrate the holidays by joining us on a bus tour to the Brookville Victorian Christmas Celebration in Jefferson County. We will tour the Main Street Project, an award-winning national model for successful revitalization.

Tour fare: to be announced

NEW AT THE CORNERSTONE

The Book and Gift Shop of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Members receive a 10% discount.

Autographs

Autographs are the new, hot collectibles — at least according to recent feature articles in *Newsweek* and *Connoisseur* magazines. The Cornerstone has recently acquired at auction a very unusual and valuable collection of autographs. Among the items we are offering for sale: a deed signed by Frederick Douglass; autographed photos of Satchel Paige, Ira Gershwin, Conrad Hilton, and, of special interest to Pittsburghers, Rachel Carson. Also at The Cornerstone are four mint-condition Nixon Theater programs from the late '30s and early '40s: two autographed by Katharine Hepburn (both 1937, one signed in pencil, one in ink); one autographed by Helen Hayes (1937); and one autographed by Irving Berlin (1942). Prices range from \$15.00 to \$350.00.

Pittsburgh Videos

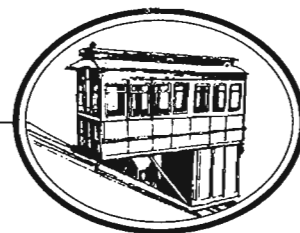
1991 was the year for Pittsburgh videos. The best of these are WQED productions, at first broadcast on television then later released on VHS video. We carry all of the WQED videos at The Cornerstone. A recent addition to the WQED roster is the 30-minute documentary *House on the Waterfall*, the story of the creation of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater (\$19.95). Also new, from an independent producer, is a video entitled *West View Park; Rediscover the Excitement* (\$21.95). This well-documented, engaging account will prove invaluable to those interested in reliving the glory days of one of Pittsburgh's amusement parks.

Musical Recordings

The Cornerstone is happy to announce that it will be carrying the musical recordings of one of Pittsburgh's most creative musical ensembles, the Dear Friends. Associated with the Stephen Foster Memorial, this group recreates and performs 19th-century popular vocal music. Their four titles, available on cassette tape (\$10.98 each), include: *Dear Friends and Gentle Hearts*, an enthusiastically-performed collection of Stephen Foster melodies; *The Blues and the Grays*, a collection of Civil War tunes; *Sweet Emerald Isle*, a collection of Irish melodies; and *Christmas in the Parlour*, a collection of Victorian Christmas music.

The Cornerstone

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RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES: CAN THEY BE SAVED?

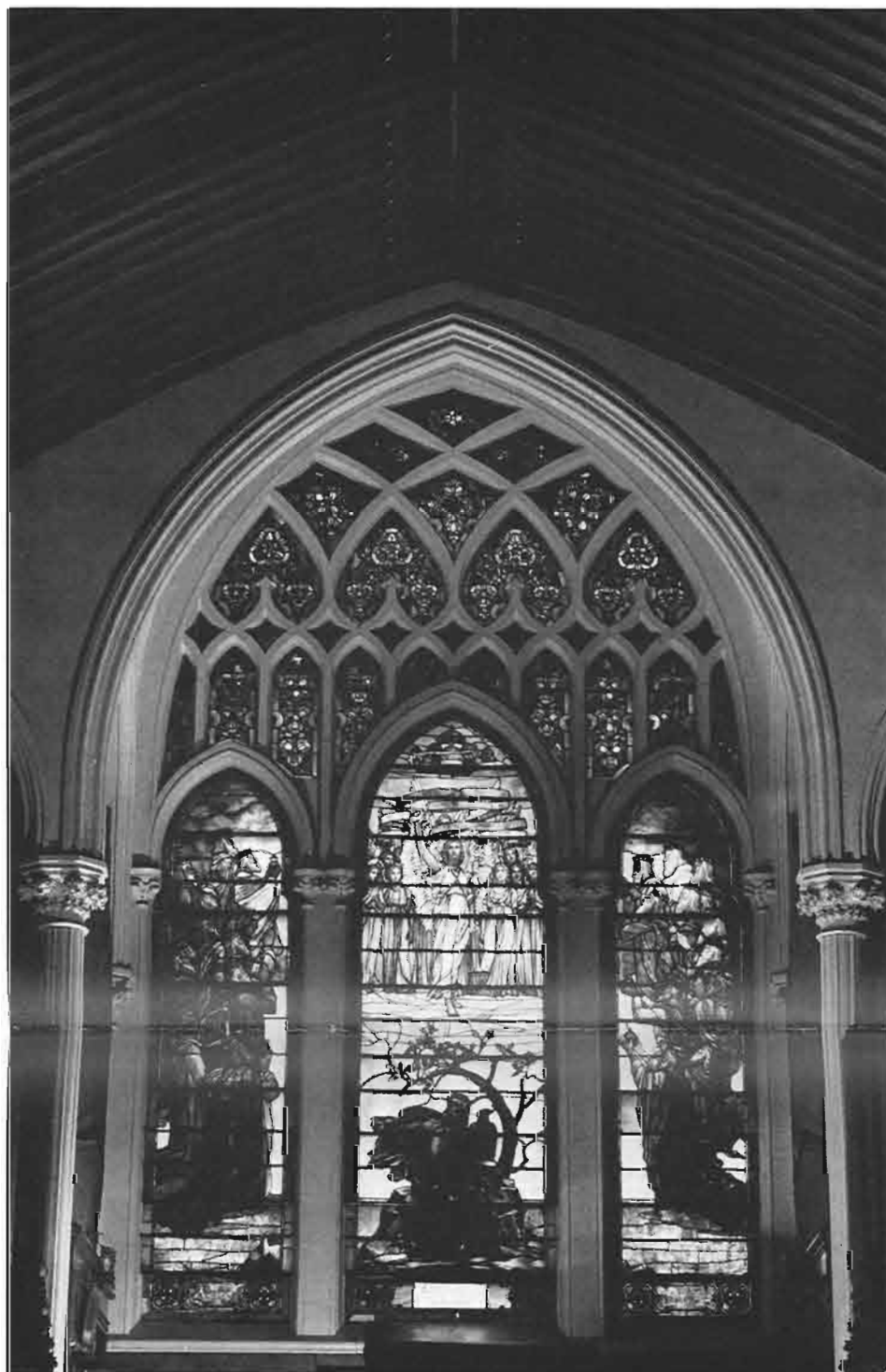
There is usually a place of worship within sight in any long-settled community, a punctuation to the street scene, breaking up the uniform accumulations of houses and stores, creating drama on a skyline or on a river plain seen from above. Such consecrated buildings are quite often of no great architectural import. Yet they are extensions of home for the faithful who go there, and places of unthreatening if not fully-known ritual for their neighbors. And sometimes, of course, they are works of fine architecture, of concern to anyone who cares about the beauty of the community.

Neither the beauty nor the historic character of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oakland was enough to save it two years ago. The parish was tiny, discouraged, and without resources, the Diocese had other and pressing uses for the money that might have given it a longer existence, and developers were making offers for the site. What happened to St. Peter's could happen to a number of other architecturally valuable religious buildings. Devoid of the sizeable congregations they were built for, religious buildings lack meaning except as works of the architect's art cast in a religious format. They may also be struggling with physical deterioration and endowments inadequate for maintenance, let alone restoration.

How to treat them? Consolidate congregations in one surviving edifice — the best architecturally, we may hope? Recruit new members? Adapt the buildings fully or partly to community, commercial, or residential use? Despair and let the buildings go?

Not the last, we hope. And as instruments of such a hope, several organizations have come into being in the last few years. They include, for instance, Partners for Sacred Places in Philadelphia and Inspired Partnerships in Chicago. The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation's Historic Religious Properties Program publishes *Inspired*, a quarterly of advice and examples, and Historic Boston Incorporated published *Religious Properties Preservation: A Boston Casebook*, that includes 29 religious buildings whose futures are secured or hopeful.

The last days of St. Peter's



One of Calvary's great Tiffany windows

Photo by Clyde Hare

RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES CONFERENCE

Preserving religious properties is a critical issue nationwide. On May 16, the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society (AHPS), Historic Review Commission, Preservation Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation are sponsoring a conference to focus local attention on this critical issue. The conference will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church, Allegheny and Beech Avenues, in Allegheny West on the North Side. There will also be an opening reception on Friday evening, May 15, in the handsomely-restored Victorian home of Ben and Joedda Sampson at 939 Western Avenue.

