

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

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July 1992

NEWS

- A New Bridge for Pittsburgh
- Neighborhoods: Troy Hill; Mount Washington; Mexican War Streets; Allegheny West; Dormont, Crafton
- Preservation Scene
- Pittsburgh Architecture: Traditional Neighborhoods

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.

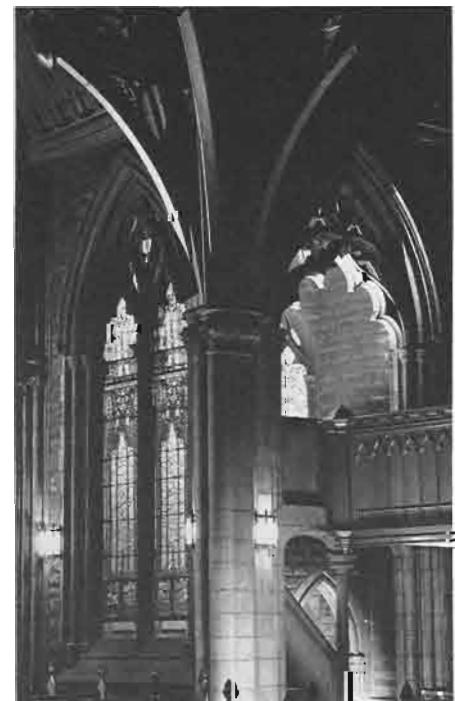
As a visual element of a street or neighborhood, a religious building offers contrast of form or scale. It is also visible evidence of the neighborhood's history, its peoples and traditions of the past. It may also mark a historic intersection or simply be so conspicuous that the neighborhood is identified 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.

Third Presbyterian Church, Shadyside



Clyde Hare



Above: Churches in the McKees Rocks Industrial Bottoms. Left: Park Place A.M.E. Church, Homestead.



Clyde Hare



Rose window, St. Mary Magdalene, Homestead

St. Michael Archangel, South Side Slopes

PHL NEWS

A Letter of Support

In each issue of *PHLF News* we are pleased to publish a listing of new members. However, we rarely 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 Chiodo & Family
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Mrs. Andrew Cummins
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The Reverend George David Exoo
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Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. Hackney & Family
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John Manders
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The Pittsburgh Daguerreian Project
Pleasant View Elementary School
Plum Boro School District
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Ms. Velma Sharpsky
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Ms. Liz Smithson
Ms. Helen Spirnak
William G. Swain
Ms. Carol Campbell Swinston
Mrs. Albert Tannler
Mrs. Rose S. Tarasi
Scott Truex, AICP
Jack Urbani
Dennis M. Weber
Mrs. Elaine Wertheim
West Jefferson School District
Ms. Doris Zurawka

Corporate Members

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

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Conti Environmental
Delta International Machinery Corporation
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IESCO
Nabisco Biscuit Company

Patricia M. Navarro, Ltd.
Penn State University,
Beaver Campus
Penn State University,
New Kensington Campus
Pittsburgh Pirates
Point Park College
Port Authority Transit
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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.

The Church Restoration Group and Allegheny Millwork & Lumber Company, affiliates of Mistick, Inc., generously contributed to the Saving Religious Properties conference on May 16.

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.

E V E N T S

Call Landmarks, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (412) 471-5808, for further information on the events listed below, or to make reservations.

Wednesday, July 15 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Troy Hill Walking Tour

Mary Wohleber, a trustee of Landmarks and a native of Troy Hill, will lead this evening walking tour. The tiny lofty neighborhood of Troy Hill overlooks the Allegheny River and much of Pittsburgh, but its streets are narrow and intensively inhabited.

Tour fare: \$2 members; \$5 non-members.



Wednesday, September 30 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Downtown Dormont

This is the South Hills trolley suburb at its finest, still flourishing after eight decades. Tour the streets of Dormont with Landmarks' archivist Al Tannler, who is a resident of Dormont.

Tour fare: \$2 members; \$5 non-members.

Wednesday, October 14 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Thornburg in Autumn

Join Al Tannler of Landmarks on a walking tour through this spectacular western suburb in the Chartiers Valley south of McKees Rocks.

Tour fare: \$2 members; \$5 non-members.

Five sessions: October 14, November 11, December 9, January 21, and February 16; various locations

Architecture Apprenticeship for Senior High School Students

Students throughout Allegheny County who are interested in pursuing a career in architecture can call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 371-8484 to register for this course offered by Landmarks for the ninth consecutive year.

Fall 1992 (dates to be announced)

Exploring Your City Teacher In-service

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. Call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 394-5761 to register.

Thursday & Friday, October 8 & 9

Exploring Pittsburgh's Architectural Treasures

Walter Kidney and Diane DeNardo of Landmarks will present an illustrated lecture on architectural styles and lead a walking tour of downtown Pittsburgh featuring Fourth Avenue and Grant Street. To register for this adult education course, call Pitt's Informal Program at (412) 648-2560.

