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# PH LF NEWS

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 133 February 1994

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## Planning to Save Religious Properties

Many churches and synagogues and their related buildings are of architectural and historical significance to the Pittsburgh region. And all are of considerable psychological, social, and cultural significance both to their congregations and to their neighborhoods, where they house social services and fulfill community needs.

However, dwindling congregations, limited giving, and minimum or deferred maintenance have created very serious problems for some of these architectural landmarks in the Pittsburgh region that exceed the immediate financial resources of the building owners. In addition to appealing to their members, religious property owners now are asking foundations, corporations, and government agencies for grants and loans to help them repair, maintain, and even fully restore their historic buildings.

Due to the separation of church and state, government agencies cannot provide funds to religious organizations, and many of the other giving sources prefer not to give directly to religious organizations either.

During the past few years, several foundation leaders have encouraged Landmarks to create a "Religious Properties Fund" to provide technical and financial assistance to owners of historic and architecturally-significant religious properties. Landmarks has gained much experience in its 30-year life that would help it create and manage such a fund.

- Our staff has been involved with the preservation of many religious properties: Old St. Luke's in Scott Township; St. Anthony's on Troy Hill; Calvary United Methodist Church and Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Allegheny West; St. Mary's Church and Priory in Deutschtown; and St. Peter's in Oakland, to name a few. The triumphs and disappointments of these isolated cases provide us with a base of knowledge that could help Landmarks formulate a broader program of assistance, serving historic religious properties in Allegheny County.

- As a result of Landmarks' comprehensive survey of Allegheny County, our staff already has recorded many significant religious properties.
- As a result of the "Saving Religious Properties" conference co-sponsored by Landmarks in May 1992, we are aware of the current needs of many religious property owners.
- We have also been studying several pilot efforts that have been undertaken in the United States for the restoration of religious structures, and we have met with the national Partners for Sacred Places, headquartered in Philadelphia.
- Through the work of our Preservation Fund, we have gained valuable experience in offering technical and financial assistance to individuals and organizations, particularly to inner-city neighborhood restoration organizations.

Now, Landmarks is ready to focus its attention on the challenge of *planning* to save historic religious properties.

### Allegheny Foundation Grant

In November 1993, the Allegheny Foundation awarded a grant of \$44,000 to Landmarks to undertake a ten-month study. Between January and October 1994, Landmarks will prepare a plan that will establish needs and priorities of the historic religious properties themselves; define technical services that are needed and the manner in which they should be offered (publications, workshops, consulting, etc.); and specify what grant and loan funds might be useful. The work will result in an overview of the uses and needs of religious buildings in Allegheny County, along with a recommended program of assistance. In the next few months Landmarks' staff will be:

- creating a list of all religious buildings that Landmarks considers to be of architectural or historic value;
- creating a list from our files of "requests for assistance" from various religious properties;
- compiling a list of endangered religious properties from our files and from information provided by local organizations;
- studying religious property programs in other cities and distilling basic operating principles and budgets;
- listing adaptive uses of religious buildings known to us, and preparing a summary sheet on each adaptive use;
- analyzing uses of religious buildings for community and neighborhood services;
- utilizing a consulting contract with Partners for Sacred Places to obtain the staff's broad, national experience.
- working with foundation leaders to establish a program that would fulfill their needs and goals.



*St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral was built in 1903 on Dickson Street in Munhall. It was probably the largest work in Western Pennsylvania by Titus de Bobula, an enigmatic figure who was the only Art Nouveau architect in this area. At present the Cathedral, which shows signs of external deterioration, is up for sale.*

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., Director of Preservation Services at Landmarks, will be coordinating this study in cooperation with Walter Kidney and Al Tannler. Please call them at (412) 471-5808 if you have any information to share on endangered religious properties in Allegheny County. Landmarks will be reporting on its progress in forthcoming issues of *PHLF News*.

### Landmarks Welcomes Howard Slaughter



On December 30, 1993, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., joined Landmarks' staff as Director of Preservation Services. Mr. Slaughter is responsible primarily for community and neighborhood restoration programs, the religious properties' program, and the further development of governmental relations and preservation advocacy.

Mr. Slaughter was appointed to the position of Director of Preservation Services at Landmarks because Stanley Lowe, who served as the Director of Landmarks' Preservation Fund for ten years, has agreed to serve on Tom Murphy's mayoral staff, in charge of neighborhood, housing, and planning policy.

Before coming to Landmarks, Mr. Slaughter was the Vice President of Community Development and the Community Reinvestment Act Compliance Officer for Dollar Bank. Mr. Slaughter led Dollar Bank in its efforts to achieve an "outstanding" Community Reinvestment Act rating on Dollar Bank's 1992 Office of Thrift Supervision Compliance examination. Less than 10% of all the banks in the country had achieved this rating during this same time period. Mr. Slaughter was also named the "Most Distinguished Community Development Officer of the Year" by the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group in June 1993 at a community development luncheon at which Mr. Jonathan Fiechter, Acting Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Washington, D.C., served as the keynote speaker.

Mr. Slaughter also has served as an officer in the Braddock Chamber of Commerce and as a director of the Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation. He has been a project business consultant for five years with Junior Achievement, and was formerly Vice President of Equibank's Community Development Corporation.

Mr. Slaughter is deeply committed to Landmarks' goals, is respected among the neighborhood organizations, and knows the lending community well. Landmarks is glad to have him on its staff.