The purpose of the conference is to inform the public of religious-building preservation problems in the Pittsburgh area; initiate a constructive dialogue among preservationists, religious property building owners, clergy, and public officials; and offer practical advice regarding religious property restoration, maintenance, financing, and community service.

Adam Schneider from Partners for Sacred Places in Philadelphia and a local architect will address the issues of maintaining a religious property; implementing a restoration/maintenance program; budgeting; and

becoming an integral part of the community.

Knowledgeable and experienced speakers will address such questions as: How do you raise restoration or preservation money from non-members of a congregation, or from foundation and governmental sources that ordinarily do not give to religious groups? Is it feasible to raise a maintenance, as opposed to a restoration fund? Can a major restoration/preservation fund be created that would be available for any worthy religious building? How can we devise effective adaptive uses for properties no longer in religious use?

To conclude the conference, Susan Brandt, executive director of the AHPS, will moderate a discussion with representatives from Pittsburgh-area churches and synagogues who have had experience in, or are in the midst of, preserving religious properties.

The Friday evening reception and Saturday conference are open to anyone interested in preserving religious properties. Admissions to the reception are \$30 (patron) and \$50 (benefactor). The Saturday registration fee is \$15 per person and includes lunch. For further information, call Mary Lu Denny at Landmarks (412) 471-5808.

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The host church for the religious properties conference is Calvary United Methodist on Pittsburgh's North Side. It is a religious building of historical and architectural significance, facing a host of restoration and preservation problems today. It is a literally outstanding work of architecture, with a great dark spire visible for miles, and its French Gothic design is handsomely and elaborately ornamented. The interior of the church as first decorated was a national treasure, one of the few interiors planned as an integrated whole by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Tiffany has been hailed as our first industrial designer, and as the best practitioner of the Art Nouveau period. The young man was at the peak of his career when Pittsburghers Charles Scaife, Joseph Horne, and Charles Shea commissioned him for the interior of the new church planned at the corner of Allegheny and Beech Avenues in what was then still Allegheny City. Tiffany and Associates had just decorated the White House for the sophisticated bachelor in residence Chester Arthur; the home of Mark Twain, the most famous author of the time; and countless New York institutions and homes. He was one of America's first artists to be lauded in Paris.

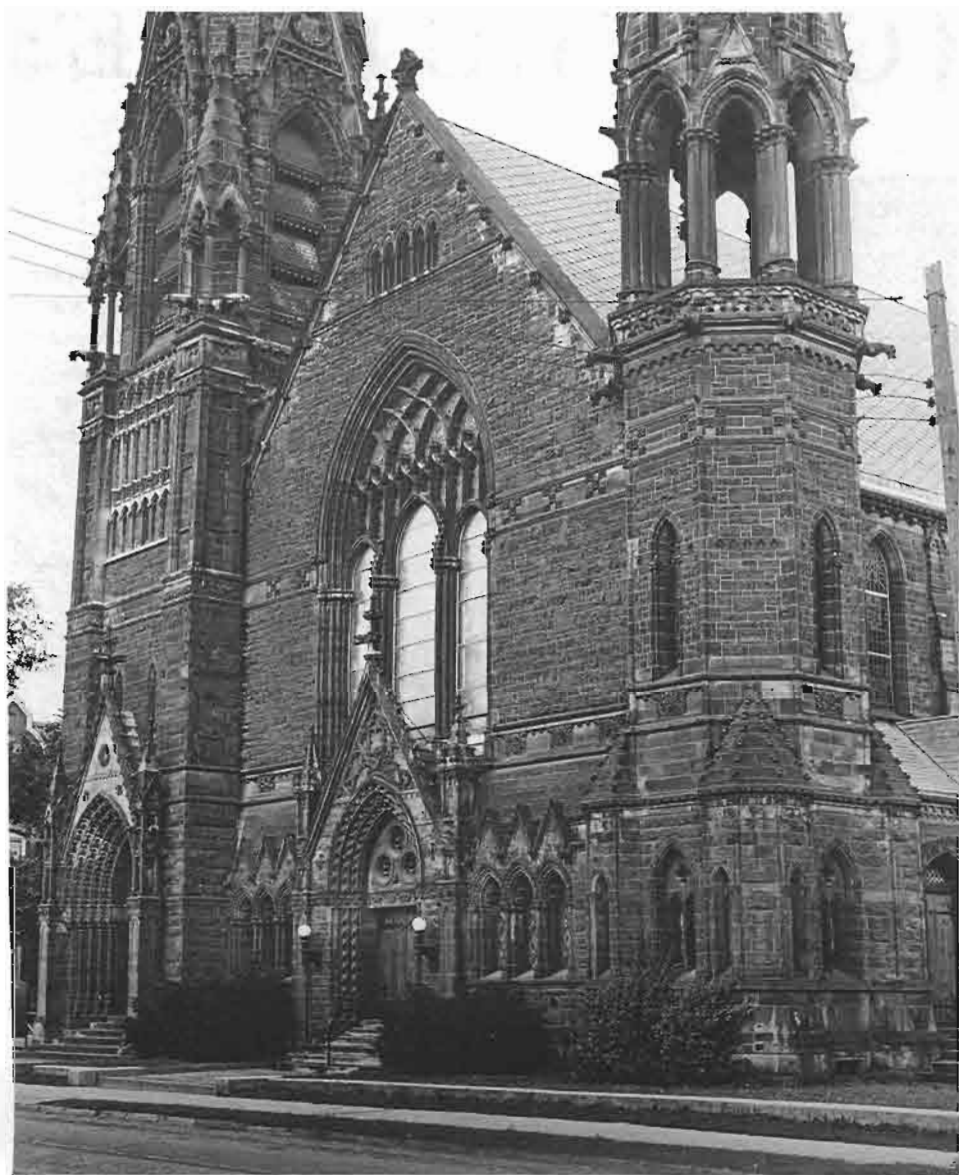
Money was no problem in the early 1890s; it was a time of exuberant display of wealth and success. A young architect from Sewickley, Thomas B. Wolfe (1860-1923), was sent to Europe to study the great cathedrals. He returned to design Calvary United Methodist Church as a Gothic church with mix-matched spires and leering gargoyles. The young scion of the house of Tiffany on Fifth Avenue had also studied abroad. It was his expressed goal to bring the beauty of the old art forms to the people using the new techniques of the industrial age.

Tiffany made the glass for his windows in his own factory, constantly experimenting for new effects. The drapery folds of the clothing of the figures in the Calvary windows are made with draped glass which was then cut to fit the designs. The shadow lines are in the glass itself. Chunks of glass are used to simulate jewels, and the roses at the feet of the women in the window glow with a rare radiance.

It is likely that a young associate designed the figures of the windows because they are especially well drawn and Tiffany himself was not adept at drawing the human form. The Roman soldiers are young and strong, not overly sentimental as too often was the case in this period.

The large window at the back of the choir loft is the most spectacular, and should be viewed as the afternoon sun shines through. The crowns of the elders gleam like 24-carat gold and the whole window shimmers with a special golden light. It is almost an ethereal experience, and its title the "Apocalypse" is made very real.

The original interior must have been breathtaking. The glorious woodwork, brass, and glass shone against walls painted green with gold medallions and red stone colonettes. An enormous brass chandelier hung from the ceiling just before the altar. Tufted velvet cushions of pale lilac and green covered the benches. A photograph gives a glimpse of the sanctuary as it once appeared.



The elaborate Gothic front of Calvary United Methodist Church



The interior of Calvary when new

Tragically, the worst damage to the church was in 1941, at the height of its affluence when the membership totaled over 700. Tiffany's brilliant but subtle color scheme was dealt a heavy blow by the congregation during World War II when, in a burst of patriotic enthusiasm parishioners literally knocked out the middle tier of amber colored windows and replaced them with garish red, white, and blue glass windows. The glorious chandelier was melted down for the war effort. Furthermore, age began to catch up with the church, even as its congregation diminished to a fraction of its former size. The sandstone carving began to crumble, the fancy roof arrangement began to leak, and the large Tiffany windows, glass held in thin came of lead, to buckle.