Saturday, December 5 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

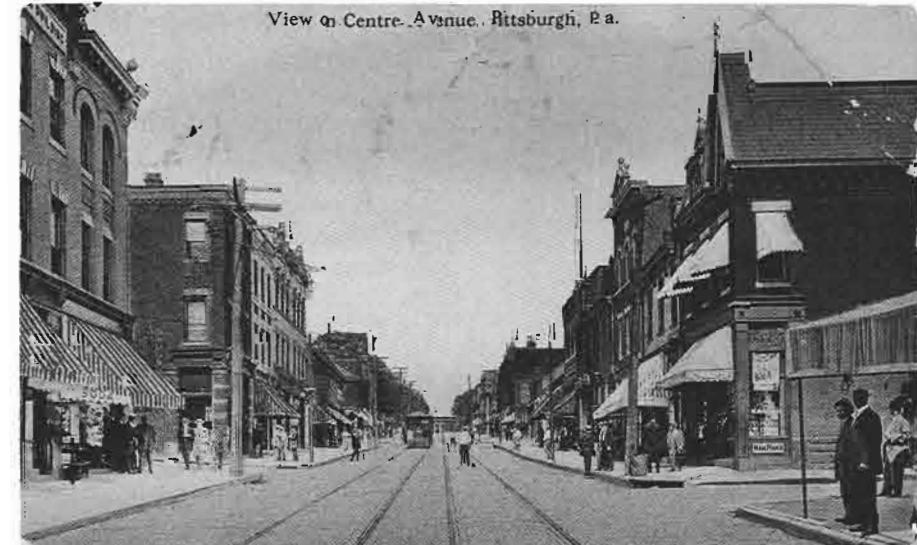
Brookville Victorian Christmas Celebration

Celebrate the holidays by traveling with us by bus to the festive Brookville Victorian Christmas Celebration in Jefferson County. We will tour the Main Street Project, an award-winning model for successful revitalization, and visit historic landmarks, homes, and shops. Tour fare to be announced.

Donations to Landmarks

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

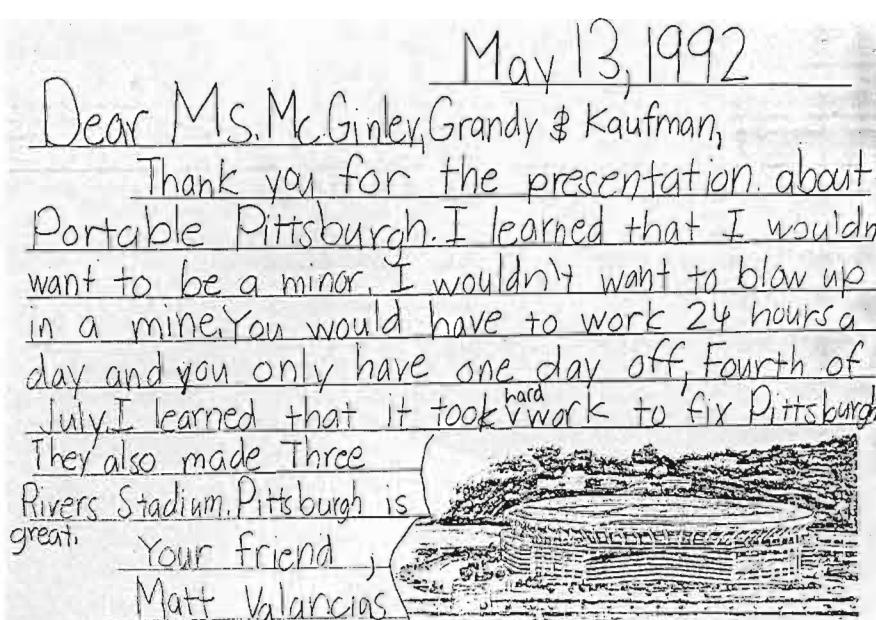
- The Art Institute of Chicago, for Associates Artists of Pittsburgh catalogues from 1912 and 1941.



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 Pytlak	Designer

Education News



A thank-you note from third-grade students at Neil Armstrong School in Bethel Park

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 thanks 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, Kit Boyle, Lili Bryer, Mary Ann Eubanks, Bob Jacob, Jeanne Kauffmann, Verna McGinley, Betty Pakula, Linda Pelan, 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.

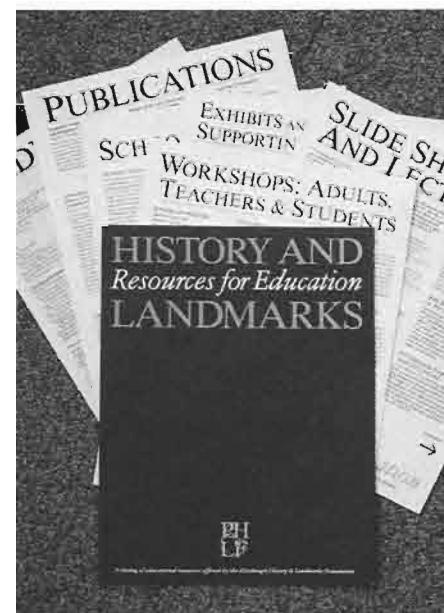


Pittsburgh Heritage and Hands-On History

Teachers from across Allegheny County will be exploring Pittsburgh's history and architecture with Landmarks this summer through the *Pittsburgh Heritage and Hands-On History* courses. Participants will tour downtown Pittsburgh and surrounding neighborhoods, work with primary source documents including historic photographs and artifacts, and meet with professional historians. Both teacher in-service courses are offered through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's department of continuing 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, was invited to speak as part of the "Education and Interpretation" session to discuss the programs and resources of Landmarks' education department.



AT 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 — which we are able to price far below the original retail cost. Here is a sampling of some titles, originally \$40.00 to \$85.00, that we are offering for \$16.00 to \$30.00 (As a bonus, members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation receive an additional 10% discount on the sale price.) All are amply and beautifully illustrated. *Art and Design in Europe and America 1800-1900* (Dutton, 1987), \$18.50; *Architecture Transformed: A History of the Photography of Buildings from 1839 to the Present* (MIT, 1989), \$29.98; Robert A. M. Stern's *Modern Classicism* (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* and *The Decorative Thirties* (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.

