Religious Buildings and Their Neighborhoods

In a country with no official religion, belief and ritual are treated as purely personal matters to which the community owes nothing but non-interference, and whose claims to support from outside the denomination carry no more weight than those of, say, a social club. Thus, property used for purely religious purposes goes untaxed regardless of sect. And yet, the National Register of Historic Places is reluctant to admit religious buildings and cemeteries. Philanthropic foundations have no interest, almost always, in grants that seem to further the expression of one of many religious creeds. Religion is seen as one's personal business, and the repair and upkeep of a religious edifice are seen as the congregation's private problem.

But there are a few things to take into consideration:

As architecture, some churches and temples have extraordinary distinction. A church of the past, constructed with an ample budget, offered its architect more artistic freedom than any other building type. It was his mandate to be lavish, to bring into being great spaces, towers, tracery, sculpture, and stained glass. Actual artistic success varied from place to place, but the true successes were great ones indeed. Thus great religious buildings are as significant to the whole community as are any works of great art. Recognizing this, the National Register will accept religious buildings on their architectural merits. In Pittsburgh, Calvary United Methodist Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and First Baptist Church are outstanding elements of their City of Pittsburgh Historic Districts, and Emmanuel is on the National Register.

As a visual element of a street or neighborhood, a religious building offers contrast of form or scale. It is also visible evidence of the neighborhood's history, its peoples and traditions of the past. It may also mark a historic intersection or simply be so conspicuous that the neighborhood is identified with it. The architectural quality of the building may or may not be high, but the visual importance of the religious building gives it significance.

As a community facility, a religious property often reaches beyond sectarian boundaries. Other congregations may use the worship space, the social hall may be used for meetings, entertainments, classes, or elections, and the basement may be a shelter for the homeless. For those who give to charitable and public causes, such places are worthy recipients; the donations further the public good. To many people, this public availability of space is the best reason for helping religious buildings to survive in good repair. In time, such buildings may be adapted for non-religious uses, public or private.

As a spiritual presence and stabilizing force, a religious building contributes a sense of goodness, wholeness, and order to neighborhood life. No matter what a person's religious beliefs may be, if any, the sight of a church or temple can inspire personal feelings of peace and hope. Again, a complaint of the present is that people are ethically formless, and religious doctrine is almost always ethical doctrine as well. The mere existence of a religious building on a neighborhood block may make a difference in a person's life.

Pittsburgh is so often described as a city of neighborhoods. And religious buildings are the visual, spiritual, and architectural anchors in many of our neighborhoods. It is critical that as a community we encourage the restoration, maintenance, or adaptive use of these structures whenever feasible. In doing so, we may be keeping fine art in being, preserving a community's sense of itself, or giving the community shelter, space, and a pleasant setting for its joint activities. The religious building in need thus deserves an appraisal of its public merits.
A Letter of Support

In each issue of PHLF News we are pleased to publish a listing of new members. However, we easily take the space to publish the letters of support we often receive from members. Now we are doing so, with the permission of Rex Anderson, who wrote to us on February 20, 1992:

Dear PHLF,

I’ve enclosed a check for three years membership dues and a small donation. I will continue to send small donations throughout the year ahead.

Please continue with your excellence. Thank you very much for helping to make our beautiful city the best place to be in America.

Sincerely,

Rex A. Anderson

Welcome New Members

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

Harold Bigler
Walter Boykowycz
Ms. Sue Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Chiedo & Family
Dr. Sunda Cornetti
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Crouchoe & Family
James J. Crowley
Mrs. Andrew Cummings
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Deady
Ms. Laurie L. DeFez
Mr. & Mrs. William Edgar
The Reverend George David Easo
Ms. Candice P. Gates & Family
Lee Grimme, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. Hackney & Family
Harry Hanson
Hartwood Elementary School
Lester Hertrup
Norman Hochendoner
Mrs. Monika Jacobs & Family
James M. Kelly
John Lubinski
James M. Crowley
Anthony L. Lukowski

Corporate Members

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation welcomes the following corporate members who joined in the last few months.

Armstrong Group of Companies
Beckwith Machinery
Comtech Environmental
Delta International Machinery Corporation
Frank P. Hess & Company, Inc.
FESCO
National Biscuit Company

Special Event Sponsors

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is pleased to recognize three businesses for their recent sponsorships:

On April 12, Associates Litho, Inc. sponsored a fashion show in the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, benefiting Landmarks.


Alvin D. Byrd, associate vice president of Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., and LCI International sponsored the reprinting of a brochure featuring the work of Landmarks’ education department.

Donations to Landmarks

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

• The Art Institute of Chicago, for Associates Artists of Pittsburgh catalogues from 1912 and 1941.

• An anonymous donor, for five postcards of Pittsburgh and Ellum City in the 1900s.