Efforts to save the church, a city landmark as much as the oversized home of a small congregation, have led to the formation of the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society. Susan Brandt, a trustee of Landmarks, is leading the campaign to restore the church and secure its future, together with two prestigious Methodist ministers, Reverend Robert Richards and Dr. David Harris. There is a sense of plan and purpose to the action at Calvary. The ministry publishes a charming newslet-

ter, and Susan Brandt has conducted a feasibility study to plan new uses for the community treasure. The chapel behind the sanctuary is equally beautiful and would lend itself well to concerts and receptions. It is Susan's hope that the church can be restored to its original splendor.

Landmarks thanks Professor Alice Greller of the Community College of Allegheny County for contributing to the article on Calvary United Methodist Church. Alice Greller also is a trustee of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

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CATHOLIC CHURCH REORGANIZATION

Late in the fall of 1991, the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese announced that, because of problems affecting some parishes, the number of parishes and "worship sites" would be reduced in some long-settled communities, probably with some closings. Among the churches that could be affected are:

Holy Rosary, Homewood. This is a church of 1928 by Ralph Adams Cram, a large and elegant example of his love affair with Spanish Gothic though other national elements appear as well. The limestone exterior has very fancy carving in places while the interior is severe and simple, dependent on good proportion and colorful stained glass.

St. Anthony, Homestead. Here is a little gem of a church by Lamont Button, built in the early 1940s and just a little too new for Landmarks' official cognizance in the past. It looks a little suburban for Homestead, but it shows how effective a simple design can be if proportions and materials are just right.

St. Mary Magdalene, Homestead. The refining hand of Lamont Button passed over this Fred Sauer work after a disastrous fire in the 1930s. The front doorways of sandstone are Sauer's, but almost all the other detailing, and the whole interior, are by Button. The red brick and terra cotta of the 1930s are gorgeous in color and vivid in contrast with the original yellow brick.

St. Adalbert, South Side. This is your basic big Romanesque church of 1889, more robust than many and dramatically sited, looming over Mary Street above two intervening blocks of housetops.

St. Casimir, South Side. The gravely Classical church at 21st and Sarah Streets is one of the most conspicuous of the South Side.

St. Michael Archangel, South Side. The 1861 church built for the Passionist Fathers was designed by Charles Bartberger. It stands halfway up the Slopes on Pius Street, not only a handsome work in the Mid-Victorian, pre-Richardsonian, Romanesque but the center of a remarkably picturesque group of Victorian religious buildings.

St. Josaphat, South Side. John T. Comes' work of 1916 is also halfway up the Slopes, about a half-mile east of St. Michael. It is a slightly strange but beautiful church, with a massive concrete Romanesque porch fronting a tower and aisles of red brick with cream-colored surface patternings that remove almost any feeling of mass. Above all this is a Baroque-looking tower roof of fine shape and proportion.

Nothing will be decided about these and the churches of some 60 other parishes of the Diocese for some months, but there is a chance that some notable works of local architecture will be left without a purpose.



Holy Rosary



St. Anthony



St. Mary Magdalene



St. Adalbert



St. Casimir



St. Michael Archangel

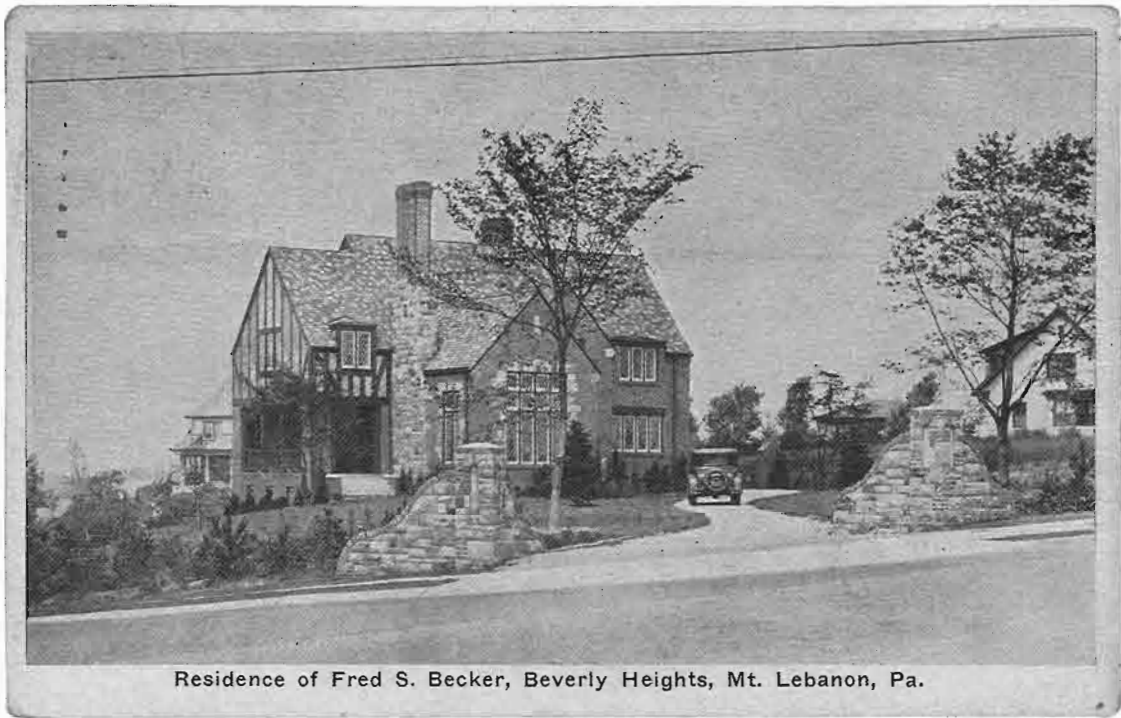


St. Josaphat

PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE:

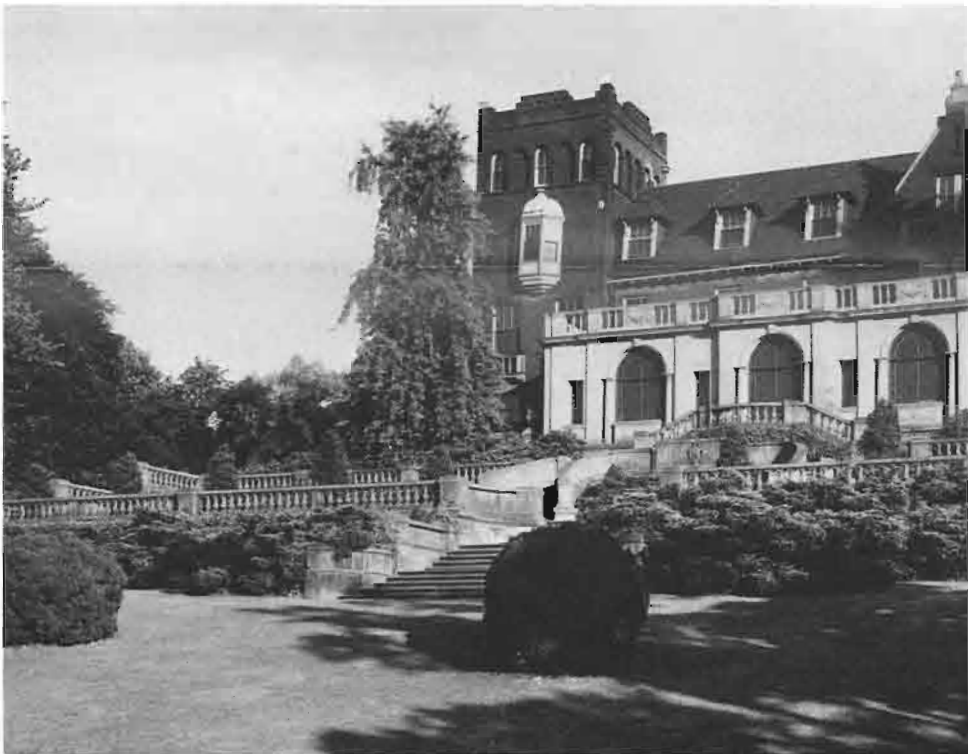
Walter C. Kidney

Happiness is not subject to contrivance, yet certain places seem to anticipate that the experiences within them will be extraordinarily superior ones, that life as lived there will have an integrity and certainty not found elsewhere. Elsewhere the laughter is nervous, the grace under pressure is threadbare, life is an accumulation of fragments, meaningless. But these few good places invite your best thoughts. In the home you furnished with inspired improvisation you can be yourself, and there is a special resonance between you and all that you see. In some public places, a concert, a speech, a ceremony, or the mere fact of being there can create a feeling of community with others; the place and the occasion have a classic quality, harmonious and solid, the basis of good, shared memories.