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A Century of Weddings with Tiffany's

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

The Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, Inc. (AHP'S) is planning a benefit on September 19, beginning at 1:00 p.m., to assist in the restoration of the historic Calvary United Methodist Church at Allegheny and Beech Avenues 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 at the handsomely-restored Victorian home of Ben and Joedda Sampson at 939 Western Avenue. Reservations are limited.

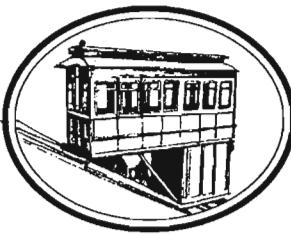
For ticket information and further details, call Mrs. Fritz Page at (412) 343-5211.

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A New Bridge for Pittsburgh

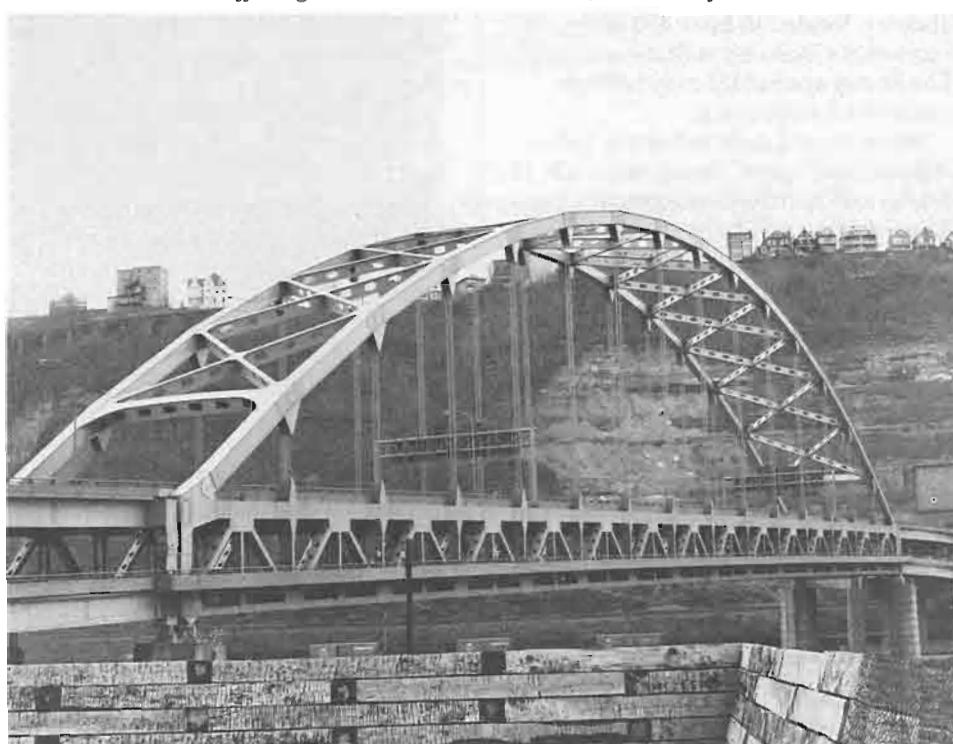


If Pittsburgh is to have another steel arch to Station Square, let us look to the light, strong grace of the McKees Rocks Bridge (above) or the West End Bridge (below, right). These are six decades old, and probably too labor-intensive to reproduce and maintain in new construction, but their beauty is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

The Smithfield Street Bridge, whose first trusses were completed in 1883; limber, hand-assembled pinned and riveted construction. The lightness 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 stiffening 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, 1904-47, whose ghost, in the form of two piers, a possible alignment, and even a loosely reapplied 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 steel-work 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



The engineer Santiago Calatrava designed this cable-stayed bridge, shown here in model form. Such boldness of design, elegantly shaped, would continue a great local tradition.

From Werner Blaser, ed., Santiago Calatrava: Engineering Architecture (Basel: Birkhaeuser Verlag, 1989). Reproduced by permission.

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Neighborhoods

Troy Hill: A Special Place

Mary Wohleber



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 flatland, 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 those doors. We are not a transient people — we tend to stay put.

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

Voegty Cemetery



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 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.



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 Namers 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 Voegty Cemetery, which is an open oasis in our congested little town, comes to life. The band plays, marchers, friends, and neighbors lining 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!



A view along Lowrie Street

In 1971 a civic group was formed: Troy Hill Citizens, Inc., an active group with strong community support. It has gone to bat many times to protect the neighborhood.

We did have a Public School (1888-1960) demolished because of declining enrollment. That site has been developed by Troy Hill Citizens into a community park without any City monies. The park is supported and maintained by Troy Hill Citizens. Every year a Community Day is held there with all community groups given an opportunity to advance their projects. Our "Great Race" draws participants from various parts of the city. Dedication: we have that too.

We try to take care of what we have and protect it as much as we can. In 1969 my efforts were rewarded, and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation designated St. Anthony's Chapel a historic landmark. Then followed in succession, a portion of Allegheny City Reservoir (1842-49), the rectory, Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish (1875-76), the Ober-Guehl house (1877), and the upper station, Troy Hill Incline (1887-98).

The star in our crown is the Chapel, but that is a saga of its own. A sense of history: oh yes, we live with it.