• Rosemary Meyersjack Campbell, for a builder's journal of 1832 relating to the second St. Paul's Cathedral.
Education News

Portable Pittsburgh

Landmarks' eleven Portable Pittsburgh docents presented 154 sessions of the in-school program to 75 elementary and middle schools, four senior citizen centers, and two adult groups during the 1991-92 school year. Landmarks extends a hearty thank you to the docents for inspiring so many school children—more than 4,000—during their lively and energetic presentations about the history, architecture, and heritage of Pittsburgh. The Portable Pittsburgh docents are Scott Baird, Judy Belmont, Kiri Boyle, Lili Byers, Mary Ann Eubanks, Bob Jacob, Jeanne Kaufmann, Verna McGinley, Betty Pakula, Linda Polun, and Nancy Stewart. Anyone interested in receiving information about becoming a Portable Pittsburgh docent can call Landmarks' education department at (412) 471-5808.

A training course will take place this fall.

Resources for Education

The education department has updated and reprinted its "Resources for Education" brochure describing the educational programs available to schools, community groups, civic organizations, and the general public. The printing of the brochure was sponsored by a generous grant from D. Byrd, vice-president of Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., and LCI International. To receive a copy of "Resources for Education," call the education department at (412) 471-5808.

Student Intern

This summer Landmarks' education department will be sponsoring a student intern through the Pittsburgh Promise program for high school students. The Carrick high school student will assist the education department in its summer programs and will gain experience in marketing, public relations, and the ongoing functions of the department. Pittsburgh Promise, offering student internships and employment to area high school students, is a program of Pittsburgh Promise, offering student internships and employment to area high school students, is a program of Partnerships-In-Education.

PA Heritage Parks Program Conference

National, state, and local heritage park administrators and staff met in Altoona in May for a conference. Diane DeNardo, Landmarks' director of education, invited participants as part of the "Education and Interpretation" session to discuss the programs and resources of Landmarks' education department.

The Suite Life... at an Affordable Rate

The Suite Life... at an Affordable Rate

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The Cornerstone

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

Members receive a 10% discount.

Books about the visual arts usually require enlarged or unusual formats and high quality illustrations; not infrequently, binding and typography are carefully chosen to complement the subject matter. The result is an expensive book.

At the Cornerstone we keep an eye out for special values in books on architecture and design. At any time we carry a dozen or more titles—usually one to three copies of each title—of which we are able to offer at far below the original retail cost. Here is a sampling of some titles, originally priced at more than $40 but now available for $10 or less.

"Art and Design in France and Germany 1900-1930" (Dutton, 1987), $18.95; "Architecture Transformed: A History of the Photographs of Buildings from 1593 to the Present" (MIT, 1989), $29.98; Robert A. M. Stern's "Modern Classics" (Rizzoli, 1988), $17.50; "Towers: A Historical Survey" (Rizzoli, 1989), $25.98; "The History of Glass" (Black Cat, 1984), $16.00; and Martin Battersby's now classic studies, newly revised, "The Decorative Twenties" (Whitney Library of Design, 1988), $19.95 each.

Please note that these are but a selection of available titles, and there are only a few copies of each available for sale.

A Century of Weddings with Tiffany's

September 19—1:00 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church

The Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, Inc. (AHPS) is planning a benefit on September 19, 2002, to assist in the restoration of the historic Calvary United Methodist Church at Allegheny and Beech Avenue on Pittsburgh's Northside.

In the chapel, there will be an organ recital and display of wedding gowns too fragile to be worn, followed by a champagne garden reception on the handsomely-restored Victorian home of Ben and Joelda Sampson at 939 Western Avenue. Reservations are limited.

For ticket information and further details, call Mrs. Fritz Page at (412) 543-5211.
A New Bridge for Pittsburgh

If Pittsburgh is to have another steel arch to Station Square, let us look to the light, strong grace of the McKees Rocks Bridge (above) or the West End Bridge (below, right). These are six decades old, and probably too labor-intensive to reproduce and maintain in new construction, but their beauty is to be emulated.

The Smithfield Street Bridge, whose first trusses were completed in 1883, timber, hand-assembled pinned and riveted construction. The tightness of effect and bold silhouette give us a visual but not a technical example.

The Fort Pitt Bridge, 1958, passes through Station Square. Its silhouette, formed of tubular members and with a self-closing truss between the two decks, is too heavy.

The new Monongahela River bridge intended by the Port Authority is of direct interest to Landmarks since its southern approach would pass through, and over, new developments in Station Square. (Landmarks is the prime developer of Station Square.) In addition, Landmarks is concerned with the design quality of any Pittsburgh bridge that will be so conspicuous.