Left: In 1936, Fred S. Becker thought well enough of his new Mount Lebanon home to get it printed on a post-card. Such a freestanding custom-designed house, and the life within that its Old World style implied, focused the activities of many; attaining and keeping such a home was the supreme goal. The brick and half-timbering are probably both veneers on hollow tile or balloon framing, as illusory as the Merrie English look. In the Depression years, the house's air of assured prosperity may have seemed illusory itself.

Right: "Lyndhurst" stood at the northern end of Beechwood Boulevard until about 1940. Harry Thaw's boyhood home was a gloomy-looking edifice as originally constructed, but in the time of the banker Emil Winter, remodeling and landscaping gave it a more gracious and hedonistic tone. Such contrived paradises looked as if they might last forever, but a few decades saw the whole spans of existence for most of them.



The South Hills Country Club, in Whitehall, might almost be a home for one of its members, with only the tall bays of a public room to imply anything else. A John O'Hara might find discontent and cracked social veneer in such a place, but the architect and the building committee anticipated quiet, happy days and evenings, the matter of nostalgia to come.



Good Places



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

This lively scene at the entrance to the Highland Park Zoo dates from around 1900. If one can ignore the feelings of the animals and shrug off the placing of the Zoo to generate streetcar traffic, one sees this as a happy place, a place for family outings, democratic and widely accessible.



The new dining room of McCreery's department store appeared this way around 1908. Here was paradise at a price, a place to relax and be pampered, and was enjoyed as such for three decades. Then someone thought to glamorize the room with parrots that happened to be carrying psittacosis. The resulting deaths closed the dining room and the store.

The Oakland Civic Center can be seen in two different ways. Public access varies from building to building, and only a certain few can enjoy some of the stately interiors and the activities they accommodate. On the other hand, the exteriors of the buildings are there for public enjoyment, whether seen individually or as harmonious groups around three great lawns. Anyone can take pleasure in the varied yet unified ensemble, and pride in the community that has created such a display.



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Preservation Scene

PCRG Summary, and Its Thanks to Landmarks

The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) has just published *Summary of Neighborhood Lending in the City of Pittsburgh*, an analysis of lending by Integra, Dollar, Mellon, and Pittsburgh National Banks in 1900. The text begins with general background and history of the PCRG, then cites the means used in the analyses that follow, which are made by lending institution, geographical area, race and income, and amounts lent and numbers of loans made per area. Appendices give names, addresses, and telephone numbers for PCRG member groups, and the PCRG and lending-institution memberships of a number of community-development advisory committees. Persons interested in the *Summary* should ask their neighborhood organizations.

In December, the 26 neighborhood organizations of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group wrote Landmarks a letter of thanks for administering the Integra Bank/PCRG/Landmarks loan program, which has leveraged over \$425 million in neighborhood reinvestment. The *Summary of Neighborhood Lending*, the letter acknowledges, also was funded by Landmarks. The letter was signed by representatives of:

Allegheny West Civic Council
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
Breachmenders, Inc.
Calbride Place Citizens Council
Central Northside Neighborhood Council
Charles Street Area Council
East Allegheny Community Council
East Liberty Development, Inc.
Eastside Alliance
Fineview Citizens Council
Friendship Development Associates
Garfield Jubilee Association
Hill Community Development Corporation
Hill District Ministries, Inc.
Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation
Lawrenceville Citizens Council
Lincoln-Lemington-Larimer-Belmar Citizens Revitalization and Development Corporation
Manchester Citizens Corporation
Northside Civic Development Council
Northside Conference
Northside Tenants Reorganization
Observatory Hill
Oakland Planning and Development Corporation
South Side Local Development Company
Spring Garden Neighborhood Council
Troy Hill Citizens, Inc.

L.A. Preservationist Impressed

Joe Ryan of West Adams Heritage Association in Los Angeles toured Pittsburgh in November 1991 with Stanley Lowe, director of Landmarks' Preservation Fund. Mr. Ryan came to Pittsburgh after hearing Stanley Lowe's lecture at the National Trust Conference on the impact of Landmarks' Preservation Fund and the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group. After his Pittsburgh tour, Mr. Ryan wrote the following letter to a colleague in Miami:

We met at the National Trust Conference in San Francisco at the seminar "Real Estate is the Name of the Game." We both followed speaker Stanley Lowe into the hall to ask questions. As I'm sure you will recall, he said that he couldn't really explain the whole Pittsburgh process to us but that we should come out to Pittsburgh to see the process in operation.

Well, I took him up on his offer and have just returned from four days with Stanley, and it is absolutely true — you can't believe what is going on in Pittsburgh!

I sat in on four meetings with four different bank presidents and appropriate vice presidents, each committing hundreds of millions of dollars to Pittsburgh neighborhoods targeted by Stanley and his coalition of neighborhood groups. The level of expertise and business acumen that each of the neighborhood groups possess is unlike anything that I have seen to date, truly inspirational.

Individual preservation, building by building, is not going to be enough. We are losing our neighborhoods a little every day, and the pace is speeding up. At best we can hope to create a few historic districts, but even these are not safe from political whim and the pressure from development. Unless we take a proactive role now, in 25 years we will have lost a major portion of our historic stock. Los Angeles, not unlike Miami, is under tremendous pressure to provide affordable housing to the rapidly expanding Hispanic population. Why not turn this problem into a process that not only addresses the situation but also provides stewardship of our neighborhoods and their landmarks?

Stanley is doing just that, it is extraordinary. I highly recommend that you contact him: (412) 322-6053, or (412) 471-5808.

Prexy-Presby

Landmarks' president, Arthur Ziegler, will serve as a member of Presbyterian University Health System's Architectural Review Committee, advising on the form of future development.

Preservation Pittsburgh

This organization of preservationist organizations and individuals emerged at the end of last summer from the Committee to Save the Syria Mosque. It is to serve Southwestern Pennsylvania's preservationists as an advocate and as a coordinator of actions and information in ways that are beyond the powers of any existing group. It hopes to learn early of threats to preservation and to react quickly when necessary, but also to urge creation of inventories of historic buildings, structures and geographical features in Southwestern Pennsylvania whose preservation is of major importance. Landmarks is a member. For information: 681-9913.

History Center Building Purchased

In mid-December, 1991, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania announced the purchase of the old Chataqua Lake Ice (or Adelman Lumber) Company building in the Strip District. The handsome 1900-period brick building will give 160,000 square feet of accommodation for the Pittsburgh Regional History Center. \$3.1 million was paid for the property, with help from the County and the City of Pittsburgh. An architect was to be chosen around the end of January, though some Historical Society staff are already in the building. Complete conversion and occupancy are expected in about three years.

Pittsburgh Architecture: A Guide to Research

This 24-page booklet is a concentrated guide to resources valuable in researching the architectural history of this area. Not only are libraries and other archives listed with their kinds of holdings, but so are surveys, periodicals, articles, and books of major importance. The booklet concludes with a list of the principal collections of Architecture Archives, the publisher. The booklet can be ordered for \$5.00, shipping included, from: Architecture Archives, University Libraries, Carnegie-Mellon University, Frew Street, Pittsburgh, PA. 15213-3890; or from Landmarks' Cornerstone shop in The Shops at Station Square (412) 765-1042.

Heritage Trail

It started as a dream of North Side State Representative Tom Murphy: to convert the miles of Pittsburgh's riverfront property into a continuous nature/heritage trail. Access to the rivers, formerly commanded by industrial plants and railways for over 100 years, is now being transformed into more than just a dream. The Three Rivers Heritage Trail, a proposed 11.5-mile walking/running/biking trail, will become a reality within the next four years.