*St. Anthony's Chapel on Troy Hill was built in 1880 and enlarged in 1890 by Father Suibertus Gottfried Mollinger to house his collection of 5,000 holy relics. Mary Wohleber, a Landmarks trustee and Troy Hill resident, led a fund-raising campaign that led to the restoration of the chapel by 1977.*

Photos by Clyde Hare



Welcome New Members

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

Mary Ann Balfe  
Bellefield Presbyterian Church  
Belle Vernon High School  
Mulugetta Birru  
Denise Bogden  
Walter J. Brannon  
Rev. & Mrs. Everett I. Campbell  
Terrence P. Cavanaugh  
Thomas C. Celli, AIA  
Celli-Flynn and Associates  
Amy W. Cohen  
Rose Marie DeStout  
Seymour & Ruth Drescher  
Patricia Eldredge  
Matthew J. Faith  
Friends of the Sewickley  
Train Station  
John Geurts  
Betty Goodwin  
JoAnn Haines  
Lois J. Hilf  
Charles J. Jacques, Jr.  
Erna M. Jochum  
Mark & Karey Joensen  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Jones  
David Kleer  
Anna Korch  
Goldie Mae Kunce  
Rev. H. R. Krawczyk  
Jeffrey J. Leech  
David L. G. Locke  
Anthony Lucarelli  
MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni

Marshall Middle School  
Ethel L. Miller  
Mt. Lebanon School District  
Lawrence M. Newman  
North Allegheny School District  
Oakmont's Boulevard Project  
David O'Loughlin  
H. Catherine Onufer  
Patricia Patterson  
Mark T. Phillis  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Gordon Price  
Rankin Elementary School  
Rankin Intermediate School  
Tom Schmidt  
Joseph J. Scully  
Seville Elementary School  
Terrance Shannon  
Michele Smith  
Kerry E. Solomon, AIA  
South Side Local  
Development Corporation  
Mrs. Agis Sparks  
Rochelle Steiner  
John W. Turner  
Glenn Vernon  
Peg Volkman  
Western Pennsylvania  
Conservancy  
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Andrew D. Wolfe  
Woodland Hills School  
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Marjorie L. Ziegler

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Letters from Our Members

On December 17, 1993, we received this very thoughtful letter from Harry Goldby of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Mr. Goldby has been a member of Landmarks for 20 years, and in recognition of his many years of support we mailed him a complimentary copy of *A Past Still Alive*. (To date, 396 members have received complimentary copies of *A Past Still Alive*, in appreciation of their 20 years of support, and 57 members this year are approaching the 20-year mark.)

Dear Ms. Sturgess,

By sending me **A Past Still Alive**, in recognition of my twenty-year History and Landmarks membership, you have surprised and delighted me no end. I hereby wish to express my thanks as I anticipate the pleasure I will certainly have as I read it from cover to cover.

A native Pittsburgher, a continuous, though far-afield, booster of my hometown, I have enjoyed my relationship with the PHLF throughout the years. By coincidence I have had a long personal association with two of the early luminaries of the Foundation, Charles Arensberg through his son whom, as visiting instructor, I taught at St. Edmund's Academy, and James Van Trump, known from my student days at the University of Pittsburgh.

During my last visit to Pittsburgh I was given a tour of your (our) library, which I found very impressive. In fact, I stayed on for a couple of hours and regaled myself looking at the old city directories and a volume or two of the works of Viollet-le-Duc, a longtime favorite of mine.

Once again I thank you very much for your generous and thoughtful gesture, so highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Goldby

Harry Goldby

PHLF News is published five times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, a non-profit historic preservation organization serving Allegheny County. Landmarks is committed to neighborhood restoration and historic-property preservation; public advocacy; education and membership programs; and the continuing development of Station Square, a riverfront property opposite downtown Pittsburgh. PHLF News is supported through membership dollars, proceeds from Station Square, and advertising revenue.

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Walter C. Kidney ..... Architectural Historian  
Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. .... Director of Preservation Services  
Albert M. Tannler ..... Archivist  
Greg Pytlik ..... Designer

Historic Landmark Plaques Awarded

The Historic Landmark Plaque Awards Committee met November 16, 1993 to consider two dozen applications for plaque awards. Remarkably, 15 came from one source, the Brentwood Historical Society. Plaques were awarded to:

- **the Davis farmhouse**, 3423 Brownsville Road, Brentwood. This is a picturesque house, old for the area, with florid Mid-Victorian trim.
- **the Holleman house**, 3200 Brownsville Road, Brentwood. The broad and well-proportioned gable that faces the road tends to disguise the size and complexity of what at first appears to be a bungalow. This house of 1920 is a handsome late work in the Arts and Crafts manner.
- **the Louis S. Stevens house**, 4344 Brownsville Road, Brentwood. Stevens was a well-known and talented designer of homes, and his own house of 1925 has deceived many into believing it a century older.
- **the Frank Thornburg house**, 432 Lehigh Road, Thornburg. This is an ample, well-proportioned house of c. 1907 in the Arts and Crafts manner, the preeminent house in this mainly Arts and Crafts suburb.
- **the Old Sewickley Railroad Station**, 20 Chadwick Street, Sewickley. Recent restoration at this attractive building of 1887, now an American Legion post, prompted a unanimous decision to award it a plaque.

In addition, owners of the Cowan house at 4111 Brownsville Road, Brentwood, were encouraged to apply formally for a plaque, and householders at 620 Maple Lane, Sewickley, and 944 North Sheridan Avenue, Highland, were told that their homes might be considered, not individually perhaps but rather as elements of a district; the Historic Landmark Plaque Awards Committee would investigate the matter.

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's Historic Landmark plaques are awarded to places, individual buildings for the most part, anywhere in Allegheny County. Typically, the owner applies for a plaque, submitting a brief account of the history and significance of the building along with exterior and interior color slides illustrating the present state of the building. Buildings, structures, and districts may be approved for a Historic Landmark plaque if all of the following conditions are met:

- they are remarkable pieces of architecture, engineering, construction, or planning, or if they impart a rich sense of history;
- alterations, additions, or deterioration have not substantially lessened their value in the above respects;
- they are at least 50 years old;
- they are within Allegheny County.