The thought of a new bridge has stirred up a rich mixture of possibilities and desires, and a huge potential for conflict and discontent, that are made more acute by the imminent closing of the Fort Pitt Bridge. The Port Authority thinks of the bridge as a bus route. But if buses, why not any high-occupancy vehicles? And a bridge is a bridge, and why not all cars, at least — in theory — as an emergency substitute for the Fort Pitt Bridge? How many lanes should there be? Where, up or down the river, should the bridge cross? Should its southern outlet be through the old two-track Wabash Tunnel, or along the hillside, or both? What about in town? How should the bridge connect with the Triangle street system? Should there be a direct connection with the Parkway East, and if so why? Should there be a walkway from downtown to Station Square? What form should the main span take: what structural system would be handsome/economical/fast to build — any or all of these?

The Wabash Bridge, 1904–17, whose ghost, in the form of two piers, a possible alignment, and even a loosely applied name, haunts the current bridge project. The left-hand pier now stands by the Gateway Clipper Dock, the right-hand before the Westinghouse Building. This delicate-looking structure carried trains on two tracks.
Landmarks has taken the initiative, therefore, in trying to bring together anyone who has a legitimate interest in the bridge project in order to outline the optimum solution for the engineers to realize. So far, the Wabash Bridge Design Group includes Landmarks, the Port Authority, the City of Pittsburgh Department of Planning and Fine Arts Commission, the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Chapter American Institute of Architects, the Golden Triangle Association, the Building Owners' and Managers' Association, Preservation Pittsburgh, and the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation. A meeting was held in mid-May, with representatives from some of these groups. On June 23, 130 people attended a symposium at the Station Square Sheraton on modern bridge design.

Landmarks' attitudes regarding the bridge are these:

**As regards the use of the bridge.** Landmarks feels that it should be for buses only, with car pools admitted under special conditions such as the closing of the Fort Pitt Bridge; it should not be another congested all-purpose crossing with trucks and single-occupant automobiles. We feel that a two-lane bridge will suffice, but we also feel that there should be a pedestrian walk between the Triangle and Station Square.

**As regards the placement of the bridge.** Landmarks would like to see it exactly between the Fort Pitt and Smithfield Street Bridges, so that its southern approach comes in just to the west of the present parking garage at Station Square. If the main span crosses at right angles rather than askew, its northern end would thus be slightly east of Stanwix Street, though we feel that Market Street would be a better point of contact. Such a placement would pass through Station Square at a point where no construction higher than 60 feet is planned (in order to keep views from Mount Washington to the Triangle and vice-versa unimpaired), and would thus allow full development, within height restrictions, to the west. This intensive development is planned across the old Wabash Bridge right-of-way, whose piers stand so temptingly but whose re-use would clash with Landmarks' plans for Station Square. The piers also lead directly into the second floor of the Westinghouse Building.

Landmarks has been interested and surprised to learn that the minimum vertical clearance allowed by the Coast Guard is only 40 feet, two feet less than that of the Smithfield Street Bridge. This clearance would have to be increased to accommodate the street system in town and the railroad by the river; but if the roadway could turn below the Conrail line this would still bring the lowest edge of the bridge steelwork into Station Square not far above ground level, say three stories up. Since Landmarks is planning on a Station Square bus stop, such a height, if practical for the southern connections to the bridge, would be acceptable.

**As to the form of the bridge, and particularly its main span.** Landmarks feels that a light, strong, simple, bold form is called for. Pittsburgh has received just about every older type of bridge that does not actually move. Many of these bridges were technically progressive in their time, and many were designed as works of art. Both the progressiveness and the artistry need to be maintained, and very possibly Pittsburgh should have a type of bridge as yet unknown in the region, a cable-stayed one perhaps. What Pittsburgh must not tolerate is anything remotely resembling the recent Veterans' Bridge; nothing so crude, so merely expedient, must deface the river. Pittsburgh needs an elegance of form equal to that of the West End or McKees Rocks Bridges and superior to the form of the Fort Pitt Bridge.

**As regards the color:** no more vulgar Aztec Gold. Let the bridge have saturated, intense color: deep red, green, or blue that will make strong construction look strong. Station Square is to continue as a golden-brown red development, and a stroke of deep vivid green across the river could be splendid. Pittsburgh is at a point where either new beauty can be added or the beauty that there is can be wrecked. And what is built will be part of Pittsburgh for several generations to come.
In the Spring 1991 issue of PHLF News Landmarks published "Small History: What the Books Will Never Know," by Walter C. Kidney. From this essay we know about the minute and intimate changes, with time, in the places we know arose the idea of asking some of our members, trustees, and friends to write about their neighborhoods. We asked them to write about the intimate and subtle qualities of a neighborhood: to give some idea of how it feels to live there and to describe the qualities that distinguish their neighborhood from all others. We are now pleased to publish these essays.