Friends of the Riverfront, a grass-roots organization formed out of Tom Murphy's grand design in the summer of 1990, includes the Sierra Club, The Carnegie, the University of Pittsburgh, Three Rivers Rowing Association, Pittsburgh Wheelmen cycling club, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and other community groups along the riverfronts. Its goal is to work with various community groups, private landowners, and large corporations, as well as with city and county governments, to make the Heritage Trail possible. The proposed trail will extend from Herr's Island (Washington's Landing) on the Allegheny River, past Three Rivers Stadium, across the West End Bridge, through Station Square, to Sandcastle Waterpark in West Homestead.

Currently, Station Square is the headquarters for Friends of the Riverfront. A main office has been established in the Express House, adjacent to Bessemer Court, to provide information about the trail. Station Square's contribution to the Heritage Trail will be its Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts: huge artifacts and plaques describing historic events and places at Station Square will be displayed along a mile-and-a-half riverwalk.

Finally, Pittsburgh will join other riverfront projects, such as those in Baltimore, Seattle, New York, and Cincinnati, which have boosted their image and become attractive to tourists and residents alike.

Transportation Museum Improvements

The present Station Square Transportation Museum is undergoing major improvements. The old Ritter's Diner is being remodeled to serve as a new entrance with handicapped access, as well as having space for transportation-related sales objects and for model displays. The present museum space is to receive a large new window facing westward, toward the center lot. On occasion, an older vehicle will be displayed for sale. The space will receive new vehicles, and the beacon from the Allegheny County Airport, donated to Landmarks nearly a year ago, will be prominently mounted. Finally, at the rear facing the Monongahela River, one of the Skybuses that at one time seemed to be destined as Pittsburgh's rapid-transit mode into the South Hills will be stationed. Fully restored and seating 30, it will be an orientation center for the Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts. There, films and videos will be shown, as well as films and videos related to transportation. The skybus also will be available for rent as a meeting place for outside groups.

Steel Industry Heritage Task Force

The Steel Industry Heritage Task Force, of which Landmarks was a co-founder in 1988, continues its work. Recent meetings have established four "visions," five priority matters for action, and three levels of action. The visions are described thus:

- Vision 1. America's Second Industrial Revolution Heritage Area — "Looking at Our Heritage."
 - Vision 2. Three Rivers Steel Heritage Recreation Area — "Looking at Our Resources."
 - Vision 3. Steel-on-Wheels — "Looking at Our Communities."
 - Vision 4. Regional Heritage Economic Development Program — "Looking Forward."
- The Task Force sees, as priority matters, doing the following:
- Act immediately to select, acquire, and stabilize the three most important remnants of industrial history fabric in the region. Initiate planning effort to determine public roles for conservation, management, and funding.
 - Work toward conservation, development, and management of the Homestead/Carrie site as a Regional Industrial Heritage Interpretive Center with an emphasis on the steel industry.
 - Undertake oral histories; continue photographic inventory and archiving of extant historic cultural resources.
 - Authorize an entity for oversight of the Heritage Area development within the region.
 - Work toward implementing a "Living Steel" tour at the Edgar Thomson Works.

Three levels of action will be established. At Level 1, the interpretive centers will have five visitor contact points in the Greater Pittsburgh area: Scottdale, Brownsville, the Strip District, New Kensington, and Aliquippa. Thematic zones will be established, highlighting several different industries such as coal, coke, steel, and iron. Transportation systems will have to be developed (water and railways, including historic rail stations) and existing ones used more frequently (roadways) to provide quick and efficient access to the interpretive centers and other historic sites of interest. Scenic and recreational trails will provide continuous linkages with other heritage areas in Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond.

Level 2 will give communities an opportunity to associate with the interpretive centers. Living industry access will be encouraged so people can learn from active, living industries. Visitor interpretive programs will be developed.

At Level 3, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources will be identified, preserved, and used. Already, the Monongahela and Youghiogheny corridors have been identified as potential scenic areas, although the Allegheny River corridor should be included as well. This plan will build upon existing resources and cultural celebrations and festivals.

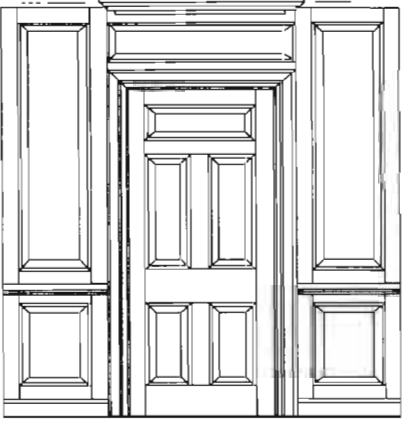
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Two Houses Lost

At the end of November, 1991, sudden threats to two historic area houses were realized, despite neighborhood anger, accusations, and hastily-mounted attempts at rescue.



The Jones house, before and during demolition

In Edgeworth, the B.F. Jones III house had stood at 203 Creek Drive since 1929. It was a work of Brandon Smith, a fashionable architect of large houses, designed in a Georgian style whose two-story portico and crowning balustrade gave it something of a Southern feeling.



Snyder-Bockstoe house, Mt. Lebanon

The Snyder-Bockstoe house in Mount Lebanon was much smaller, built around 1835 and added to and remodeled since. A developer had bought the original site of the house, but the Municipality imposed the condition that the house be moved to another lot owned by the developer. The move created structural damage, and the house stood in a forlorn condition when a demolition permit was issued November 25.

Homestead Centennial Labor Committee

1992 will be an important year for labor industry in the Pittsburgh area. The Homestead 1892 Centennial Labor Committee is planning a three-day symposium in July, 1992 to commemorate the Homestead Strike of 1892. The 1892 Committee, formed in the spring of 1989, is a collaborative effort by the United Steelworkers of America, the Steel Industry Heritage Task Force, Steel Valley Authority, and many others organized out of the need to honor and remember the triumphs and tribulations of the working women and men in the Pittsburgh area.

The Symposium, "Reflections and Lessons," is planned for July 5, 6, and 7. It will educate the public about the past and discuss what people have learned from the 1892 strike, and the whole experience of mill work and life over the last 10 decades. It will include addresses by labor historians Dr. David Montgomery of Yale University; Professor David Brody of the University of Southern California; USWA President Lynn Williams; John Hoerr, author of *And The Wolf Finally Came*; and many other historians and commentators from local universities and organizations around the nation.

For more information, call Russell Gibbons, secretary-treasurer and conference coordinator, at the Philip Murray Institute of Labor Studies, (412) 237-4554.



City Theatre

The former Bingham Street Methodist Church reopened as the City Theatre in November, 1991, to praise from the press for a good adaptive use of a historic building. L.P. Perfido Associates have been praised for their tactful juxtaposition of new and old, and for that matter the very location of the building, with regard to street safety, parking, and proximity of restaurants is considered greatly superior to that of the old theatre in Oakland.

Modern Classics

The closing of Le Petit Cafe, at Walnut and Copeland Streets, at the end of November was a sad occasion, among other things because of its clean and spacious design. There was very little about the place that could be called decorative, yet its simplicity had a first-classness about it, a solidity and taste that required no embellishment. It was peculiarly refreshing to walk on a board floor, *not* a carpet for once, with a nice firm feel to it. The openness to the street and the corridor, moderated by heavy steel sash, enclosed you, defined your space, yet gave you a big outlook on the usually-quiet world just beyond.

We remember the Cafe Stephen B of some years ago, at Ellsworth Avenue and College Street. All the qualities mentioned above were present here as well — a simple, discriminating Modernism of the sort that Henry-Russell Hitchcock described as aristocratic, not puritanical — though glass block walls facing southward made for a sunlit interior which distorted cars outside so that they seemed to swim like exotic fish. Both restaurants affirmed, not so much that less is more, but rather that a little that is exactly right may be enough.

At Petit Cafe's closing time, one report had it that a new restaurant was moving in, though the help was unaware of any such thing. There was some chance, at least, that this very handsome interior would not be lost.

Count Your Blessings

Research for a book on Henry Hornbostel took Walter Kidney in the fall of 1991 to Wilmington, Delaware. The Public Building there, the Wilmington city hall and New Castle County courthouse, is a joint work of John Dockery Thompson, Jr. and Palmer, Hornbostel & Jones; the latter office collaborated on, and was probably the real designer of, our own City-County Building.