The Historic Landmark Plaque Awards Committee will have the sole authority to approve or disapprove of a plaque award. The Committee meets once a year, usually in the fall, and is chaired by Richard M. Scaife. If awarded, the plaque will be ordered by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, but the owner must bear the cost. The price ranges typically from about \$200 to \$400, depending on the plaque material selected (aluminum or bronze). Possession of a plaque offers no legal protection for the place designated; it attests to Landmarks'



The Davis farmhouse in Brentwood.



The Holleman house in Brentwood.



The house of Louis S. Stevens in Brentwood.



The Sewickley Railroad Station of 1887, now restored.

belief in its cultural importance. The plaque typically gives the building name, name of architect or other designer, and year of construction. Since 1968, Landmarks has awarded over 300 Historic Landmark plaques. For further information, call Walter Kidney at (412) 471-5808.

Landmarks Welcomes

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Landmarks appreciates the commitment of Dollar Bank in helping us create a future for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.



# You've Heard the Good News?

On November 9, 1993, preservation authorities and groups in Pennsylvania — all over the nation, in fact — let out the breath they had been holding for two-and-a-half years. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court had just reversed its older decision in *United Artists' Theater Circuit, Inc. v. City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Historical Commission*, more succinctly known as the Boyd Theater Case.

The Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) is something of an autocrat. When it designates a property historic, it requires no approval from City Council or any other government body, differing markedly in this respect from Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission (HRC). In the case of the Boyd Theater, the PHC designated both the interior and exterior of the building against the wishes of the property owner. The result was the Boyd Theater Case.

On July 10, 1991, the Supreme Court agreed with *United Artists'* as appellant, that the historic designation of private property without the consent of the owner was unfair, unjust, and tantamount to a taking without just compensation, in violation of the Pennsylvania Constitution,



The Syria Mosque in Oakland was demolished in 1991.



The Mackintosh-Hemphill buildings on the South Side were landmarked, though their future is unknown.

thus causing national dismay. Locally, the City of Pittsburgh had commissioned a consultant to draft an improved historic-preservation ordinance, the content of which was now in question. Similarly, the possibility existed that compulsory designation of the Syria Mosque and the old Mackintosh-Hemphill property might assure their safety, at least for the time being. But with the uncertainty created by the Boyd Theater Case, the City Solicitor advised against designation, and down came the Mosque. Preservation commissions in Sewickley and Sewickley Heights were also thrown into uncertainty.

Philadelphia, for that matter, was experiencing a certain *malaise*, with its 13,000 designated landmarks, especially after a property owner — one of many to come? — asked \$2.5 million not to tear down a Colonial building for a parking lot.

In response to the emergency, Philadelphia petitioned to have the court reconsider its ruling, and Landmarks and 11 other parties, several of them national organizations, submitted an *amicus* brief.



330 South Third Street, one of the Philadelphia Historical Commission's 13,000 landmarks.

Reargument was heard October 23, 1991; thereafter, two years of silence.

The bulk of the decision addressed whether the Pennsylvania Constitution provided *more* rights than the Federal Constitution. The Court's four-part analysis included a discussion of text, history, related case law and policy considerations. The existence of Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment, which empowers State and local governments to protect historic resources, was considered under the public policy evaluation.

Oddly enough, the PHC won the war while continuing to lose the battle. The PHC's designation inextricably linked the exterior and interior of the Boyd Theater. Because the Philadelphia preservation ordinance only requires the interior *structure* necessary to support the facade to be maintained, not the interior architecture, PHC had exceeded its statutory authority. Therefore, the court vacated the designation wholly, though of course nothing stops the PHC from designating the Boyd facade again, or from amending its ordinance to permit interior historic designation.

In Pittsburgh, the dust has been blown off the consultants' report on the preservation ordinance, being prepared by Clarion Associates of Chicago and we await release of its contents. In Sewickley Heights, the Historic Architectural Review Board is augmenting its section



"Newington," a historic landmark in Edgeworth.

of the Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey by 30-some properties. Sewickley has been doing an architectural survey, and has three districts from the 1980s of which it can feel reassured. Edgeworth Preservation has been meeting with the Edgeworth Borough Council on drafting a preservation ordinance, and hopes that a perfected ordinance will meet public approval and be enacted.

Once the HRC receives the preservation-ordinance report from Clarion Associates, it will see that Landmarks receives a copy for review. We will comment on it in a forthcoming issue of *PHLF News*.

## Pittsburgh Preservation Law Conference Planned

On Friday, March 4, 1994, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation will co-sponsor, with the National Center for Preservation Law, the Allegheny County Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission a preservation law conference to explain the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's *United Artists'* (Boyd Theater Case) decision.

During the past 20 years, many communities across Pennsylvania and in other states have enacted increasingly strong local historic preservation ordinances that permit historic preservation commissions to review proposed alterations, demolitions, or new construction in local historic districts, and activities that would affect designated landmarks. The United States Supreme Court ruled in its 1978 *Penn Central* decision that such ordinances do not violate the federal constitution. On November 9, 1993, a Pennsylvania court used the *Penn Central* decision as precedent and reached a similar conclusion.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania ruled in *United Artists' Theater Circuit, Inc. v. City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Historical Commission*, that local historic preservation programs are constitutionally valid in Pennsylvania. This decision, which reversed an earlier July 1991 decision by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, will now be a vital precedent for stronger programs in many Pennsylvania communities.

