On September 1, Landmarks’ director of preservation services, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., invited members of the Religious Properties Advisory Committee, representatives from Partners for Sacred Places, architectural and energy consultants, and representatives of the seven congregations that had participated in the historic religious properties study to a luncheon meeting at which the completed study was presented to J.orne Beyer, president of the Allegheny Foundation. The event marked the end of a six-month study preparation period and will, it is hoped, open the way for the establishment of a preservation fund dedicated to helping preserve historic religious properties within Allegheny County.

The 216-page document described the study preparation process (the initial stages of which were described in earlier issues of PHF News), and presented conclusions and recommendations.

A principal task of the 13-member Advisory Committee was to establish criteria as the first step in choosing churches to participate in the study as “samples” or models. The criteria agreed upon by the committee were:

1. eligible buildings must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or The Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places; recipients of Historic Landmark Plaques; candidates for the above; or listed in the African American Historic Sites Survey of Allegheny County;
2. eligible buildings must have been built primarily as houses of worship and must be at least 50 years old;
3. congregations must be committed to, and actively participate in, the lives of their neighborhoods;
4. a minimum of five members from each congregation must be available to participate in the study; and
5. each congregation must seek appropriate approval from and agree to share study information with the diocesan hierarchy or denominational governing body, if relevant.

The criteria defined eligibility to participate in the study; in addition, a number of other concerns affected how the criteria were applied: determining a manageable yet appropriate number of religious buildings to be studied and their geographic distribution (fair representation of Pittsburgh and other Allegheny County municipalities); achieving ethnic and racial diversity; and representation from a variety of religious affiliations.

With the criteria in place, Advisory Committee members recommended specific religious properties to be candidates for the study. Some 27 names were suggested and each was carefully discussed: a “fact sheet” was prepared for each church or synagogue and most were visited. From this number, seven religious properties were chosen. They were:

- West End A.M.E. Zion Church [Pittsburgh]
- St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Croatian Church [Millvale]
- B’Nai Israel [Pittsburgh]
- Ebenezer Baptist [Pittsburgh]
- Dormont Presbyterian [Dormont]
- Calvary Lutheran [Wilkinsburg]
- John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church [Pittsburgh]

Each of the study sites was visited by an architect from Landmarks Design Associates Architects and a “Preliminary Maintenance and Preservation Assessment” report was prepared for each site. The architect’s report analyzed the maintenance and preservation status of each building, identified any problems, and included a proposed budget for correcting them. An energy assessment study for each building was prepared by Conservation Consultants, Inc. which examined the energy efficiency needs of each site, recommended improvements, and provided cost guidelines.

On the basis of the Advisory Committee’s discussion of historic religious property preservation issues and the analysis of the seven study sites by the consultants, the final proposal concluded that there is a clear need for an historic religious properties program serving the Pittsburgh area. The proposal recommended that a grant program be established for this purpose and concluded that an initial program could be established for $500,000. Funds from the program would be available for an historic religious building for approved capital improvement “that enhances its historic and architectural context and design... Funds may also be used for critical and urgent repairs that are needed in order to sustain the building, or for technical assistance.”

The report recommends the following eligibility guidelines for grant applicants:

- any church or synagogue located in the City of Pittsburgh or within Allegheny County;
- any eligible historical religious building as designated by either the local, state, or national designations;
- the building must have been built originally as a house of worship;
- the congregation must have a minimum of 50 members;
- the building must be at least 50 years old; and
- there must be an active congregation.

The proposal recommends that the maximum amount of funding available to any one historic property be $15,000. It further recommends that the grants be awarded on the recommendation of an advisory committee composed of representatives from religious denominations, historians, and architects.

If you would like further information or have any questions about the Historic Religious Properties Initiative proposal — and it should be stressed that this study is a proposal to establish a preservation fund; as yet, no fund exists — contact Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services, at (412) 471-5808.