Troy Hill is a closely-knit, stable community. Names in the early church records are still heard in the streets. The hill is practically self-sufficient in the services provided by its businesses, and the storekeepers know most of their customers by name. When there is a need in or for the community, all band together to achieve what is right. There is always a church or club affair to attend, somewhere to be together and have fun — in German that is called *Gemütlichkeit*. There is a quiet, secure feeling when one walks the neighborhood and knows at the turn of every corner exactly what will be there. That is belonging, that is roots, that is HOME!

Mary Wohleber

Mary Wohleber is a well-known preservationist, a trustee of Landmarks, and a life-long resident of Troy Hill.



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 commonplaceness 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

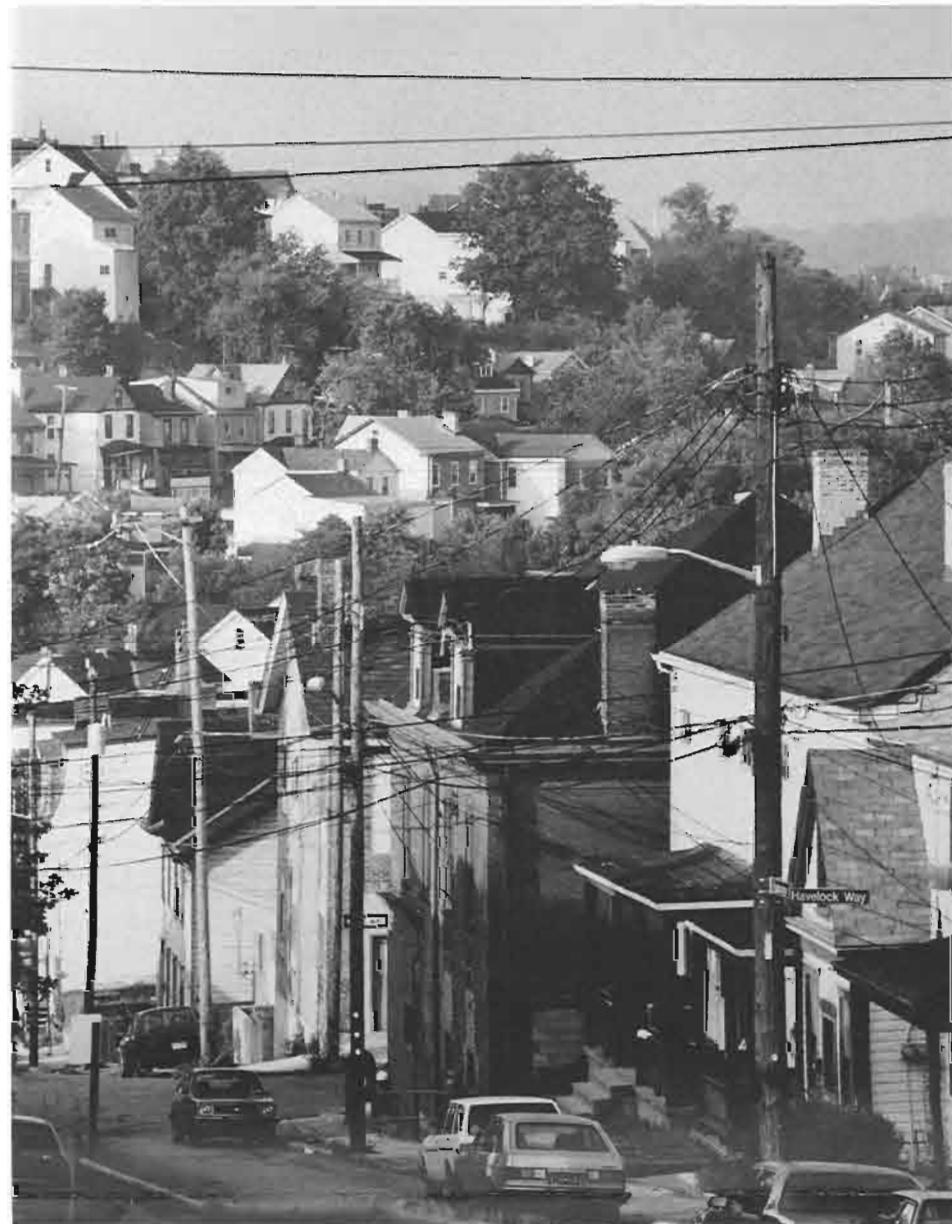
rivers, hills, horizons, neighborhoods, and all, there was still an element of the uncanny; the South Side especially, 400 feet below and a mile-and-a-half away, seemed to exist in a dreamlike perspective and be a purely imaginary place.

The views from my successive apartments, in adjoining houses, have also had their spatial thrills though the grand panorama is out of my sight. The land back from the face of the bluff is roughly combed back into ridges and valleys, and I am on a ridge. Merrimac Street, the valley street nearest me, is two blocks away and 60 feet below, while the next ridge over is level with mine. None of what I see amounts to much as architecture, but the undulations of the land and the abundance of trees make it a rich display, a spectacle of many facets to catch the morning sun, a fancy silhouette against the twilight. Walking around enlivens the experience through parallax, the illusion that distant objects move when you do. The objects themselves are usually ordinary houses, but two of the ridges are grandly crowned by schools, serene pale masses with the houses crowded set up against them.

Life on a ridge has its penalties; when the winds are furious and the thunder crashes, one really gets an exposed, even temporary, sort of feeling. Now and then even the birds, sweetly though they sing, are dubious; why are a couple of hundred of them circling about, screeching like mad? Or, say, a hundred of them are standing in the back yard, not doing much of anything; suddenly, with a kind of muffled boom, they go into the bare branches of a tree; then down in the next yard: what was all that about? They also tend to bounce off the window panes, recovering nicely for the most part.