The exterior is a massive work in granite with a Corinthian colonnade between pedimented twin entrances, with a few decorative flourishes of Hornbostelian verve. The inside is a shock. Two stair rotundas contain plaster-finished versions of the Guastavino tile stair found at Baker Hall, C.M.U., though with ornamental cast-iron balusters; above the stair wells are narrow oval skylights of leaded glass; and at the stairheads are doorframes of carved stone. Otherwise, every trace of the 1914 interiors has been eliminated, as if in a spirit of hatred, for dead-white, absolutely undetailed and undecorated surfaces with narrow black steel frames for the openings. Any decorative painting in the stair rotundas has been obliterated. The interior of this magnificent building is nothing but a cheap remodeling job of perhaps 1970.

Furthermore, nightmarish too, there is one accessible entrance, controlled by a guard post and metal detectors, and the halls are full of police. New Castle County is prepared for terrorism, if not outright revolution. The central city generally, apart from the Classical square on which the Public Building faces, is the sort of urban renewal that stimulated the founding of organizations such as Landmarks.

African-American Historic Site Survey



Two views down Wylie Avenue at the corner of Crawford Street in the Hill District: top, c. 1945; above, c. 1960. This entire lower Hill District was cleared in the late 1950s for a prestigious development that was never completed, although the great domed Civic Arena (shown here under construction) was in fact constructed.

American Blacks have held claim to a rich and diverse history in the Pittsburgh area for over 200 years. Yet Afro-American history is also one of the most neglected, forgotten, and ever-fading histories of this region. Recently, several publications and films have focused on Blacks in Pittsburgh, with the 1990 PBS television special *Wylie Avenue Days* and numerous articles, theses, and books in print on Black Pittsburgh.

But the story of the African-American experience in Western Pennsylvania is far from complete. The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is assisting Landmarks Design Associates, Architects (LDA) in a county-wide survey to identify sites important to the development and function of the Afro-American community. This survey project grew out of an LDA historical/archaeological review of the Crawford-Roberts project in the Lower Hill District for the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh in the Spring of 1990.

Eliza Brown, director of marketing and research at LDA, is the director of the survey project. She is being assisted by Daniel Holland of Landmarks. Brown has assembled an advisory committee to guide the scope and implementation of the survey. Advisory committee members include Pitt history professor Laurence Glasco; archaeologist Ronald Carlisle; Frank Bolden, a Black Pittsburgh resident and former city editor of the old *Pittsburgh Courier*; and Walter Worthington, also a Hill District native.

Currently, efforts are underway to establish a historical context for the survey and organize community input and participation in the identification of hard-to-find locations. The historical background has been subdivided into ten themes to provide a context for the site survey: Patterns of Settlement and Housing; the Church as a Focus of Community Organization, Power, and Pride; Earning a Living: A History of Work; Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Underground Railroad; the Rise of Blacks as a Political

Power; Educational and Social Institutions and Achievements; Sports, Recreation, and Leisure Activities; Cultural Achievements; Businesses; and Women. Each theme will help describe the various aspects of Black history in Allegheny County from 1760 to 1960.

Since much Afro-American history is oral and unrecorded, Brown is conducting interviews in Black communities to draw upon the memories of neighborhood residents in areas such as the Hill District, Homewood-Brushton, Manchester, Homestead, Rankin, and Carnegie. "We can't see things of importance the way the community can," Brown points out. Four or five residents will be selected in each neighborhood to help identify and justify significant sites in their respective communities not discerned through pure archival research. Each interview will be recorded on video and audio tape, and will be catalogued as a special oral history collection at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Much Black history is fading fast. Many of the residents are old, and their vivid and valuable memories need to be captured as soon as possible. With large-scale development schemes continuing, such as the Civic Arena construction and the Crawford-Roberts project, much of the Hill's history continues to disappear. Walter Worthington explains that 43 different nationalities used to be naturally integrated in the Lower Hill, an area now disrupted by demolish-and-rebuild projects. More importantly, many Blacks were displaced unjustly from their neighborhood, and many Black historic landmarks were lost.

When completed in July, 1992, the African-American Historic Site Survey of Allegheny County will form a basis for further in-depth studies, preservation projects, historic marker programs, and continued documentation of a rich Afro-American history in the Pittsburgh area. We will continue to feature this survey project in subsequent issues of *PHLF News*.

Photos courtesy of Sewickley Herald

Frank Bolden

Pittsburgh: An Introduction

Walter C. Kidney

This historical portrait was written for a tabloid distributed by the International Festival Association to visitors. We felt that it might be of interest to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation membership as well.

Up to a point, any city can claim that its geography creates part of its destiny, but this is particularly true of this city of rivers among hills: for the rivers are navigable westward, and the hills contain coal. Because of the rivers, this area was worth a fight between the French and the British; when the British won the contest in 1758, the village of Pittsburgh was named and born. Soon, the coal came to light, and the village grew. With the pacification of the Indians in the 1790s and the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 from Napoleon, the rivers became the route to a new life for tens of thousands of settlers. Because of the coal, Pittsburgh was ready to supply these emigrants with window glass, bottles, brassware, and ironware as well as build the flatboats — and after 1811, steamboats — in which they traveled westward and southward.

Until some 40 years ago, the history of Pittsburgh was more technological than cultural or civic. Steam, smoke, and fire dominated the local consciousness, or rather it was dominated by the industries these things so vividly represented. Nature and industry entered into that long battle that saw, at first, hillsides stripped of vegetation by furnace fumes, and recently, the furnaces themselves invaded by weeds and even trees. Man settled close to work if he had to, away from the industrial river plains if he could.

In time, there seemed to evolve two distinct Pittsburghs. One was that known to the world, that of the river plains: steam engines before 1810, rolling mills by 1820; Pittsburgh-based, coke-fired blast furnaces from 1859; high-tonnage steel from 1875; petroleum from 1850; the various Westinghouse enterprises from 1870; aluminum from 1888; commercial radio from 1920. Industry taking hold, often originating here, finding new markets, breeding lesser industries to serve it, enriching the bankers.

In this Pittsburgh, you could go up a river valley 20 miles and never be out of sight of an industrial plant; one steel plant was 7 miles long. The simple early forges and foundries, supplied by iron made in charcoal furnaces in the woods, became by 1920 gigantic, self-sufficient



The Strip, on a "clear" summer afternoon in 1906.

places that had their own coal mines, made their own coke, heated air stoves and boilers with gases from the coke ovens and blast furnaces, charged the furnaces with ore from their own mines carried in their own ships, made their own tools, and were in brief little empires.

That other Pittsburgh, which evolved as industry did, was more escapist and shared ideals common to other American cities. Between the rivers, east of the original city downtown, the land rose to form a great hill, and beyond this hill it was possible to escape the sight, the noise, and some of the fumes of industry. Flight to such places, some 200 feet or 70 meters above river level and well inland, began around 1840, and the beginning of train service out this way in 1851 encouraged the development of true suburbs and exurbs. A contemporary development of this same nature was taking place in the Ohio Valley, west of the city, and by 1900 a town mansion, packed close to its neighbors, was obsolescent; even if still within the city limits, a house of any consequence had its big yard, its flowers and trees, as a setting for its often picturesque

architecture. Pittsburgh architecture itself, by this time, had changed from a harsh and uncreative affair of sandstone, red brick, and wooden siding into something lighter in hue, more sophisticated in the choice and handling of materials, more coordinated and well-proportioned in composition. Early in this century, again, the Pittsburgh area was the scene of a remarkable bridge-building campaign that created handsome and progressive structures still in use.