Members of the Historic Religious Properties Initiative Advisory Committee, from left to right: Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., of Landmarks; Diane Cohen of Partners for Sacred Places; Judith Ross of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; La Donnely of Preservation Pittsburgh; Walter Kidney of Landmarks; and Janeen Scobey of Landmarks.

Landmarks Represented at Presidential Signing

Stanley Lowe, executive director of The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and assistant to the Mayor, and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, were invited by President and Mrs. Clinton to attend the Presidential signing of the passage of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act on Friday, September 23 on the southwest gate lawn at the White House.

Constituents from around the country involved in community development also attended, The Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 is a landmark bill that will bring technical and financial assistance for community development to needy areas and populations. The Act complements and builds on other legislation designed to empower communities through their local institutions, including the Bank Enterprise Act, Community Reinvestment Act, and the Second Mortgage Program Enhancement Act. Provisions of the new law are designed to help consumers, businesses, and banks.

As much as $500 million will be available over four years to establish a Fund to which community development financial institutions can apply, to finance the Bank Enterprise Act, and to administer the provisions of the Act.

Mr. Lowe and Mr. Slaughter were the only two representatives from Pittsburgh to be invited. In attendance were President Bill Clinton, Secretary of Treasury Lloyd Bentsen, then Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, Congressman Joe Kennedy, Senator Carol M. Braun, Acting Director of Office of Thrift Supervision Jonathan Fuechter, and many other political dignitaries.
Pittsburgh was "Home" to George Westinghouse

The founder of Westinghouse Electric and 59 other companies was George Westinghouse, Jr. He was born on December 19, 1884, to Mr. & Mrs. George Westinghouse, Jr., and was living in Pittsburgh, PA. He came to Pittsburg after attending the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. & Mrs. George Westinghouse, Jr., had a business making threshing machines and other agricultural equipment. When the younger George was 10 years old, his father's business had grown to the extent that the family moved to Schenectady in order to have a bigger place for the workshop.

Young George worked in his father's shop until he went into the Civil War. He often said that the discipline he learned in the military and the ability to work with his hands, acquired in his father's shops, were his two greatest assets.

When the war ended, his father insisted that George enroll at Union College. After three months he was called into the office of the College president, where his father also was waiting. Without any preliminaries, the president told George, "We feel that you are wasting your time here, and you are wasting ours." That ended George's college career and put him on the road to inventions that would solve problems.

To get material for one of his first inventions—a car-replace that could make it easier to get deer inland roads back on the tracks—he came to Pittsburg. In December of 1868, George and his bride of 16 months became residents of Pittsburgh.

The life and achievements of George Westinghouse—along with later developments of the Westinghouse companies—are presented at the George Westinghouse Museum in Wilmerding. The museum is located in what was the Carfax, the Center, formerly Bridgedale, and is open for viewing.

Perhaps one reason George Westinghouse is not better known is that he shunned public personality and disliked having his picture taken. The photograph on page 3 of this issue is a rare one, taken without his knowledge. It is always shown with all of the background blacked out. The complete picture is the only one showing Mr. Westinghouse in conversation with one of his employees, a drafting foreman whose identity likely will never be known.

Contributors to the Barbara Drew Hoffstot Memorial Fund

This section of PHL News is underwritten by Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

PHL News is published five times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, a non-profit historical preservation organization serving Allegheny County. Landmarks is committed to neighborhood restoration and historic property preservation. Its mission is to identify and encourage the protection of historic properties; and the continuing operation of Station Square, a transitway property opposite downtown Pittsburgh.

Barbara Drew Hoffstot 1919-1994

Barbara Drew Hoffstot, a co-founder of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1964 and our vice chairwoman for 30 years, died on September 18, 1994. Mrs. Hoffstot was born in Pittsburgh in 1919, the daughter of Byron Drew, Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Mary Snyder Drew. She is survived by her husband of 46 years and by two children, Thayer Drew and Henry Phipps Hoffstot III, and by four grandchildren.