Grandview Avenue continues in the process of acquiring restaurants and expensive apartments, becoming more and more a sort of Gold Coast. Living as I do, 400 feet into what might be called the Native Quarter, I am little influenced by this increasing glamour. I get the spatial luxury twice a day, simply by walking to and from the Incline, and my rent is moderate in a place full of sunlight. At the appropriate seasons the sounds of summer — birds and lawnmowers — penetrate my windows, but in winter there is a luxurious silence.

The South Side, far below and away



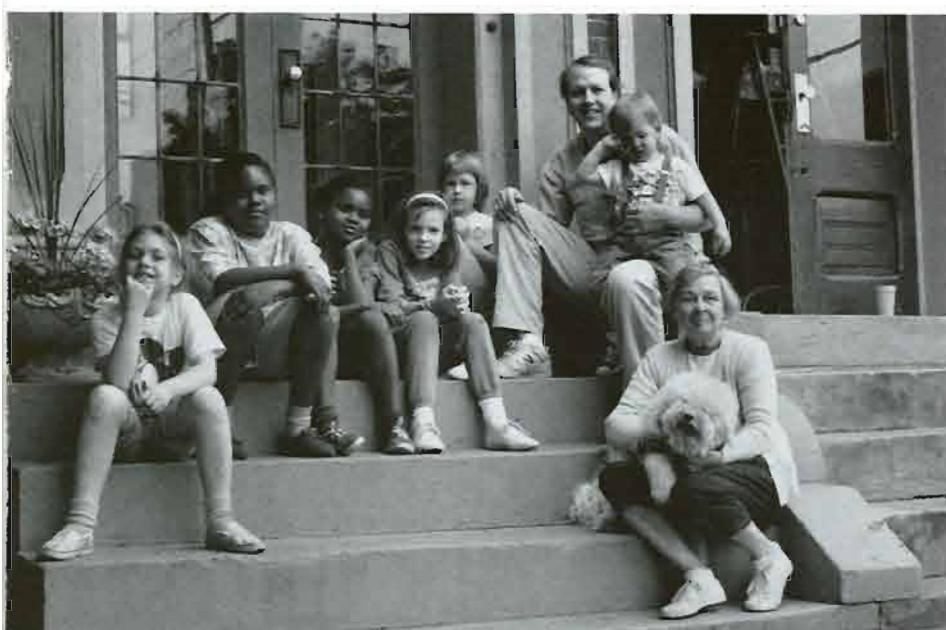
Looking down Kearsarge Street, a block from my home



Shiloh Street,
up in the air

B. C. K.

Walter C. Kidney is the architectural historian of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and a 14-year resident of Mount Washington.



Mark Fatla with his children and neighborhood friends

Allegheny West

Mark Fatla

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 gargoyles, 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 experience of its inhabitants. On these streets with all their rich details, often the most welcome sight to residents is the beat-up

A lion guards the street



truck 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 church architecture in all its Gothic glory, but to the neighborhood it is Thursday luncheons and community meetings, the joy of weddings and the shared sorrow of a neighbor's funeral.



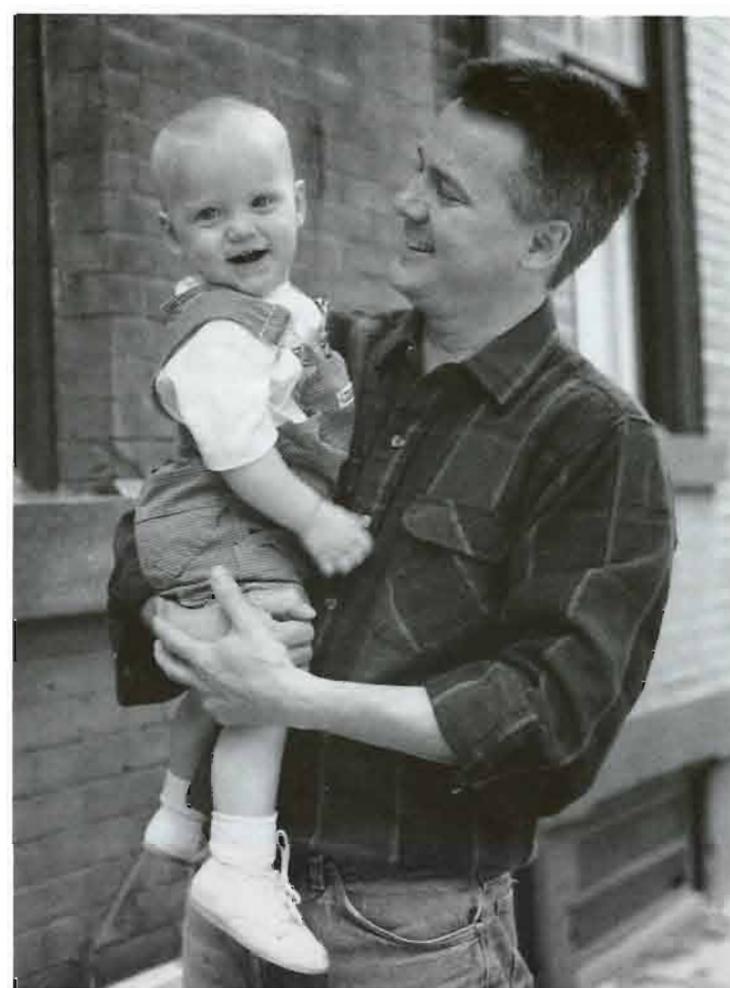
A welcome sight on Beech Avenue

This confluence of community and architecture is well illustrated in the demolition of an old house. The building 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.