Regardless of the good neighborhoods, the mansions, the nice middle-class houses, the parks and institutions, there were grave misgivings about the Pittsburgh way of life. A survey undertaken in 1907 found Pittsburghers irrationally committed to hard work, their housing on the average wretched, their governmental and social institutions in chaos. A biting but plausible magazine article of 1930 suggested that even the rich knew the art of being miserable: hard work, Presbyterian respectability, meanness of outlook. There was even less indulgence among these austere masters for the working class; the workplace and working conditions were to

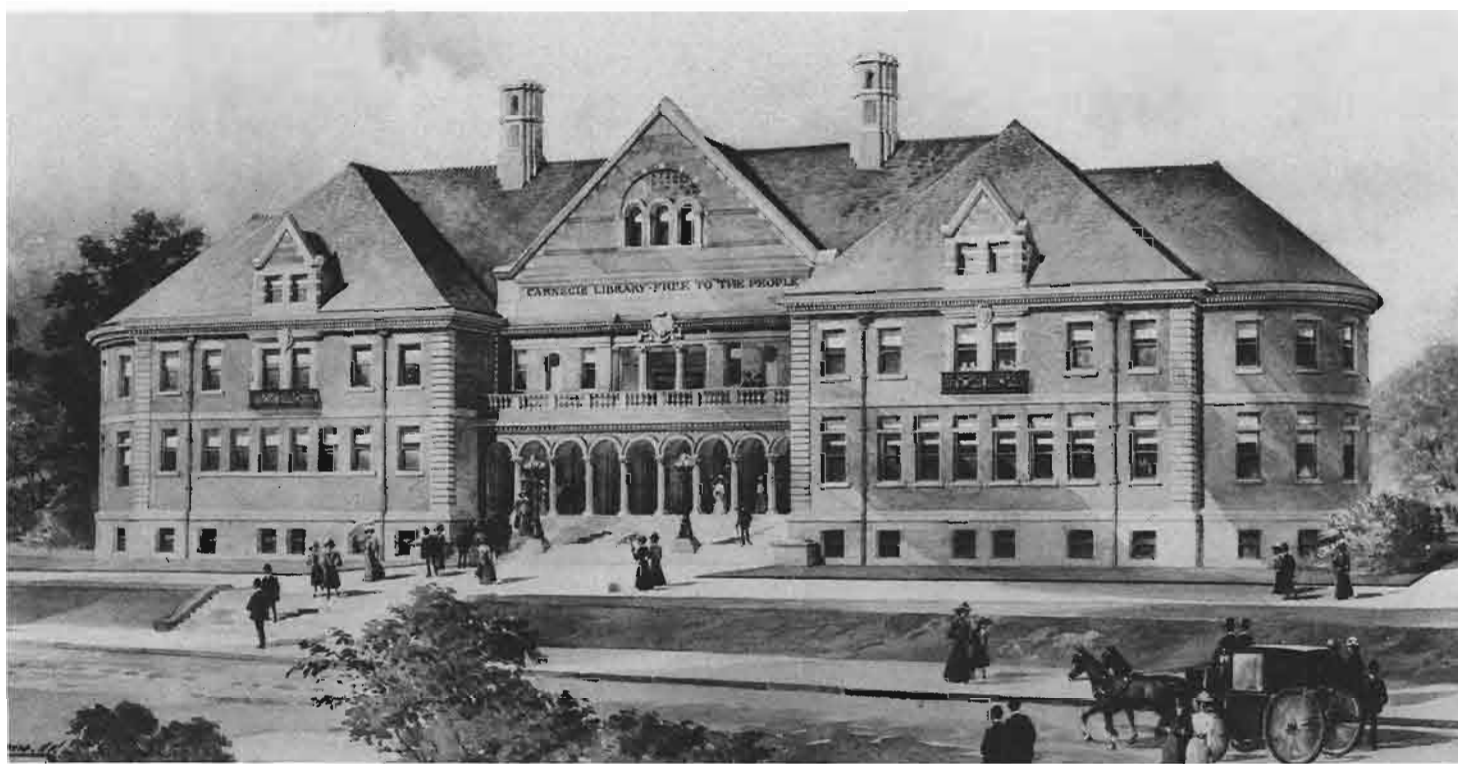
be under absolute management control, and this had been so in the steel industry since the Homestead Strike, up the river from Pittsburgh, in 1892.

At the same time, there was a tradition of philanthropy whose scale could be incredibly massive. Andrew Carnegie's benefactions are legend. The Carnegie Institute — main library, concert hall, art museum, and natural history museum — had four acres under roof by 1907. Carnegie Libraries in Braddock, Munhall, and Duquesne served his workers as libraries, concert halls, athletic clubs, and public baths. There were other Carnegie Libraries, purely libraries, in and near Pittsburgh, and eventually a total of 2,811 in various parts of the world. The libraries are merely the best-known of his gifts. His partner Henry Phipps donated a very large conservatory to Schenley Park, itself a 300-acre donation of 1889 by the expatriate landowner Mary Schenley. The second generation of bankers in the Mellon family have been spectacular givers. Richard Beatty Mellon and his wife donated the cathedral-sized East Liberty Presbyterian Church, at a cost of three million of the dollars of 60

years ago. The Mellon Institute of this same period cost \$10 million, thanks in part to showy nonfunctional colonnades with 62 42-foot monolithic columns of limestone. Andrew W. Mellon gave the University of Pittsburgh 14 acres of very desirable land for its campus, and paid for the National Gallery in Washington, \$16 million, out of his own pocket. Less demonstratively, the Buhl Foundation, funded by department-store profits, built Chatham Village, a model neighborhood — which still remains a desirable residence for many — to demonstrate the profitability of high-quality moderate-income housing. The Foundation also financed the first architectural survey of Western Pennsylvania.

Around 1940, the city had one of its occasional campaigns to do something about its state of being, weary and depressed in many parts. This was promptly delayed by war, but the late 1940s found the abatement of industrial and domestic smoke in force, river pollution getting under control, and Pittsburgh businessmen traveling in search of capital. It is interesting to note that a conscious resolution of social differences allowed this. While many people are to be credited, it might have been impossible without the collaboration of the Democrat Catholic David Leo Lawrence, the mayor who was born a poor boy, and the Republican Presbyterian Richard King Mellon, a banker born extremely rich. The visible Pittsburgh Renaissance began in 1950 with neighborhood demolitions and reconstructions that were to continue for some 20 years.

The city, in the Renaissance years, experienced a certain doubt as to how it wanted to enter the future. The official line, trumpeted in the newspapers, envisioned office buildings and housing projects sweeping in scale and uncompromisingly modern in design, with industry very much downplayed. In the city, however, vast new industrial construction was in fact taking place. Furthermore, conservative persons were taking alarm at the destruction of familiar buildings and street scenes, fearing rootlessness, homelessness, loss of positive beauty in the massive replacement of such things. In the end, the Renaissance



The Carnegie Library at Duquesne, but more than a library. You could attend concerts, play billiards, or take a bath here.

sance did not carry out all its intentions, but it did in fact impress the world as a spectacle of economic recovery.

In the last 15 years, Pittsburgh industry has declined dramatically, and the destruction of industrial plants that looked as if they would last forever left the region rather stunned. The region still has some heavy industry, but will probably never be heavily industrial again. We have become, in general, a more business-oriented, more hedonistic, and perhaps more cosmopolitan city, and certainly we have become one that increasing numbers of people want to come and visit.

Today you see a place much cleaner than in the past, with tall buildings that reveal a variety of recent architectural mannerisms and more in the way of good restaurants and similar amenities than ever before. And yet Pittsburgh retains an old casual, homely, picturesque identity, a sort of amiable personality beneath the attempted cosmopolitanism. The hills that rise 400 or 500 feet



The Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, endowed by Andrew Mellon in memory of his father. This, its second building, has 62 monolithic limestone columns, 42 feet high, purely for show.