If you come to the Heinz plant on the North Shore of the Allegheny River and follow the sign at Chestnut Street and go up the steep hill, you will be on Troy Hill, and that is my living place, my home.

Troy Hill is an in-city neighborhood on a plateau above the Allegheny River. It is a community of narrow streets lined with well-kept, closely built homes. After the Civil War there was an influx of German immigrants, and many found work in the mills, tanneries, breweries, and railroads that lined the Allegheny River.

Conditions being crowded on the flatlands, they took to the hills, and Troy Hill was one of them. The first church and school were established by the people of Most Holy Name Parish in 1868. My grandparents helped build the school, my parents attended there also, my husband and I, and then my children. I taught 24 years for the same school; each room held a special memory for me. On Troy Hill one does not brag about this as it is not unusual. Some of my friends have seen their great grandchildren go through the years, as have mine and many others.

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Grace Lutheran Church was organized in 1893 and Troy Hill Bohemian Presbyterian Church was chartered in 1901.

Voigtly Cemetery

The town center, with the twin spires of St. Anthony's Chapel in the background

and is at the promontory of our little hilltop. All of these churches are very active and are the centers of our social life.

There is a camaraderie amongst all three, with everyone attending, helping, or participating. If the Lutherans are having a dinner all the Holy Names attend, and vice versa. When Most Holy Name School suffered a disastrous fire in 1979 the whole "Hill" grieved with and for us. The Grace Lutheran Church immediately opened its doors for classes to continue for the children, just as North Catholic High School (at the top of the hill) made space available. This close interaction among my people shows their care and concern for their neighbors and the community as a whole. Character: oh yes, we've got it.

Our forefathers worked and played hard. They organized a Turnverein (physical fitness club) and built Turner Hall in 1890. Then came the Liedertafel, a singing society for those who did not wish to lift anything heavier than their voices and a glass of brew. A benevolent society, the Deutscher Unterstützenbund, was founded to help their own in need. I dimly remember going there with my grandparents and sitting at the tables in the backyard, which overlooked the Allegheny River. Perhaps it reminded them of the Rhine River and their homeland.

These buildings still stand, but are now the American Legion Hall, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, and a private home. These service clubs are always at the forefront when there is a community activity such as the Memorial Day Parade. On that day Voigtly Cemetery, which is an open oasis in our congested little town, comes to life. The band plays, marchers, friends, and neighbors line the street calling and waving as everyone knows everybody. Then at the cemetery we all come together for a program to honor our veterans and servicemen, living and dead.

Many of the people who serve us are "our people." Two of our doctors' families have been on Troy Hill for over 100 years, as have mine and many others. Our dentist was a student of mine; our druggist's mother was born in the house next to my birthplace, which I pass every day. Continuity: we have it!
Mount Washington
Walter C. Kidney

I had been up Mount Washington many times before, but only when I came there to live 14 years ago was I fully impressed with the sky-dwelling quality of life there. A look along Shiloh, our little business street, revealed just the tops of tall buildings downtown, while a red-and-white radio tower, rising near the street’s end, reached up to trap the sky in its open-work. The pavement under your shoes seemed not quite real in this aerial existence, and the commonplaces of the street—the radio tower excepted—made the circumstances all the more bizarre: a dry cleaner’s in the sky! The sky has a little basement, and in it is a barber shop! The oddness of this has never quite left me. And when you got to Grandview Avenue and the skyscrapers appeared full-length with a proper entourage of The South Side, far below and away
It is easy to understand the physical appeal of Allegheny West. All it takes is a slow walk through the neighborhood to experience the varied spirits of Victorian architecture, from middle-class homes to prosperous commercial buildings to the mansions of the rich and famous of another century. Romanesque arches, Italianate porches, Gothic gargoyle, brick sidewalks, and period streetlights create a physical aesthetic of unique quality and appeal. Indeed the quality of the built environment now attracts film crews seeking a Victorian streetscape. But this is not a movie set. There is more to this neighborhood than the physical manifestation of architecture that so excites the movie makers. In a very real sense, this is a living community. It loves and fights, wanes and prospers, and without appropriate care and protection it can die.