Mark T. Fatla

Mark Fatla is an attorney in private practice, chairs two committees for the Allegheny West Civic Council, and represents the Council to the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group. He is an Allegheny West resident of eight years.



The Mexican War Streets

Randy Zotter

Why do so many people call the Mexican War Streets home?

In 1788, a surveyor named David Redick described the Central North Side, an area that includes the Mexican War Streets, as basically unfit for human habitation and compared the landscape to that of the moon. This survey was commissioned by Benjamin Franklin and was part of a plan to form Allegheny County from segments of Westmoreland and Washington Counties.

The Mexican War Streets area took shape around 1850. Streets were named after individuals (Taylor and Jackson) and towns in Mexico (Monterey, Resaca, Buena Vista, and Palo Alto) where battles took place. Today, neighbors enjoy celebrating these events by getting together for pot-luck dinners and holding street parties. Although some streets and alleys have changed names and asphalt has covered most of the stone, the exterior architecture of the homes is still much as it was 140 years ago.

The question most often asked is, "Why would you live in the Mexican War Streets and spend all that time fixing up an old house?" To find the answer, one must go back to the urban pioneers who stopped the "planning experts" from demolishing the area in 1954 in order to build a new highway and "garden apartments." These residents discovered that they had a love affair with this community and that they were only the caretakers for the next generation. Over the years, more and more people have become involved with the preservation movement and discovered the joy and convenience of living in our neighborhood.

The Mexican War Streets is a 20-block area made up of a variety of people, from junior to senior, singles and families, new and old, with an economic and ethnic diversity that adds vitality to everyday living. Over the years, people have seen the benefits living close to work, hospitals, downtown, the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh Children's Museum, and being able to walk to Steeler and Pirate games. (Did you know that you can get in for free at the start of the seventh inning?)

The residents and community groups of the area have made a long-term commitment to the "quality of life" issue. The



Central Northside Neighborhood Council and Mexican War Streets Society have provided the spark that has kept the spirit going. From high-rise senior-citizens buildings, house tours, block watches, and community gardens to street fairs, zoning hearings, and economic development, the work of the people is extensive and determined.

In our neighborhood, you will find several churches, day-care centers, a YMCA, mom-and-pop grocery stores, a nationally-recognized art gallery, the oldest park in the city, and wide tree-lined streets. A favorite pastime of residents is "stoop sitting," where your friends sit on their front steps enjoying the neighborhood and all it has to offer.

Historic preservation in the Mexican War Streets has meant more than just saving the architecture and buildings; it has saved a neighborhood, and a way of life that many now seek.

Randy Zotter

Randy Zotter, a retired community activist, was former president of the Central Northside Neighborhood Council and of the Mexican War Streets Society. He is proprietor of a pottery on the South Side. He and his wife have lived in the Mexican War Streets for 10 years; they have one child.



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 15 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, brings 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 Foursquare.

Crafton was founded by Charles Craft in 1868 and incorporated as a borough in 1892. 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.

The Campbell Building, in the old commercial district, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Creighton Avenue, a street of stately old homes, was awarded a Historic Landmark Plaque by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1991. A "House of the Month" program recognizes preservation efforts among Crafton homeowners. "Preservation Day in Crafton," held during National Preservation Week, has formally honored these preservation efforts. On June 8, a new group formed for the purpose of preserving wooded areas and wetlands around Crafton.

The most unusual aspect of living in Crafton today is that residents are working together to shape the next phase of 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.

Carol M. Herrle

Carol M. Herrle chairs the Community Action Committee of the Crafton Historical Society. She is a Crafton resident of 17 years.

Creighton Avenue in Crafton



Mark and Pat Bibro with their family

From Dormont

Mark Stephen and Pat Bibro

Our 14 years in Dormont have made us believers that Dormont is really an overlooked 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, after touring hundreds of homes in countless neighborhoods, we saw a small ad in the Sunday paper, placed by the owners themselves, for a big old Dormont home. We looked at the house, walked through it, and fifteen minutes

later, bought it. For less than the selling price of our three-bedroom house in Greentree, 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 theatres, 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 CoGo's, 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.

Mark Stephen and Pat Bibro

The Bibros have been living in Dormont for 14 years. Mark Bibro, Landmarks' Treasurer, is director of Louise Child Care, and has served as a trustee of more than 15 community organizations.

A favorite breakfast spot along Potomac Avenue in Dormont



Preservation Scene



Another Arsenal Building Gone

In late May a demolition permit was issued for the so-called Machine Shop of 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 tenuously 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 been requested to approve demolition of 106 to 114 Market Street, the five Mid- and Late-Victorian commercial buildings between Froggy's and the Boulevard of the Allies, outside the Market Square Historic District. These would be replaced by a parking lot, as would be the empty lot across the street where the St. Charles Hotel once 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 1845. Landmarks opposes the demolition, not so much because of the architecture of the buildings as because of their scale and the way they frame what is really an extraordinary little street close to its termination. A parking lot, however veneered with planting, is going to tear a hole in the street scene. Are the buildings really unusable?



Engine Company No. 1



Duquesne Brewery



2701-07 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 1900, 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 seized 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 50 years old
- have architectural interest or are illustrative of our history or culture;
- have not been seriously marred or allowed to deteriorate beyond likely repair.

Landmarks' Historic Plaque Committee meets annually to 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 no legal powers over the property; Landmarks has only the right to remove the plaque if the property is badly altered.