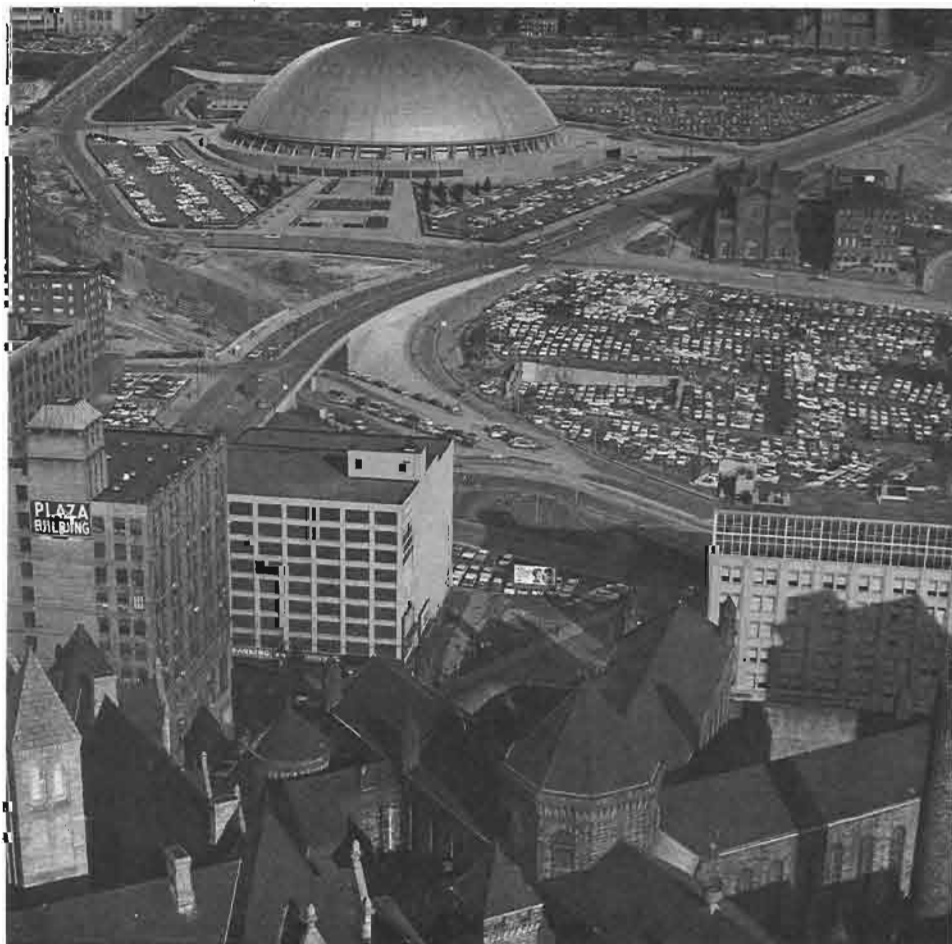
above the river plains are heavily wooded in many parts or scattered with little wooden houses on narrow and sometimes uncannily-sloping streets. Pittsburgh architecture, building by building, tends to be drab, yet the terrain is such that this is often a wildly romantic city, a place of skylines, plunging views, and long perspectives. It is a city full of trees, hedges, flowers, lawns kept more or less neat. It has a population density of about 10 people per acre, a little over a fifteenth the average density of New York City in all its boroughs.

Against the official claims, the promotional material, the guidebook

matter, then, must be set the attractiveness in many places of an older city, of neighborhoods where not much has had reason to change since 1900 or 1920; neighborhoods created by the trolley, older and grander neighborhoods created by the railroad, workers' neighborhoods older still, such as the South Side with its irregular and beautifully-scaled streets.

The city, then, is apt to reveal curious corners, splendid architectural episodes — and sinister, dead flat places where industry used to be. In these last, it can be as if the wrath foretold by a prophet had left silence and nothingness. What the industry created, architecture and neighborhoods, remains, and it is our concern to carry the best of it into our future.

The cleared Lower Hill, with the Civic Arena. A showcase Center for the Arts, planned for an adjacent site, was quietly abandoned around 1970.



A South Side street.



Landmarks: Our Principles *(Continued from page 1)*



Pure monument: the Westinghouse Memorial in Schenley Park.

What to Preserve — Specifically

Landmarks is less disposed than some preservation groups toward freezing structures and places in time. We wish to be sure that whatever is so rigorously preserved will have significance for the community in the future, and will justify whatever sacrifices it requires. Among such may be:

- Pure monuments, built to commemorate people or events, and to be works of art.
- Working monuments, such as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial or any of a number of churches, built as publicly-significant gathering places and as works of public art.
- Works of architecture whose artistry of composition frees them to some extent from ordinary utilitarian considerations.
- Open areas of visual beauty or power.
- Neighborhoods: not perhaps to be preserved in every detail, but to be subjected to controls, more or less stringent, to maintain visual consistency.
- Structures that, regardless of matters of visual artistry, have strong associations for a community and are integral to its perception of itself.
- Buildings and other places that recall the past of a community so vividly as to be useful for museum purposes.

Landscape

Landmarks has concentrated on buildings and districts as places to preserve, but let us not forget to protect the very geography of our region. Preservationists should look to the terrain, the most primitive as well as that in the parks, and prepare to defend its beauty and power: skylines, hillsides and valleys, with the great spaces they form and the greenery they contain.

Why So Much Preservation?

Landmarks suspects that the historic-preservation movement today is in an inflated state, attempting to preserve more than *should*, if we lived in an ideal world, be preserved: this, because the architecture, planning, and development of the last 50 years have largely failed us. True, at times they have cleared away old squalor but their new constructions have starved the eye and, despite the intellectual pretensions of architects, have made our streets stupid and mute. So much of what has been built retains the look of a cardboard model or a rendering, forever one step or more away from reality.

So we look toward the old-fashioned moldings and textures, ways of reducing big surfaces to comprehensible areas, giving solidity to volumes, accenting edges; color that receives the sunlight movingly and contrasts well with other colors; proportional systems that give each element its seemingly-natural place among the others; ornament that has its own beauty of form and assures you that humanity was in the thoughts of the designer; and a scale that relates to the human being, and also to the thoughts and actions appropriate to the place and the occasion.

We preservationists everywhere have thus attempted to monumentalize, to freeze in time, many buildings really of mediocre design but with qualities to which we respond, ones that are not often found in modern construction and planning, and are rooted in our past. We have fought, the nation over, for buildings neither very good or bad, but old at least and with a few decorative touches. An abnormal response to abnormal times: if *only* we could be as confident of our oncoming architecture as people of 1920 were, at least as regards expensive and conspicuous buildings, then "historic" preservation could shrink back to caring for the few indispensable places of great beauty, and those where the past is vividly recalled.



Working monument: Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside.

Surprises

In 1991 especially, owners and developers surprised preservationists by admitting intentions soon to demolish "historic" buildings; and themselves professed surprise at preservationists' hasty rallying to save the buildings. The City of Pittsburgh is now compiling a list of potential "landmarks," which it might put under the protection of its revised landmark ordinance; every community with such an ordinance, and every preservationist group, should be doing the same: listing the properties it would defend with legal designation, or would expend effort and sacrifice to save. Such lists would put owners on notice that properties of theirs were taken seriously by the community as cultural assets.

On the other hand, preservationists should be made aware as soon as possible of potential landmarks that are running into trouble: structural deterioration, inconvenient plans, loss of purpose, or location on temptingly saleable land. Early notification by owners — or informers from within — might lead to the landmark's future being secured.

For the time being: commercial buildings in the Penn-Liberty District.



The Jail must be kept, and a use for it found.

Property Rights

Landmarks believes that the people of a neighborhood have a legitimate interest in the beauty and character of the neighborhood, and that the citizens of a community have a legitimate interest in the beauty and character of places visible to or often visited by people from all over the community. Some public control over demolition and construction to promote amenity and culture in such places seems fair. On the other hand, some preservationists act as if the world owes them whatever they want to keep, the mere property owner being an unpaid curator who has to be kept up to the mark. Landmarks has no such attitude, and will seek increasingly to bring preservationists and owners into a relationship of trust and respect that makes possible a joint search that may result in a type of preservation satisfactory to both.

Compulsory landmarking, as an extension of legal zoning, by communities may prove to be constitutional in some or every form. Yet preservationists, Landmarks believes, should use any legal powers with a light touch. Otherwise property owners, especially institutions and businesses, may find it prudent to abandon pride and settle the landmarking question in advance by putting up new edifices of guaranteed architectural worthlessness. "Preserving the past" would bring with it the penalty of defacing the future.



Adaptive use: school into apartments.

Adaptive Use and Remodeling

It often is the case that a building is mediocre as a work of art and has an obscure place in the community's history and traditions, yet is good enough — especially in view of any likely replacement — to be worth some thought over adapting it to new uses. It may not be *necessary* to replace it, and a mixture of imagination and calculation may show as much.

In the above statement there is nothing new, but we are perhaps more lenient than usual about remodeling. A building design may be *improved* by remodeling, and remodeling may make the difference between a building that is affordable and workable, and one that is not. The quality of the remodeling's design and workmanship may be of greater cultural importance than full integrity of the original structure. It is prevalence of bad remodeling that keeps us unaware of this.

How We See Ourselves

Landmarks wishes to be known as a fair and rational organization, an authoritative voice on matters affecting historic preservation: trusted as devoted to preserving what is essential, considerate of property rights, imaginative in its general vision and in seeking solutions to individual problems.