The built environment in large measure defines the community. Many residents have come here out of a love for old houses and things Victorian. With all our differences this is the common bond that unites many of us and has made this an active community, willing to work toward common goals. We in turn define the buildings, giving them life and vitality, love and sorrow, creating the memories that personalize the architectural landscape. It is this sense of community and the role of the built environment within it that has been most difficult to convey to the casual visitor. To many, Allegheny West is only a collection of “pretty buildings,” but this simplistic assessment ignores the memories and daily experiences of its inhabitants. On these streets with all their rich details, often the most welcome sight to residents is the beat-up track of a contractor, because it means that another new family is restoring the old house they always wanted. The stone Romanesque porch on a Beech Avenue home is an architectural treasure, but to the neighborhood children it is a castle, a spaceship, a grocery store, or whatever the fantasy of the day’s play requires. Brick sidewalks provide a warmth of color and tone that concrete cannot provide, but beyond their aesthetic appeal they bear inestimable value to the community because they were laid brick-by-brick by the residents themselves. Ten years later, neighbors still recount stories of bad backs and aching muscles, the pain softened now with laughter and the passage of time. Calvary Methodist is mourned not only for its aesthetic value but also because it represents the loss of the people who would have lived there. Every vacant or deteriorating house, regardless of condition, has the potential some day to attract a family that will restore and care for it, and in turn care for the community. On the other hand, an empty lot offers little except weeds, trash, and parked cars, and the only people it attracts are those who deposit the latter two items on it.

Community and architecture, then, are two threads entwined in the same fabric. If one is weak and not cared for, the entire garment suffers. In Allegheny West, the built environment and the community are strong, reflecting the care given both.
Living in Crafton

Carol M. Herrle

"One of the best-kept secrets in Pittsburgh" is a phrase Crafton borough residents often use when referring to their community. An excellent location, five miles from downtown Pittsburgh and fifteen minutes from the airport, plus convenient access to several major shopping areas explain only part of the secret. Primarily a residential community, this one-square-mile borough has two other features that make living there special: its people and its homes.

Crafton's heterogeneous population includes diverse economic backgrounds and all age groups. Many families are second-generation Craftonites, a fact which strengthens neighborhood bonds and adds a sense of stability to the neighborhood. The population supports nine churches, several social organizations, a swimming pool, and its own library. A wide range of community activities, including Performing Arts in the Park, a five-day "Crafton Celebrates" festival every July, and a full children's sports program, bring residents together and enhance community spirit. A successful crime-watch program helps make Crafton a secure community where walking the tree-lined streets is a favorite pastime.

Most of Crafton's homes were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when downtown professionals discovered a new suburb serviced by 54 daily trains carrying commuters to their workplaces. They built large three-story homes with gracious proportions, intricate stained and leaded glass, carved woodwork, ornate fireplaces, and oak flooring. Most homes retain their original features and sell quickly when placed on the market. They range in style from Victorian, Queen Anne, and English to Stickley, Colonial Revival, and Pittsburgh Renaissance.

Crafton was founded by Charles Craft in 1886 and incorporated as a borough in 1950. Like many communities its age, Crafton experienced a transition after 1950 as families sought newer homes farther from the city and left large Crafton homes to be converted into apartments.

Crafton is celebrating its centennial this year, and another transition is under way. People looking for a convenient location and hand-crafted quality unavailable in newer homes are rediscovering the value of selecting a historic home in Crafton.

A historical society was formed in 1986 to promote community awareness of Crafton's past and work toward ensuring its future. A Crafton history is being written so that people can understand and appreciate the past. Efforts have begun to alert residents to the value of preserving their homes, and an annual Christmas house tour showcases Crafton's homes and draws hundreds into the community.

Another feature of Crafton is a wetlands area near the community's evolution. A renewed sense of community pride is evident in the way residents are painting, restoring, and decorating their homes. As Crafton moves into its second century, residents are making certain that Crafton's historic character and exceptional quality of life are secured and strengthened for future generations.

From Dormont

Mark Stephen and Pat Bibro

Our 14 years in Dormont have made us believers that Dormont is really an over-looked jewel. We outgrew our three-bedroom house in Greentree and "loaded up" our four children and began looking for the "right house." Two years later, bought it. For less than the selling price of our three-bedroom house in Green tre, we bought our six-bedroom, four-fireplace dwelling in Dormont.

While the architecture may be artless, the convenience is unbeatable. Within seven minutes, we can walk to: two movie theaters, two high schools, 27 retail stores, six pizza stores, three gyro places, seven restaurants, nine taverns, a grocery store, a butcher, four churches, two dentists, a general practitioner, and a chiropractor. Within minutes, we can be at the running track, tennis courts, two CoGeos, two banks, or a Mac machine.