Speakers for the four-hour conference on Friday, March 4 will include Frank Thomas, the attorney who argued the *United Artists'* case for a group of *amicus curiae* preservationist organizations; Brad White, an attorney who has been developing a proposed new preservation ordinance for Pittsburgh; Stephen Dennis, an attorney who will set the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh developments into a broader national perspective; and Susan Henshaw Jones, a leading authority on tax incentives for historic properties.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit will be available for attorneys who attend the conference.

The registration fee for the conference will be \$85 (though there will be a special \$65 fee for governmental attorneys, attorneys employed by non-profit organizations, and non-attorneys who are members of Landmarks).

Landmarks is pleased to be able to offer this conference with the assistance of its co-sponsors. The National Center for Preservation Law, which tracked developments in the reargument of *United Artists'* case for the *amicus curiae* party, received a grant from the Allegheny Foundation which has made possible the Center's continuing involvement in preservation law situations in Western Pennsylvania.

For further information, call Elisa Cavalier at (412) 471-5808.

### WILL POWER

Preserve our region's history and landmarks for future generations. Add the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation as a beneficiary under your Will. If you would like to discuss this giving option, please call Eric Dickerson at (412) 471-5808.

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## A Tour of the Horizon

*The gentle undulations of our hilltops*, sprinkled with houses, say nothing to our untrained eyes of river deltas some hundreds of millions of years ago, or even of glacial action some 12,000 years back that shoved our rivers into their present courses. Human habitation in this area goes back thousands of years, and plant and animal habitation many thousands more, but it is only in the last 200 years or so that the face of the landscape has significantly changed, as the people of the Pittsburgh region have gone through innumerable cycles of building and demolition. The towers of downtown now stand higher than the hills, but will last a much, much shorter time, with perhaps taller constructions to stand in their places. Let us hope that, as the cycles continue, something of the region's distinctive past is kept: some of its

old architecture, some of its  
old character in what  
is newly built.



## Priorities

*On November 3, 1993, the trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation approved the following work plan for the Landmarks staff in 1994.*

*Program efforts continue to concentrate on historic property restoration and neighborhood assistance through Landmarks' Preservation Fund; public advocacy; historic preservation education; and the development of Station Square, Riverpark, and the Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts.*

*New initiatives include planning for the creation of a "Religious Properties Fund," and the development of several education programs featuring the results of the African-American Historic Sites Survey.*

*Highlights of Landmarks' work plan follow.*





Clyde Hare, © 1993

# n 1994

## Preservation Fund

Landmarks will continue offering financial and technical assistance to neighborhood organizations with feasible plans for historic properties, and our staff will continue working with local lending institutions and foundations to ensure that funds are available and programs are in place to encourage home ownership in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has asked Landmarks to help its staff develop a neighborhood policy that will be implemented on a national level, based on our experience in Pittsburgh's neighborhoods and knowledge of the Community Reinvestment Act.

## Religious Properties Fund

Thanks to a grant from the Allegheny Foundation, Landmarks will be undertaking a 10-month study to determine the needs of historic and architecturally significant religious properties in Allegheny County and to recommend a plan for offering financial and technical assistance to religious property owners. For further details, please see the cover story on page one.

## Education & Events

Two major books will be published this year: *Architecture After Richardson* by Margaret Henderson Floyd, to be released in May, and *Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh*, to be released in the fall in conjunction with the thirtieth anniversary celebration of Landmarks.

*Pittsburgh in Your Pocket*, first printed in 1988, has been revised and the second edition is now available. This spring, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will publish the African-American Historic Sites Survey in cooperation with Landmarks, and Landmarks also hopes to receive funding to support the publication of a popular booklet highlighting the most significant results of the African-American Survey.

Two conferences are planned so far for our members and the general public: the first, on February 5, is devoted to environmental issues affecting historic neighborhoods; the second, on March 4, is devoted to preservation law.

We will be offering five in-service classes this year for teachers through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit: Exploring Your City; Exploring Architecture; Pittsburgh Heritage; Pittsburgh Heritage II; and The African-American Legacy. We also will be offering two tour and lecture programs through Pitt's Informal Program.

Dust off your walking shoes when the warm weather arrives, because we are planning public walking tours of Chatham Village on Mt. Washington, Carnegie-Mellon University, Lawrenceville, and Swan Acres and Evergreen Hamlet. We'll also be leading weekend excursions to Philadelphia and Ephrata in the Lancaster

area. We will lead a tour of Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow properties in May, in conjunction with the release of Margaret Henderson Floyd's book, *Architecture After Richardson*. We will end our 1994 tour season with a holiday excursion to Harmony and Zelienople.

Plan on attending the Antiques Show at the Neville House on June 26, and Landmarks' Antiques Show at Station Square on November 11 through 13. The preview party will once again be on Thursday evening, November 10.

## Historic Properties

The Neville House in Collier Township and Old St. Luke's in Scott Township, both affiliated with Landmarks, will receive much public attention this year. 1994 is the bicentennial of the Whiskey Rebellion, and many special events are being planned at the historic properties associated with the Rebellion.

Landmarks will also be developing a master plan for the Neville House, requesting funds for the implementation of a landscape plan by GWSM, Inc., for the creation of educational materials, and for the on-going maintenance of the house.

## Station Square

Three major projects will begin this year: the Smithfield Street Bridge will undergo a 10-month restoration; a tunnel will be created under the Smithfield Street Bridge so that Station Square Drive can be extended straight past The Shops into the east parking lot; and construction will begin on Riverpark, just to the west of the Gateway Clipper. When you visit Station Square in the next few months, take Exit 7 off the Fort Pitt Bridge (do not go through the Fort Pitt tunnels) onto West Carson Street. After a short distance, turn right onto the Station Square entrance road by the Duquesne Incline.