Mrs. Hoffstot was remarkable. She deserved peace, solitude, and contemplation. She read extensively in history and, for diversion, consumed mysteries at the rate, sometimes, of three a day. Gardening was her avocation, and she loved opera. However, she focused her energy on historic preservation, and through her strength of personality and her deep commitment, she became a leader in both Pittsburgh and Palm Beach, as well as nationally. When a problem appeared or when she saw an opportunity for preservation, she was quick to study all the related literature and to call everyone she knew who could provide information that could help solve the problem or achieve her goal. She always had a long-range vision, an ability to arouse constituencies, and a willingness to lead a good fight.

When our organization began, Mrs. Hoffstot felt that one of the organization's first activities should be to survey the architecturally significant buildings of the County. She helped raise the funds and took much of the photographs to produce what turned out to be the first county-wide survey in the United States. This survey helped lay the foundation for the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, creating the National Register of Historic Places. The first keeper of the Register, William J. Murtagh, was a close friend of Mrs. Hoffstot. He addressed members and friends of Landmarks on October 17 for our thirtieth anniversary dinner.

Mrs. Hoffstot visited foundation leaders in our early days to get their ideas. From one particular visit with A.W. Schmidt came the recommendation that we create an historic landmark program, which still exists.

Mrs. Hoffstot believed in our work in inner-city neighborhoods. She spent time walking the streets, meeting the residents, and producing wonderful ideas. When she heard the City of Bryon block program in inner-city Philadelphia, Mrs. Hoffstot immediately held a luncheon for the Garden Club of Allegheny County and trustees of Landmarks, asking that the Garden Club sponsor flower-box programs in the neighborhoods in which we were trying to restore buildings. That program, begun in 1967, continues today with the Boyle-Lorraine Street Block Club.

Mrs. Hoffstot followed our educational programs, talking with Louise Sugestes, who guides them, making suggestions and appreciating the results. She had enormous admiration for Stanley Lowe and his leadership with our Preservation Fund in historic inner-city neighborhoods.

Even when living in Florida in the winter, Mrs. Hoffstot spent many hours on the telephone with our chairman, Mr. Arensberg, and with me reviewing our current work, and suggesting new programs.

She felt that so much of the staff's attention was given to day-to-day needs that someone needed to take a longer range view of what Landmarks needed to accomplish; to that end, she asked the chairman to establish the "Long View Committee" and she then chaired it, writing many thoughtful essays about the ultimate goals and meaning of our organization. They were deeply influential on my own thinking and on the directions that our organization has taken.

In December 1994, Mrs. Hoffstot was everywhere. She established the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, created the great annual ball at Mar-a-Lago, which raised substantial funds for the Foundation. She was a major sponsor of cultural events, especially in Palm Beach, through the Above-50 Foundation. She was a major sponsor of cultural events, especially in Palm Beach, through the Above-50 Foundation.

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Landmarks Releases Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh on December 12

On December 12, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation plans to release Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh: Four Decades of Pittsburgh, Frozen in Light. Forty critical years of Pittsburgh’s recent past have been captured through Clyde Hare’s artistry as a documentary photographer. The vitality and special character of the city and the region live in this unique visual record. One hundred sixty-five photos (96 color and 69 black-and-white) reveal Pittsburgh’s revitalization during Renaissance I, the heresies of steel-making, the beauty and grandeur of the landscape, and the variety and richness of everyday life through a period of dramatic change. Many memories will be sparked in the minds of longtime Pittsburgh residents, and many essential characteristics of Pittsburgh are revealed.

The 168-page book (10½” x 11½”), designed by Jeff Platt of BB&DE, Inc., was printed by The Stinehour Press of Lenexa, Kansas. Alan C. Van Dine is author of the book, and Walter C. Kidney wrote the photographic notes. The retail price of the book is $65.00; members of Landmarks receive a 10% discount.

[Image of Pittsburgh Steeler fans waving their symbol, the Terrible Towel, at Three Rivers Stadium in 1978.]