Our four children have grown or are growing up in the Dormont community. We think it's a great place to live.
Preservation Scene

Another Arsenal Building Gone

In late May a demolition permit was issued for the so-called Machine Shop, the old Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville. The Machine Shop was in fact a remnant of a much-larger U-shaped building of 1820 or before, one of the original Arsenal buildings that are tenously attributed to Benjamin Latrobe. Though a residence and the Powder House remain on the former Arsenal grounds, this was the last of its purely industrial buildings, and one of the very oldest buildings in the city. The building was documented in Landmarks’ survey of Allegheny County. Nevertheless, it had no legal protection as a landmark, and sadly, was not even on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Bite Out of Market Street

The Pittsburgh City Planning Commission has requested to approve demolition of 106 to 114 Mckee Street, the Five Mid- and Late-Victorian commercial buildings between Freytag’s and the Boulevard of the Allies, outside the Market Square Historic District. There would be replaced by a parking lot, as would the empty lot across the street where the St. Charles Hotel stood. The buildings are vacant despite renovation, and window sash is missing in the corner building, which looks old enough to be a replacement for one lost in the Fire of 1843. landmarks, not so much because of the architecture of the buildings but because of their scale and the way they frame what is actually an extraordinary little street close to its termination. A parking lot, however, veered with planting is going to tear a hole in the street scene. Are the buildings really unusable?

Engine Company No. 1

2704-47 Fifth Avenue and Robinson Street

Three Dubious Futures

At the time of writing, it is too early to tell what will happen to these places of landmark quality but Landmarks wishes to record their present situations.

Engine Company No. 1, a dark presence on the Boulevard of the Allies in downtown Pittsburgh since 1909, has been closed, and the City will probably sell it. There was no clear view in late May of the building’s future, but it is a handsome and familiar feature of the street and a good re-use would be welcome.

Mid-May saw a number of Pittsburgh artists trying to save their quarters in the old Duquesne Brewery on the South Side. The Brew House Group is trying to negotiate a purchase with the City, which set the buildings in April. Voluntary repairs in the past and hazardous-material removal in the future will amount to a vast effort, but the artists love the spaces, and Landmarks wishes them success.

There was a fire in mid-May in the picturesque eight-house brick row that stands at the top of Soho Curve, at Fifth Avenue and Robinson Street in Oakland. The three houses furthest uphill burned out, and we can only hope that they will be repaired, not razed.

Landmarks’ Place in History

The spring issue of Pittsburgh History, published by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, had an article by Roy Lubove of the University of Pittsburgh, “City Beautiful, City Banal: Design Advocacy and Historic Preservation in Pittsburgh.” This was an adaptation of Lubove’s address at a conference last November, and in both the article and address Landmarks received extensive and detailed praise.

Landmarks’ Plaque Program

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation began its Historic Landmark plaque program in 1968. Its purpose is to identify buildings and other places in Allegheny County that

- are at least 100 years old
- have architectural interest or are illustrative of our history or culture
- have not been seriously marred or allowed to deteriorate beyond merely repairable.

Landmarks’ Historic Plaque Committee members review nominations submitted by home owners or organizations. If Committee members vote to award a Historic Landmark plaque, then the owner pays for the cost of the plaque. The plaque gives landmarks, and the plaque: Landmarks has only the right to remove the plaque if the property is badly altered.

Of the 300-odd plaques installed since 1968, almost all have been solicited by owners.

At the time of writing, it is too early to tell what will happen to these places of landmark quality but Landmarks wishes to record their present situations.

Saving Religious Properties

On April 7 the Pittsburgh Building Museum gave a banquet in its great hall in Washington, D.C. to inaugurate its show “Making It Work: Pittsburgh Defines a City,” and to present its Honor Award. About 225 Pittsburghers, including the mayor Edmunds, Ann Geister, Mr. and Mrs. James Edward, Eric Dickerson, and Arthur Zingarelli of Landmarks, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A Ralph of Manchester, Ellis Schmiglapp of Landmarks’ Doors and Windows Association, and Wallace Lowe, who represented Landmarks, the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and neighborhood organizations, contributed to the progress of the last half-century. Landmarks was praised as a moderating force that resisted needless obliteration of the remains of the past and an agency that helped neighborhoods take an active part in their future rather than being thrown into a plaque role.

The photographs exhibit will come to the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport for the October 1 opening of the Midfield Terminal.

Pittsburgh in the Movies

Pittsburgh’s flattering and lucrative status as a filming location for 23 movies in the last two years — also in May to our city’s long-held architectural renown, from postcard streetcars to monumental edifices. Doro Bacharach, producer of Citizen Coke, is quoted in the Post-Gazette as 2nd at the sense of architectural preservation in this city.” Economics has more than one face with the film company’s choice of Pittsburgh, but we have the familiar scene and architectural resources, too.

Saving Religious Properties

On May 16, the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and Preservation Pittsburgh hosted the Saving Religious Properties conference at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Allegheny West. Fifty-five people attended the Saturday conference, representing 38 organizations (see the list below). As a result of the conference, a constructive dialogue among preservationists, clergy, religious property owners, and public-policy makers has been initiated, and conference sponsors intend to continue that dialogue. Follow-up meetings are being planned with the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and Chatham Associates to discuss the successful model for aiding historic religious properties created by Partners for Sawyer’s Overlook, a Pittsburgh-area listing of people, organizations, and religious properties that has been created at Landmarks.