## The Landmarks Store

More members than ever are visiting The Landmarks Store on the balcony level of The Shops at Station Square. If you have not yet done so, be sure to do so in the new year. You'll find intriguing architectural objects; books on Pittsburgh history, architecture, and preservation; stained glass ... and a 10% discount on all items for Landmarks' members.

## James D. Van Trump Library

The library is open by appointment to members, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thanks to the assistance of interns from Duquesne University, we will be organizing the slide and photographic collections this year, and continuing with the organization of our library and administrative files.

## Membership and Donor Opportunities

A strong and growing membership is essential to the life of Landmarks. Help us encourage individuals and corporate members to join Landmarks in 1994, our thirtieth anniversary year. If you have a friend or know of a business that would like to join Landmarks, please call Eric Dickerson at (412) 471-5808 and he will gladly follow-up on your lead.

## All the Rest

Landmarks will continue its Award of Merit and Historic Landmark plaque programs; testimonies before the Historic Review Commission and other bodies on behalf of historic preservation; liaisons with Preservation Pittsburgh and others; volunteer activities for more than 200 members; the answering of member and public inquiries; and the raising of funds to support its work.

*1994 promises to be an eventful year. We look forward to the support and participation of our trustees, members, and friends. Please call us at (412) 471-5808 with your program suggestions or questions; or stop by our offices on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square. We would like to hear from you.*

## Environmental Solutions for Historic Neighborhoods

A one-day conference sponsored by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and The Arnoni Group, Inc.

Saturday, February 5, 1994

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA

Call Eric Dickerson at (412) 471-5808 to register. Registration fee: \$10 per person

## Make Your Gift Count Twice!

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

We thank the following companies that matched employee contributions to Landmarks in 1993:

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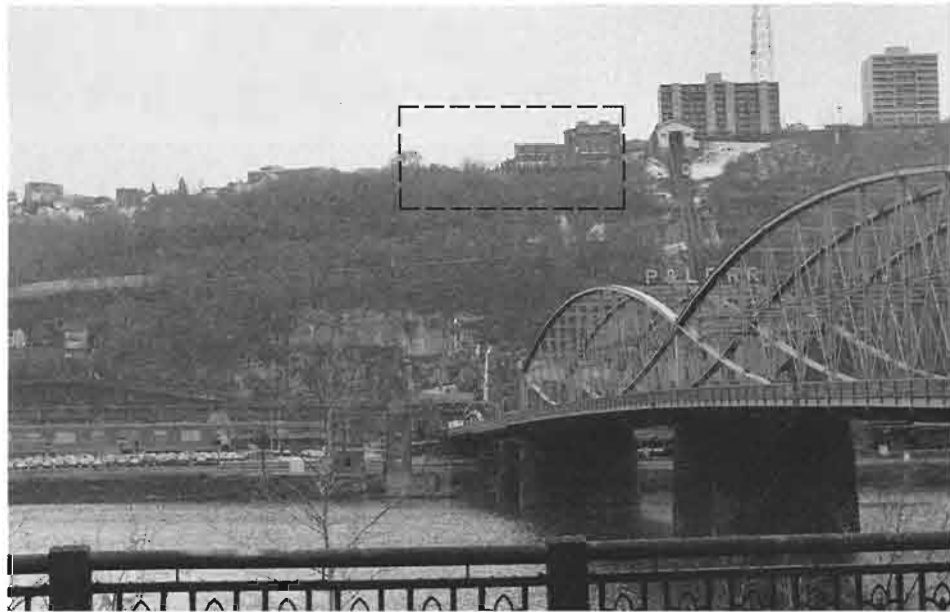
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# Preservation Scene



The Mount Washington skyline from the Smithfield Street Bridge. The hotel would be more than double the width of the Edge buildings to the left of the incline and would extend nearly down to McArdle Roadway.

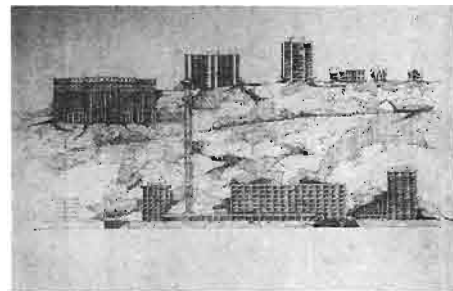
## Against the Mount Washington Hotel

Landmarks believes that the Ritz-Carlton hotel proposed for the eastern end of Grandview Avenue would probably be detrimental to Mount Washington and to the city as a whole despite the promised economic advantages.

Although the hotel was first proposed several years ago, the present proposal became public in November 1993, and even so, approval by the City Planning Commission is possible as early as this February. The Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWDC) has voted tentatively to support the project, but has done so subject to the assurance that a long list of conditions be met by the City, the Port Authority, the developers Grandview Hotel Associates L.P., and the MWDC itself, in collaboration. Many of the conditions concern traffic and parking, but many too are environmental and aesthetic, having to do with the hillside landscape of which the hotel would be such a conspicuous part.

We would like to see this major investment work, but the aesthetic impact of the hotel building seems to pose an insoluble problem.

The hotel is to have 347 rooms, two ballrooms of 24,000 square feet total, and two restaurants totaling 414 places. The



A sketch elevation of the Mount Washington hillside, with the Ritz-Carlton at upper left.

Side slopes and hilltops from the nearest viewing platform off Grandview Avenue. The present site is already marred by the nearly-deserted Edge building, yet it has most of a handsome tree-crested ridge that would of course be shorn off, nearly down to McArdle Roadway, where the hotel is to be built. These scenic penalties argue against its construction.