Landmarks thanks the Howard Heinz Endowment, Duquesne Light Company, Mills Inc., National Intergroup, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and contributors to its Revolving Fund for Education for making the publication of Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh possible.

Pianist Walter Klein, practicing in Heinz Hall for an evening performance in October 1983.

Landmarks is releasing Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary. The photographs document significant historical moments before and after the formation of Landmarks; they reveal the need for historic preservation as a city changes; and they promote Pittsburgh as a vibrant city of great natural beauty. We look forward to the book-signing party for members and friends of Landmarks on Monday evening, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the P&LE Room of the Station Square Sheraton. Call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5008 for reservations.

An exhibition of Clyde Hare’s photographs, based on Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh, opens at the Silver Eye on January 4. The gallery is located at 1015 East Carson Street on the South Side. The exhibition continues through January 28. Call Jody Guy at (412) 431-1810 for details.

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 week and special events.

- Andrea Luxton
- Mr. & Mrs. Dale Ledden
- Jean Tye Lee
- Dr. Suzanne Leroi
- Mr. & Mrs. Eric S. Liber
- Jane Louie and family
- Anne and Joel Lepine
- Richard E. Mann
- Marcellene S. Mayhall
- Michael McCallum
- Alice Knepp
- Stephen and Sharon McGrew
- Thomas and Delish
- Mrs. Helen Moulder
- Michael D. Miller
- Barbara Carpenter and family
- Barry M. Minick and family
- David and Faye Moritz
- Mrs. Jean L. Myers
- Laura Nettler-West
- Howard West and family
- Margaret Newcombe
- Amanda Nickerson
- Mary M. Nick
- William R. O’Brien
- Alan H. O’Byrne
- Nancy and Paul Otrowski
- Mrs. Cintine W. Patton
- William Pitzer
- Mark D. Phillips and family
- Sherry and Tom Plant
- James R. Plitt, AIA, and family
- Loreen and Loggins
- Jane Pokorski
- Bruce Priebe and family
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Prost
- David J. Quaintel
- Residential Resources, Inc.
- Mel Rex
- Mr. & Mrs. James B. Richard and family
- Martha Revis
- Marian Ruzoowska
- Fred Safford
- Eleanor Scholtz
- Jonas Shaper
- Bill Sherman
- Susan Sherman
- Diane and Fred Shields
- Mark R. Simpson
- Mrs. Joseph B. Skup
- Frances S. Siskal
- Virginia S. Smeigel
- Margaret Spozarski
- Audrey Stewart
- Mary Ruth Stevens
- Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
- Dr. Samuel Tishman
- Ethel May Trinch
- Bertha Townsand and family
- Joan Turnbull
- Cindy J. and Andrew H. Umholtz, M.D.
- Allison Wert</p>
Architecture after Richardson: Reactions Thus Far

Members and friends of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation celebrated the release of Architecture after Richardson by Margaret Henderson Floyd on June 23, 24, and 25. An author’s reception took place at the Grand Concourse; book-signing parties were held at the Sewickley Valley Historical Society, The Heinz Architectural Center, and The Landmarks Store at Station Square; and a tour of Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow properties in the Pittsburgh area was conducted. The handsomely illustrated book was released by The University of Chicago Press in association with Landmarks. Several foundations and many individuals contributed to the publication effort during the last 10 years.

We have yet to receive reviews from Boston and other non-Pittsburgh sources, but local opinion has been favorable and perhaps a little awed. Mike May, in Pittsburgh magazine, calls it “a truly monumental work,” executed in “elegant but engaging prose,” and alludes to its four pounds of weight. “Architecture after Richardson would make one great Christmas gift — albeit a heavy one — for anyone interested in Pittsburgh history, its rich architectural heritage... and the lifestyles of the rich and famous.”