Mary Lu Denny (412) 471-5085 if you would like us to add your name, religious property, or organization to the list.

Saving Religious Properties Conference

The following organizations, businesses, and congregations were represented at the Religious Properties conference on May 16.

Allegheny Historic Preservation Society
Allegheny West Community Council
American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter
Arts 	and Construction
Calvary Episcopal Church, Study Hall
Calvary United Methodist Church, Allegheny West
Calvary United Methodist Church
Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh
Christian Association for Youth
Church Restoration Group, Inc.
City of Pittsburgh Planning Department
Community Loan Fund of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Committee on Pittsburgh Archaeology and History
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Allegheny West
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
First Presbyterian Church
First Lutheran Church, Downtown
First United Presbyterian Church, Braddock
Heinz Chapel, University of Pittsburgh
Hildred Presbyterian Church
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Clairton
Old St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Pittsburgh Historic Properties Group
Preservation Pittsburgh
Rodef Shalom Congregation, Shadyside
St. Anthony’s Chapel, Troy Hill
St. John the Baptist, St. Mary’s, Catholic Church, South Side
St. Nicholas Church, Millvale
St. Stanislaus R.C. Church, Strip District
St. Vincent’s Archabbey, Latrobe
Sacred Heart S.C., Church, Shadyside
United Methodist Church Union
United Methodist Church
Werner Woods

2005 contributions from the Church Restoration Group and Allegheny Millwork & Lumber Company, affiliates of Missick, Inc., the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, and Ben and Joanna Sampson provided funding for the Saving Religious Properties evening reception on May 15 and conference on May 16.

City Layoffs

On June 5, eight people in the City of Pittsburgh Planning Department were laid off, effective immediately. One was Lauren Uhl, the genial and able person of so many of us who was one-half the staff of the Historic Review Commission. In mid-June, after six and a half years in her present post, Lauren was job-hunting.
African-American Historic Site Survey Update

The African-American Historic Site Survey of Allegheny County continues to identify and record places important to blacks from 1768 to 1960. The survey has covered a variety of black communities, including inner-city neighborhoods, steel towns, and old mining districts. These coal towns are of particular interest; they are becoming rare, and are remnants of a once-extensive network of "cool patch" developments throughout southern Allegheny County. They were the first step in the massive industrialization process of Western Pennsylvania. One small mining town, Hominy, still exists in southern Baldwin Township. This collection of one- to two-story wood-frame, buried among hilly slopes. The paint has peeled from the homes, and the old school turn-of-the-century houses is a unique part of Allegheny County continues to identify places important to blacks from city neighborhoods, steel towns, and old communities. But many more communities are still and their institutions is important to the survey. Many local residents have provided assistance in finding some of these communities. But many more communities are still unknown and may continue to succumb to suburban development without anyone knowing their function or importance. If you have any information concerning mining districts, please call Elia Brown at Landmarks' Design Associates (412) 391-7640.

Visitors from Poland

This May, three Polish preservationists visited the United States to study U.S. preservation programs and policies on the local, state, and federal levels; in the private sector; and in academic preservation curricula. On May 26, Landmarks hosted the Polish preservationists in Pittsburgh. They first met with Arthur Ziegler to learn about Landmarks' nationally-recognized restoration of Pittsburgh's inner-city neighborhoods, and asked Landmarks' ideas to make old buildings economically viable. After touring Downtown, the group went to the North Side to tour the Mexican War Streets. The Polish visitors spent the rest of the day discussing preservation programs with community groups in the Pittsburgh area.

1992 Awards of Merit

On Tuesday evening, April 21, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation presented Awards of Merit to:

- Calvary Episcopal Church: for remodel- ing and restoration of the highest quality;
- St. John the Baptist Ukranian Catholic Church: for excellence in restoration;
- Allegheny Conference, National Society of Colonial Dames of America, and the Neville House Auxiliary: for the ongoing restoration of the Neville House in Collington Township and its authentic interior restoration;
- Tusonia Maennerchor: for preservation of a distinctive building and maintenance of neighborhood traditions;
- Hill Community Development Corporation: for restoration, adaptive use and encouragement of neighborhood rehabilitation;
- Ben and Joedda Sampson: for residential restoration and renovation in the North Side;
- Steven G. Hawkins/Architects: for facade rehabilitation and morale-building;
- Father John Jendura: for perseverance in the restoration of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church;
- Sue Neff: for teaching students and fellow teachers about the art, architecture, and history of this building;
- Douglas Martin: for supervising high school students, who were the creators of Landmarks' audio-visual presentation Landmark Survival;
- Archdiocese Schools: for volunteering to inform area students about architecture;
- Don Maggiano: for devoted volunteer service to Landmarks since 1986;
- Anna Belle Doman: for devoted volunteer service to Landmarks since 1985, and
- Sam Levin: for devoted volunteer service to Landmarks since 1990.