In addition, although the chateau-like structure visible from Grandview Avenue would be gracious enough in itself, the recent Grandview Corridor Study for the City Planning Commission anticipated something far smaller in scale and simpler in design; the hotel was designed with no cognizance of the Study's recommendations.

As to the view from the Triangle or from the South Side, nothing less than excellence can be adequate, and though the present design has been purged of much of the pettiness found in the earlier one, there remains the problem of how to give a reposeful yet varied treatment to what is after all a gigantic box on a ledge. There is too the question of what dwellers on Sycamore Street or Bailey Avenue would have to look at. The plans call for a parking garage, parking lot, and access ramps on the hotel's south front, and no elevations for this have been presented. Close to or from far away, the hotel will be seen in the round, and each facade must be decent architecture in its own way. For the city as a whole, the aesthetic impact matters as much as the traffic, parking, and landscaping considerations matter to the residents of Mount Washington.

Elisa Cavalier and Walter Kidney of Landmarks presented Landmarks' initial comments at the first public hearing before the City Planning Commission (CPC) on December 14, 1993. City Council will vote for or against the project in February.

### Heinz Architectural Center

This facility, built within previously-underused space in the Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland, has been open since

early November 1993. Its primary purpose is to serve as a public gallery for a display of graphics relating to architectural history and as a facility for research into architectural history. Architecture has heretofore been represented to the Museum's public by the cast collection installed in 1907 and architectural research at the Carnegie Institute by the Music and Art Room at the Library; the scope of these older facilities is thus greatly expanded while scholarly activity is more concentrated and refined.

The Center is new, and its ultimate set of purposes and the nature of its holdings may change course as it settles into place among other local facilities. In having holdings from outside the Pittsburgh area and in being primarily interested in renderings it differs notably from the Carnegie-Mellon University Architecture Archives, which is devoted to Southwestern Pennsylvania and adjacent parts of Ohio and West Virginia, and which collects any documents relating to eminent buildings and architects. It differs from Landmarks' casually-acquired collection of Pittsburgh-area renderings, drawings, and books in its more methodical acquisition and in being unconcerned with local engineering and industry. Nor, though the Center contemplates publications, does it show any intention of giving tours as Landmarks does. Its library will be modest in scale, compared with libraries in other institutions near by, and much more specialized. The library is for reference works useful in planning exhibits, and catalogues.

As a place to visit, and doubtless as a place to work, it ought to impart a comfortable feeling. After the cool white-marble vastness of the Hall of Sculpture, the spaces created by Cicognani Kalla Architects of New York look especially strong in color, and intimate. The skylit three-story entrance hall, not really a long space, has its height trisected by two foot bridges, giving it a more readable scale, and also a touch of drama, than it would have otherwise. (Actually, these dramatic bridges go only to emergency exits; they are like a certain grand staircase in a Miami Beach hotel by Morris Lapidus, which goes nowhere in particular but is great to pose on.) The walls of this space are in a warm, slightly variegated semi-gloss fresco color, a little darker than egg-yolk yellow. The end walls have startling features in the form of copper dormers from Babb, Cook & Willard's New York mansion of 1903 for Andrew Carnegie. Beneath one of these is an oculus window filled with leading in a delicate fish-scale pattern. The walls are hung with decorative artifacts — including some of the artifacts donated by Landmarks — though not with the fantastic intensity found in that most famous of architectural display spaces, the Soane Museum of London.

The public will identify the Heinz Architectural Center with the entrance-hall space before all others, but in-house and visiting scholars will think more in terms of the two-level upstairs deep-red Study Room and library, once again skylit.

Other rooms vary in their strong color, set off with the walnut-toned woodwork that seems the one mistake, since it is apt to look cold and dead. About the largest space in floor area is Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco field office, set up there in rented space in 1951 and completely re-created here. It serves only as a display.

That little round window looking out on the terrace behind the Scaife Gallery is a nice hint at the space within, penetrating as it does an otherwise-blind wall. And the space that lies behind it stands a good chance of being one of those that the art-loving public will like best.





The Sixth Street Bridge in 1893.

### A Quiet Disappearance

On December 6, 1993, demolition began on a Pittsburgh structure that, like the former St. Peter's Episcopal Church, had had a second existence in a new place but was eventually doomed. The Coraopolis Bridge, connecting Neville Island and Coraopolis, was demolished.

The newspapers did not mention that the Coraopolis Bridge had come into being as the third Sixth Street Bridge, replacing a suspension structure of 1859 by John Roebling that was too light for electric trolleys. The third bridge was a



A span on its way to Coraopolis in January 1927.

pair of steel camel-back trusses of 440-foot span, built in 1892 to designs by Theodore Cooper. In 1927 it was partly dismantled and floated down to the Ohio River back channel between Neville Island and Coraopolis, where its aging steel, brittle in deep cold, frustrated motorists to the point where it is being replaced.

### The Great Conflagration

Mark Johnson, a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, is researching the Great Conflagration, the Pittsburgh fire of 1845 that burned over one third of the city. The 150th anniversary is approaching and Mr. Johnson wants to use the occasion to bring this interesting story to life. In the last two years, Mr. Johnson has collected hundreds of pages of first-hand accounts, news reports, etc., and now he is looking for assistance from the community. If you know of unpublished accounts or if your family history includes a story about the Great Fire, give him a telephone call at (412) 341-1168. With the database that he has developed, Mr. Johnson can help you confirm your family story or to fill in the missing pieces.



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You can adopt Cathecassa Blackhoof, in Schenley Park, for \$3,500.

### Adopt-A-Monument

This is a recently-founded program of Partners in Parks, intended to get organizations and individuals interested in the restoration and repair of 15 monuments. Parties are asked to "adopt," on their own or in collaboration with others, an individual monument within Pittsburgh. The cost range is between \$3,500 and \$56,000. Adopters will be acknowledged on plaques near the monuments. For information: (412) 255-2676.