Of the 300-some plaques installed since 1968, almost all have been solicited by owners. The presence of our plaque has given moral support for a building's preservation; but the Syria Mosque episode brought out the drawback: the absence of the plaque seems to imply a lack of interest on the part of the public and of Landmarks, whereas the owner never thought of a plaque or simply did not want one.

Recently, Landmarks suggested that the Pittsburgh Board of Education apply for 16 of its handsome schools and that the pastors of Catholic and Presbyterian churches threatened with redundancy apply for Historic Landmark plaques. In taking such initiatives, Landmarks will lend moral support for preservation efforts on behalf of places under threat. In Pittsburgh, it parallels the Historic Review Commission's efforts to record comprehensively the places about the city that ought to be preserved.

Pittsburgh on Show

On April 7, the National 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 were there, including Arthur Edmunds, Anne Genter, Mr. and Mrs. James Edwards, Eric Dickerson, and Arthur Ziegler of Landmarks; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Ralph of Manchester; Ellis Schmidlapp of Landmarks Design Associates; and Stanley Lowe, who represented Landmarks, the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and neighborhood organizations, credited with contributing 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 as an agency that helped the neighborhoods take an active part in their future rather than being thrown into a passive role.

The photographic 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 — is due in part to our city's long-held architectural resources, from proletarian street scenes to monumental edifices. Doro Bacharach, producer of *Citizen Cohn*, is quoted in the *Post-Gazette* as "stunned at the sense of architectural preservation in this city." Economics has much to do with the film companies' choice of Pittsburgh, but we have the essential scenic 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 Christian Associates to discuss the possibility of developing an early-warning system for architecturally-significant religious buildings facing difficulties, and to further explore techniques for sensitively reusing religious buildings. Conference sponsors are also organizing a group of representatives from the foundation, neighborhood, and religious communities in Pittsburgh to travel to Philadelphia to study the successful model for aiding historic religious properties created by Partners for Sacred Places. A master mailing list of people, organizations, and religious properties has been created at Landmarks; please call Mary Lu Denny (412) 471-5808 if you would like us to add your name, religious property, or organization to the mailing list.

Saving Religious Properties Conference

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

Acorn Specialties
Allegheny Historic Preservation Society
Allegheny West Community Council
American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter
Tom Auel/Construction
Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside
Calvary United Methodist Church, Allegheny West
Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh
Christian Associates
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
Falk Medical Foundation
First Lutheran Church, Downtown
First United Presbyterian Church, Braddock
Heinz Chapel, University of Pittsburgh
Hiland Presbyterian Church, North Hills
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Clairton
Old St. Luke's, Scott Township
Partners for Sacred Places
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios
Preservation Pittsburgh
Rodef Shalom Congregation, Shadyside
St. Anthony's Chapel, Troy Hill
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, South Side
St. Nicholas Church, Millvale
St. Stanislaus R.C. Church, Strip District
St. Vincent's Archabbey, Latrobe
Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Shadyside
United Methodist Church Union
Wilson and McCracken
Wotore Woods

Generous contributions from the Church Restoration Group and Allegheny Millwork & Lumber Company, affiliates of Mistick, Inc., the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, and Ben and Joedda 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 many of us know 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.

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PANELING
Wainscot, Fireplace Surrounds, Mantles, Panelled Walls
DOORS
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TURNINGS
Newels, Spindles, Hand Rail, Porch Posts, Brackets
CARVING
All Types

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African-American Survey Update

The African-American Historic Site Survey of Allegheny County continues to identify and record places important to blacks from 1760 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 "coal patch" developments throughout southern Allegheny County. They were the first step in the massive industrialization process of Western Pennsylvania.

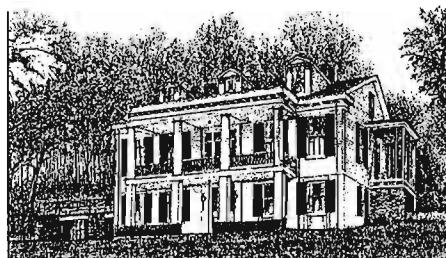
One small mining town, Horning, still exists in southern Baldwin Township. This collection of one- to two-story wood-frame, turn-of-the-century houses is a unique example of a company-dominated operation buried among hilly slopes. The paint has peeled from the homes, and the old school house in which numerous coal miners' children were taught is now an auto repair shop. One house on Oak Street used to be the community church, complete with baptismal pool. Today it leans with neglect. On a nearby hillside, a white, wood-frame house once served as the local "moonshine house," providing an outlet from the rigors of underground work. When the company store set prices unfavorable to many Horning residents, they created their own general store at the end of Oak Street. It is simply a home now — its original function unrecognizable. Many more mining communities like Horning exist in Allegheny County.

The location of these black mining towns 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 Eliza 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 about 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.



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1992 Awards of Merit

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

- Calvary Episcopal Church: for remodeling and restoration of the highest quality;
- St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church: for excellence in restoration;
- Allegheny Committee, National Society of Colonial Dames of America, and the Neville House Auxiliary: for the ongoing restoration of the Neville House in Collier Township and its authentic interior restoration;
- Teutonia 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 Jendzura: 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 region;
- Douglas Martin: for supervising high school students in the creation of Landmarks' audio-visual presentation *Landmark Survivors*;
- Architects-in-the-Schools: for volunteering to inform area students about architecture;
- Dom Magasano: for devoted volunteer service to Landmarks since 1986;
- Anna Belle Doman: for devoted volunteer service to Landmarks since 1985; and
- Sam Levine: 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 the front bay window suggests that the house was always called "Heathside Cottage" since its construction around 1860. The house speaks more of Early Victorian England or the East Coast than of Pittsburgh, though its elevation 390 feet above river level in the Fineview neighborhood is typically enough Pittsburgh. The house has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974, accepted on the basis of its uniqueness as a Gothic Revival cottage in this area.