Donald Miller, in the Post-Gazette, calls it “a powerful book, beautifully printed and illustrated,” and admires the audacity of Margaret’s proposal that the houses of Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow and Frank Lloyd Wright’s “Fallingwater” have affinities hitherto unsuspected. “She hammers more spikes into the coffin of a narrow reading of American art and architecture.” He concludes that “the book is a pleasure to read and answers many questions. It would make a superb gift for anyone interested in how this city evolved.”

Graham Shearing, in the Tribune-Review, calls it a “supreme book, incredibly broad and thoroughly researched.” He has reservations about Margaret’s revisionist approach to American architectural history, but goes on to write of “one of the most important books relating to the architecture of this city ever to have been produced. Nobody with any interest in the history of Pittsburgh can afford to be without the book. Anybody with an interest in American architecture should read it.”

From left to right: Louise Sturgess of Landmarks, author Margaret Henderson Floyd, Walter Kidney of Landmarks, and research assistant Mary Beth Pastorius of Sewickley celebrate the “completion of a classic” at the author’s reception on June 23 at the Grand Concourse.


Louise Sturgess of Landmarks and Joanne Beyer of the Allegheny Foundation. The Allegheny Foundation contributed funds to ensure that the book would be handsomely illustrated with the 400-plus photos that Margaret Henderson Floyd had selected.

Ray Ludovoe of the University of Pittsburgh and architect John Martine browse through Architecture after Richardson. Landmarks’ trustee Mary Whobber assists with book sales at the author’s reception.

Margaret Henderson Floyd accepts an “Award of Merit” from Dr. Albert C. Van Deusen, chairman of Landmarks’ board.
Master Landscape Plan for the Neville House

In 1992, the Garden Club of Allegheny County contributed over $6,000 to Landmarks to support the creation of a master landscape plan for the Neville House in Collier Township. The historic house of c. 1785, built by John and Presley Neville, stands on two- and one-half acres of land and is bordered by Interstate 79, Route 50, and Chartiers Creek.

The history of the Neville House has been documented in several excellent reports by James H. Richardson III and Ronald C. Carlisle, and Martin Aurrand, and through archaeological investigations. Although specifics on the "landscape" are not well recorded, several excellent paintings and old photos do reveal a site/landscape use through the history of the house and the farm. GWSM has been the concept of the master plan on available existing historical, archaeological, and interpretive materials. The master plan calls for a gravel entrance drive and parking area for about 20 cars; a historic landscaped setting surrounding the house; and a woodland area with native western Pennsylvania plants. New lighting, signage, and walkways also are included. GWSM estimates that it will cost about $300,000 to implement the plan, and Landmarks is now raising funds to support this project.

This summer, the Hillcrest Garden Club contributed $1,000 toward the creation of a kitchen garden. The house and outbuildings were repaired and repainted this June, and more than 2,000 people visited and toured the Neville House in June, July, and August during the bicentennial celebration of the Whiskey Rebellion.

Landscape architects GWSM completed a master plan for the Neville House this year, providing visitor access and accommodation, a historic landscaped setting, and walking trails through a preserved western Pennsylvania woodland.

1994 Awards of Merit

Eight-grade art students from Charities Valley Middle School created cityscape centerpieces for Landmarks' thirtieth anniversary membership dinner on October 17.

October 17 was a memorable occasion for Landmarks. Over 200 members and friends celebrated Landmarks' thirtieth anniversary by attending a membership dinner at the Station Square Samburger, followed by the presentation of Landmarks' Award of Merit recipients, and the "Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation" by Dr. William J. Murtough.

Dr. Albert C. Van Dusen, chairman of Landmarks, toasted the success of the organization and encouraged its continuing efforts on behalf of historic preservation. Trustee Don Rigs introduced the Award of Merit recipients in an enlightening, entertaining manner, and Thomas Horstius, chairman of the 1994 Award of Merit Committee, presented framed certificates to the recipients. Dr. Murtough, a leader in the preservation movement for over 30 years, took Landmarks' members and friends on a world-tour of preservation projects during his slide presentation, and informed us about the growth of the historic preservation movement in the United States.