### Going Places, at a Price, in 2015

In November 1993, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission (SPRPC) published estimates of what it anticipates will be spent on road and rail communications within its area by the year 2015. In Allegheny County, the cost of "new capacity," maintaining and upgrading public transit, and special projects is estimated at \$6.263 billion. In addition, "projects not yet defined" and assigned to none of the

six SPRPC counties, will be about \$6 billion more.

In Pittsburgh, \$1.47 billion are to be used on the seven-mile Spine Line from Squirrel Hill to the North Side. There is of course the \$250-million Airport Busway and HOV route, including a new bridge across the Monongahela River — the subject of our cover story in the December 1993 issue of *PHLF News*. There are to be four "intermodal transport centers" — parking garages handy to public transportation — one in town where the Light Rail enters, one near Allegheny Center, two in Oakland. An HOV bypass is to run up Panther Hollow. And so on. The total for projects partly or wholly within Allegheny County is \$4.650 billion, of which \$1.943 billion is "subject to special funding strategies." We seem to find considerable money to make it easier to access the suburbs; how about more for downtown and inner-city neighborhood housing?

### House Histories

by Carol J. Peterson

The above-named operation is of interest to inhabitants of old houses who are curious about the houses themselves and those who once lived there. For a flat \$120, Carol Peterson, a Landmarks member, will provide a complete ownership history from the time when construction began; the age of the house; biographical information on the first owner; the names of everyone who lived in the house at first; and copies of early plat maps showing the house and its environs. For an extra fee, Carol will research later owners of the house. For information, call Carol Peterson at (412) 687-0342.



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## BOOKS ABOUT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

The literature about Frank Lloyd Wright is extensive and growing. Considering the importance of his work and its longevity—Wright had the equivalent of three major careers before his death in his 92nd year—this is not surprising. Volume does not guarantee quality, however—there is still no definitive biography and many books suffer from too reverent a tone. Here are a few suggestions for some of the best books currently available about Wright.

Buildings should be seen and experienced first-hand. *Wright Sites: A Guide to Frank Lloyd Wright Public Places* (\$9.95) provides photographs, addresses, descriptions, and visiting hours for 50 Wright buildings open to the public.

For a visual (photographic) overview of Wright's buildings, you can't do better than architect/photographer Thomas A. Heinz' *Frank Lloyd Wright* (\$30). Heinz has also prepared three photographic monographs devoted to Wright's furniture, art glass, and textiles respectively (\$12.95 each). The serious student of Wright will want William A. Storror's *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion* (\$75), an annotated catalogue raisonné of all of Wright's designs (plus Sullivan projects claimed by him and work finished by his apprentices after his death) illustrated with floor plans as well as exterior and interior photographs.

In the absence of a first-rate "Life," studies of specific buildings elucidate the architect's skill and his complex personality as exhibited during the planning and completion of a project. Jack Quinan's *Frank Lloyd Wright's Larkin Building: Myth and Fact* (\$16.95) is an important study of Wright's 1904 Buffalo masterpiece; the clients' correspondence with and about the architect is especially revealing. The text is authoritative and the photographs in Edgar Kaufmann, Jr.'s *Fallingwater: A Frank Lloyd Wright County House* (\$55) uniquely capture the three-dimensionality of the building during each season of the year.

To probe beneath the surface and understand something of Wright's architectural genius, the following are highly recommended: Grant Hildebrand, *The Wright Space: Pattern & Meaning in Frank Lloyd Wright's Houses* (\$35), examines the architect's brilliant use of space in his domestic architecture. Anthony Alofsin's *Frank Lloyd Wright The Lost Years, 1910-1922: A Study of Influence* (\$55) is a seminal new study of the influence of European design on Wright's work during a critical and hitherto obscure period in the architect's life.

Visit The Landmarks Store to browse through these books or others featuring Pittsburgh history and architecture.

*Members of Landmarks receive a 10% discount on all items.*

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- Preserve architectural landmarks, historic neighborhoods, and industrial sites and artifacts in Allegheny County;
- Create tours, lectures, publications, and educational programs featuring the history, architecture, and culture of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County;
- Continue the development of Station Square, the 52-acre riverfront site where Landmarks' principles of historic preservation, adaptive use, and urban planning are creating a lively attraction for Pittsburgh.

## Membership Benefits

- Free subscription to *PHLF News*, our membership newsletter published five times each year.
- Free subscription to *All Aboard!*, the Station Square newsletter published four times a year.
- Many rewarding volunteer opportunities.
- A 10% discount at The Landmarks Store in The Shops at Station Square.
- Free initial consultation on landmark designation and preservation advice for your historic property.
- Free access to our historical and architectural reference library in The Landmarks Building at Station Square.
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"A copy of the official registration & financial information of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement." (as required by PA Act 202)

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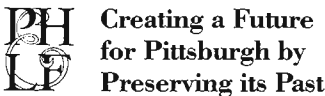
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## Award of Merit Recipients

On December 6, 1993, Landmarks' Awards of Merit Committee, chaired by trustee Louise Boesel, recognized 17 individuals, organizations, and projects for outstanding achievements in historic preservation and for increasing public knowledge of our heritage. Dr. Albert C. Van Dusen and Don Riggs, trustees of Landmarks, presented framed certificates to the Award of Merit recipients during a ceremony at the Station Square Sheraton, prior to a lecture by art historian Barry Hannegan.