HEATHSIDE COTTAGE IS ON THE MARKET!

Located in the Fineview section of Pittsburgh, Heathside Cottage (National Registry # PH0064955), built circa 1855, is all that remains of the Col. James Andrews Estate. One of the few pre-Civil War Gothic Revival style structures in this area, it is believed to have been the estate's carriage house. From its commanding hilltop view of the Pittsburgh skyline, this quaint three bedroom brick cottage boasts a 60 x 100 foot corner lot, elaborate bargeboard, pendants, finials, lattice windows, extensive landscaping and a detached garage, plus three fireplaces and crystal chandelier. Restoration to date includes a new roof, kitchen, bath, laundry, furnace, wiring, patio, picket fence and repointing. All that remains is your interior decorating talent to add to its charm.

Inquiries should be made to Kenneth A. Barker, 416 Catoma St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212 or call (412) 234-2295 (days).

Price \$ 115,000

Good value



Casino Restoration Announced

The Westmoreland County town of Vandergrift has enjoyed a modest reputation as a model industrial community with a plan by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted. But, in the last couple of decades, Vandergrift has been in something of a decline. New industry recently has helped change things around, though, as has the Vandergrift Borough Preservation Committee.

The great symbol of the town, other than its Romantic hillside plan, is the Casino, a temple-fronted building of cream-colored brick that terminates a formal vista from the railroad station. It has long been the town's theatre and also its municipal building. Good things have been happening to the theatre part of the Casino. It has attained membership in the League of Historic American Theatres, and in consequence is entitled to free expert consultation on its working parts and restoration. Some money has already been raised for restoration, and reopening late this year is possible.

Landmarks has given consultation on restoration efforts in Vandergrift, and is gratified to see that this prominent feature of Vandergrift is headed for full and significant use.

What Emmanuel Church Needs

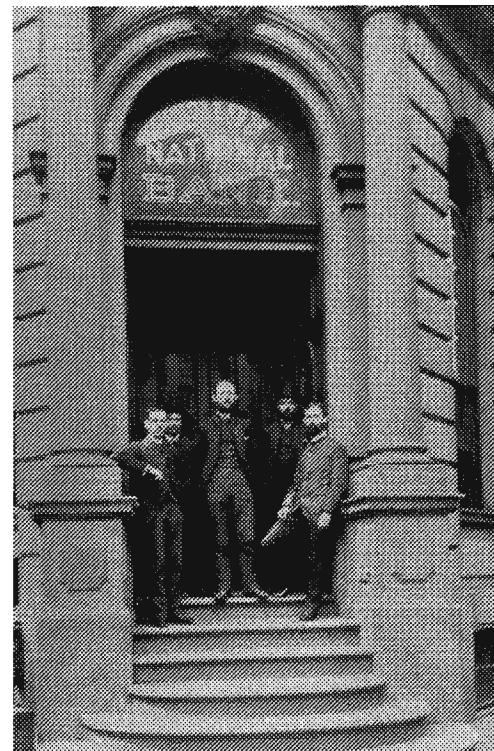
A recent examination by Landmarks Design Associates, architects, of Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Allegheny and North Avenues suggests a church and rectory in reasonably good repair but with some deterioration of windows, finishes, and an electrical system that can only worsen, and with some desirable improvements that might be added. The estimate for improvements is about \$249,000. If two adjoining houses were to be externally restored, giving the church an architectural context now lacking, an additional \$65,000 would be needed. If 10 percent is allowed for contingencies, the grand total comes to \$346,000. Emmanuel is a rather small church with very few complications of form to induce structural failures or roof leakages; H. H. Richardson's massive construction has endured well. Yet at least a quarter of a million dollars would be well spent putting in shape a building that cost a tenth that many dollars in 1886.

The Rev. Richard A. Kunz asked Landmarks for financial help in conducting the initial study and drawing-up of a budget. Landmarks granted \$1,000 from its DeWinter/Ziegler Fund, on a matching basis, for the purpose.

Homestead Bricks

This spring, the Carnegie Library of Homestead raised \$45,000 for operating expenses by selling the bricks, or rather people's names incised on the bricks, of its Centennial Walkway. One thousand seventy-seven bricks in the Walkway now bear names: 991 four-by-eight-inch bricks at \$30 to \$35 each, 86 twelve-by-twelve-inch bricks at \$140 to \$150.

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Recently, Integra Bank made a \$500,000 loan to the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation to help finance several local projects. And we provided important funds for the restoration of the award-winning Dorothy Day Apartments.

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with your next project, or how we can help with your brokerage, trust and other banking needs.

Integra Bank wants to help preserve the history of this area. After all, as the oldest commercial bank in Pittsburgh,

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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.



Small shops and apartments around the old South Side Market House

Pittsburgh's first Zoning Law was enacted in 1923. 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, then, to find what facilities a neighborhood needed and which of these could be lived with comfortably, then give the neighborhood as many of the latter as possible.

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.

Civilized commerce on the edge of Chatham 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 center has replaced an industrial plant on the South Side, but the contrast with the houses is just as abrupt as before.



Potomac Avenue, Dormont, with apartments over shops. Good, intimate scale, made all the pleasanter by a careful use of trees and lamps, and tasteful facade remodeling. West Liberty Avenue at the bottom of the street — bigger, busier, more purely commercial — is bleak by contrast.

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