The Awards were followed by the 1992 Distinguished Lecture, delivered by James van Sweden of Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, landscape architects for the further development of Station Square.

Heathside Cottage for Sale

One of Pittsburgh's truly Romantic homes, "Heathside Cottage," is up for sale by its owner of nine years. A little stone plaque in front of the house reads, "Heathside Cottage for Sale."

Located in the Fineview section of Pittsburgh, Heathside Cottage (National Registry # PH004955), built circa 1855, is all that remains of the Col. James Andrew Estate. One of the few pre-Civil War Gothic Revival mansions in this prominent South Hills location. Sensitively updated by current owner. 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Glorious detailing, lawns and gardens.

$ 349,900

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Integra Bank wants to help preserve the history of this area. After all, as the oldest commercial bank in Pittsburgh, we're a part of it.
PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE: Traditional Neighborhoods

Walter C. Kidney

A few months ago, Landmarks learned of the Foundation for Traditional Neighborhoods, headquartered in Miami. This organization advocates, not the segregation of land uses imposed by conventional zoning, but rather a controlled return to the mixture of homes, institutions, retailing, and even light manufacturing found in a pre-zoning neighborhood. The benefits promised are ready accessibility of workplaces, and so on with lessened dependence on the automobile and a more neighborly neighborhood.

Such a mixture worked well enough in Germantown, a Philadelphia neighborhood where I lived for a good many years in a row house set far in from Johnson Street. As one might expect, churches were scattered among the Victorian houses, punctuating the street scene in a random way, but there were other facilities banned by modern zoning in residential areas. To one side of the approach roadway was a large and blocky old stable, and in front of it, on the street, a one-story hip-roofed real-estate office in the yard of a large white house, the first of a series with conventional front and back yards. To the other side of the roadway was a small woodworking plant. This was separated by back yards from the Colonial and Victorian houses on Germantown Avenue, many of whose ground floors were shops. Across Johnson Street was what was left of “Cliveden,” the wooded estate that is now a National Trust property. It was a motley set of land uses to be sure, but the woodworking plant was silent in the evening, the old houses accepted their ground-floor commerce without too much visual clash, and “Cliveden’s” house of 1761 stood well away from the Avenue, rising grandly over bourgeois houses of a century later. It all worked out.

Pittsburgh’s first Zoning Law was enacted in 1933. It imposed a measure of order on what could be a chaos of ill-assorted uses. The advantages, especially for home-dwellers, were obvious, but the results in new developments could be a little sterile, and some people are not at all sorry to live within an easy walk of workplaces and stores.

The “traditional” neighborhood idea, tempting though it is, needs to be applied with caution. Will the economically-large supermarket be an alien, defacing presence among the homes? What about a parking garage? Will the little restaurant make trouble with the noise and stench of its kitchen exhaust? A “traditional” neighborhood, it seems always to be assumed, contains dwellings whatever else may be there. The art of creating new ones would be, here are a few examples of the “traditional” mixture of property uses in Pittsburgh, little grandfathered non-conforming places that predate the Zoning Law or that are legitimized as miniature zoning districts.

THE CORNERSTONE

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Versailles $95.00
Exhaustively researched and opulently illustrated with more than 400 photographs, most in color, this lavish volume is certain to become the standard work on the fabulous chateaus of the French monarchy. Versailles will be irresistible to anyone interested in French history, architecture, design or culture.

The Splendor of France $110.00
The elegant Chateaux, luxurious estates, and stately private residences built in France over the past several centuries are spectacularly presented in this volume. The reader is taken on a photographic tour, with visits to the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, the imposing Paris Opera and the new glass pyramid of the Louvre as well as quiet streets, elegant shop fronts and literary cafes.

Paris $60.00
Paris, the beloved City of Light, is captured here in unparalled photos. Here are the île de la Cité and Notre Dame; the Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, the imposing Paris Opera and the new glass pyramid of the Louvre as well as quiet streets, elegant shop fronts and literary cafes.

The Paris Ritz $60.00
The Paris Ritz is a unique institution. The name that Cesar Ritz gave to his original hotel has acquired a resonance throughout the world for excellence. In this splendid, beautifully illustrated book, the intriguing history of the Ritz is traced with anecdotes about its most famous visitors.

Small shops and apartments around the old South Side Market House

Civilized commerce on the edge of O’Hara Village: only a little, and the original shop windows are largely filled in.

Below: A restaurant in a back basement on Duquesne Heights.

A useful shopping corner has replaced an industrial plant on the South Side, but the contrast with the houses is just as abrupt as before.