The 1993 Award of Merit recipients were:

- **Mulugetta Birru:** for initiating over \$15 million of community development projects in Homewood-Brushton, one of Pittsburgh's historic neighborhoods.
- **Claire Burke Gallagher:** for creating and teaching outstanding educational programs featuring architecture and the built environment.
- **Charles J. Jacques, Jr.:** for the writing of *Kennywood: Roller Coaster Capital of the World* (1982), and *Goodbye West View Park, Goodbye* (1985).
- **The Kennywood Family (including owners, management, and staff):** for caring for Kennywood Park, a National Historic Landmark.
- **Daniel A. DeStout:** for volunteer work at Landmarks.
- **Contributors to the African-American Historic Sites Survey of Allegheny County:** for contributing to the first survey of historic sites that are significant to, or characteristic of, African-American history in Allegheny County. Two hundred ninety sites were surveyed and seven historical essays were researched and written; the survey project was directed by Eliza Smith Brown of Landmarks Design Associates.
- **The Board of Trustees of the Bellefield Presbyterian Church and Celli-Flynn and Associates, architects:** for the interior restoration of the Bellefield Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue and Thackeray Street in Oakland.
- **MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, architects:** for converting the former Gymnasium of Duquesne University into the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences.
- **Integrated Architectural Services Corporation:** for restoration and adaptations, including the rehabilitation and remodeling of the cast-iron building at 19th and Carson Streets, the rehabilitation of 1901 East Carson Street, and the remodeling of 2228 East Carson Street for the Brady Street Bridge Cafe, now the Mallorca Restaurant. An outstanding downtown work is the restoration of the Dollar Bank.
- **Osterling Building Partners and Williams Trebilcock Whitehead:** for the adaptive use of the Osterling building at 229 Isabella Street on the North Shore in 1985, and for the continuing maintenance of the National Register property.
- **Northside Tenants Reorganization:** for completing Phase I of the Brighton Place development on the Central North Side.
- **The South Side Planning Forum:** for exceptional education of the public regarding historic district designation.
- **Friends of the Sewickley Train Station:** for restoring the former Sewickley station of the Pennsylvania Railroad of 1887 that now serves as the American Legion Post 450.
- **Oakmont's Boulevard Project:** for rehabilitation of Oakmont's commercial corridor.
- **The Pittsburgh Park and Playground Fund of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** for initiating planting projects in key areas of the city.

Since 1982, Landmarks has recognized over 100 individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Pittsburgh's historic architecture or increased public knowledge of our heritage. Any one may nominate an individual, organization, or project in Allegheny County for consideration by calling Walter Kidney at (412) 471-5808. All nominations received by the Landmarks staff will be considered by a group of trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation who serve on the Awards of Merit Committee. The Committee meets once a year, usually in May.



Dr. Albert C. Van Dusen, a trustee of Landmarks, stands with Award of Merit recipients on December 6, 1993. The following photos (from top to bottom) show: members of the Friends of the Sewickley Train Station; Harriet Henson of the Northside Tenants Reorganization accepting an award on behalf of the Brighton Place development; Claire Gallagher; Harry Henninger of Kennywood Park; and Kenneth Lee and Jennifer Higgins of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni.



Photos by Bill Rydberg

## News from Landmarks' Library

### Donations

Landmarks wishes to thank the following donors:

- Barbara D. Hoffstot, for the monograph *Fay Jones*, by Robert Adams Ivy.
- The Lawrenceville Historical Society, for a copy of *Monster on the Allegheny ... and Other Lawrenceville Stories*.
- The South Fayette Township School District, for its history *Celebrating 65 Years of Education*.
- Frank L. Stanley, of Collinsville, Connecticut, for *Fifty Years of Service*, a history of the Union Trust Company.
- Betty G.Y. Shields, Sewickley Valley Historical Society, for a 1934 Molyneaux map of Sewickley reprinted to mark the Society's 20th Anniversary.

### Books of Interest

The following books can be found in Landmarks' library, on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square. If you would like to visit the library, please call Al Tannler at (412) 471-5808 to make an appointment. The library is open to members from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you would like to purchase a copy of any of the following books, call The Landmarks Store at (412) 765-1042.

### Local Aluminum

*Historic Resources Survey of the Aluminum Industry in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties, Pennsylvania: Final Report.* John Milner Associates, National Park Service, 7333 West Jefferson Avenue, Suite 450, Lakewood, Colorado 80235. 1993. 199 pp., 26 illustrated historic-resource forms.

Anyone interested in the history of the aluminum industry in this area will want to browse through this survey book. The text gives a history of Alcoa and other aluminum producers that includes material on working and living conditions. Then follow the individual forms, whose number of 26 seems small but that nevertheless take up almost half the book and cover about 380 industrial buildings, office buildings, research laboratories, homes, and neighborhoods. The great bulk of the resources are in New Kensington, but Arnold, South Greensburg, Pittsburgh, Edgeworth, and Logans Ferry are also represented.

### Lawrenceville

*Monster on the Allegheny ... and Other Lawrenceville Stories.* Allan Becer, James Wudarczyk and Jude Wudarczyk. Lawrenceville Historical Society, 1993. 183 pp. \$8.95.

The monster in question was the *Western Engineer*, a steamer built in 1819 at Lawrenceville that could gush steam in a dragon-like manner to overawe the Indians. There are 14 stories forming an anecdotal history of the neighborhood, each with its own bibliography for checking up or further reading.

### Homestead in Your Pocket

*Map & Guide to the Historic Homestead Area.* Homestead: Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, 1993. \$2.95.

This is a summary of the history and associations of the West Homestead-Homestead-Munhall area in the historic district on both sides of Eighth Avenue, the Main Street of the boroughs. The Homestead Lockout and Strike of 1892, and the Works itself, naturally claim attention but do not monopolize it, and the buyer gets a rather broad view of this industrial area's past. Fifty places are located on the map.