Sixteen individuals and organizations were recognized on October 17 for outstanding achievements in historic preservation and for increasing public knowledge of our heritage. Landmarks' 1994 Award of Merit recipients are:

• Hope and Terence Alcorn: for saving a Peter Berndtson house from demolition; Carnegie Institute, for ongoing restoration of its building in Oakland; The Andy Warhol Museum, for restoration of and adaptive-reuse of the Frick & Lindsay Building; The Heinz Architectural Center, for giving architecture its own place at The Carnegie; Hosanna House, Inc., for initiating and persevering with the renovation of the Homier Middle School in Wilkinsburg as a community center; Conservation Consultants, Inc., for encouraging the energy-efficient reuse of historic buildings;

• Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, for helping neighborhoods plan for their futures; Melton Bank, for establishing the Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative; Gerald Lee Morosco, architect, for outstanding leadership and work and leadership on the South Side; Historic Review Commission and Department of City Planning, for their architectural brochures and for The Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places; Rick Schuk of WQED, for the "Pittsburgh History Series"; Martin Aurrand, for his book, The Progressive Architecture of Frederick G. Scheible, Jr.; Margaret Henderson Floyd, for her book on Longfellow, Aiken, and Harlow; Clyde Hare, for his forthcoming book, Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh; and Dear Friends, for reviving Pittsburgh's historic music.

The Abraam Steinberg property in Squirrel Hill, designed by Peter Berndtson in 1931, and owned by Hope and Terence Alcorn.

Women in Architecture and Design

The Landmarks Store has a select and growing selection of books to help readers explore the substantial contributions women have made (and are making) in architecture and design. A bibliography is the best place to begin: Architecture and Women: A Bibliography Documenting Women Architects, Landscape Architects, Designers, Architectural Critics and Writers and Women in Related Fields Working in the United States, by Lamia Domnato (1988), Hardcover, $40.

Architecture: A Place for Women (1989), Paper, $19.95, edited by Ellen Perry Berkeley, is a collection of 22 essays devoted to the work and achievements of women designers. Even if professional women architects have been few in number, women have also influenced design for years as housewives, home economists, and social and political activists. Stories of many of the obscure and the well-known are told by Dolores Hayden in The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designers of American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities (1981), Paper, $15.95. The life and work of an important nineteenth-century writer and social reformer is the subject of Polly Wynn Allen's Building Domestic Liberty: Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Architectural Feminism (1988), Hardcover, $12.95.

There aren't enough good full-scale studies of individual women architects. Two excellent exceptions explore the work of two very different architects who were contemporaries: Sara Holmes Boutell's Julia Morgan: Architect (1998), Hardcover, $55, is a study of Bernard Maybeck's gifted apprentice, Julia Morgan (1872-1957) who designed and built edifices for many of the most important twentieth-century architects. Both Maybeckian Arts and Craft houses to William Randolph Hearst's fantasy palace, San Simeon; there are many excellent color photographs. Stefan Höcker and Christian Mueller analyze and illustrate, with black and white photographs and drawings, all of the work of Modernist architect Eileen Gray (1878-1976) in Eileen Gray: Works and Projects (1993), Paper, $18.95, one of the volumes in an excellent series of architectural monographs published in Spain. A group of twentieth-century women weavers and their work is explored by Sigrid Wurmén Weilgen in her study of the weaving workshop at the Bauhaus, Women's Work: Textile Art from the Bauhaus (1991), Hardcover, $50.

For information on currently active women designers and architects see Beverly Russell, Women of Design: Contemporary American Interiors (1992), Hardcover, $30, which profiles the work of 32 interior designers; and Clare Lorenz, Women in Architecture: A Contemporary Perspective (1990), Paper, $29.95, which profiles 48 women architects working in 20 countries.

Members of Landmarks receive a 10% discount on all items.
Full Visitors to Pittsburgh

In early September, Pittsburgh was visited by Friends of the American Museum in Britain, a museum of seveneenth- to mid-nineteenth-century art housed in Claverton Manor, designed by Jeffry Wyatville c. 1820, near Bath, England. The five-day tour of historic houses, gardens, and neighborhoods was organized by a committee of Pittsburgh “Friends,” chaired by Henry P. Hoffrost, with assistance from Landmarks.

In mid-September, Boston architectural historian Douglass Shand-Tucci visited Pittsburgh, at the invitation of East Liberty Presbyterian Church. The author of the long-awaited critical study of architect Ralph Adams Cram (the first volume of which will be published in early 1995) spent an afternoon visiting some of Pittsburgh’s landmark buildings with Walter Kidney and Al Tandler, prior to his lecture at East Liberty Presbyterian Church on September 17.

In late September, a group of British visitors arrived in Pittsburgh for a special tour led by Washington Art Associates, an organization based in the nation’s Capitol that has offered murals, architecture, and garden tours throughout the United States to fine arts organizations for 15 years. Landmarks provided information and advice during the planning stages of the tour, the led by our “All-City Tour,” and arranged for a special visit to a privately owned historic house. On September 30, executive director Louise Sturgess delivered a newly created slide presentation, “Pittsburgh’s Industrial Past,” to the regional chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE Region B) at its seventieth-fifth anniversary convention.

October tours and presentations included an “All-City Tour” for the American Federation of the Arts, led by Landmarks’ docents, and an introduction to Pittsburgh given by Al Tandler for participants at the East Region Area Physical Plant Administrators (ERAPPA) convention.

1994-95 Architectural Apprenticeship

Twenty-three high school students from throughout Allegheny County are participating in Landmarks’ Architectural Apprenticeship, offered through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

David Roth, an architect, founder of the Downtown Design Company, and teacher at Carnegie Mellon University, is the same instructor in this year’s program, meets monthly, October through February. Mr. Roth has planned walking tours of Station Square and downtown Pittsburgh, visits to four architectural offices, as well as to The Heinz Architectural Center and the Department of Architectural History at Carnegie Mellon University. Through this experience, students will be introduced to the architectural profession — and will be challenged to create a design project for the Station Square site.

Full Enrollment for Summer and Fall Inservives

During the last five months, Landmarks has offered five inservice courses through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to a total of 95 teachers from schools throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Here, we are able to briefly note the course title, dates, and instructor. If you would like further information, please call Landmarks’ education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808.

Tom Denis, an architectural renderer, taught “Exploring Architecture” from June 20 through 24. A teacher described the course as “the most informative, interesting and FUN course I have ever taken.”

Also offered for the first time by Landmarks (from July 25 through 29) was “The African-American Legacy in Pittsburgh,” created and taught by Eliza Smith Brown of Landmarks Design Associates Architects with assistance from Dan Holland of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group. Guest speakers included Laurence Glascos, professor at the University of Pittsburgh; Frank Bolden, former editor of the Pittsburgh Courier; Rhonda Brandon, executive director of the Manchester Citizens Corporation; music historian and performer Peggy Pierce Freeman; Doris Dye, director of cultural conservation for the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation; film maker Ray Henderson; and Rob Ruck, author of Sandlot Seasons: Sport in Black Pittsburgh. There were walking tours of the Hill, Manchester, and Homestead, and two films: “Wylie Avenue Days,” and “Kings on the Hill: Baseball’s Forgotten Men.” Teachers learned how to interpret historic maps and city directories, and how to complete historic resource survey forms.

At the end of the week, each teacher presented a lesson plan integrating knowledge of African-American heritage or issues in a manner appropriate to his or her grade level or discipline. The course, based on materials compiled for the “African-American Historic Sites Survey of Allegheny County,” was well-received and will be offered again.

Anne Shand-Tucci, an architect with Landmarks Design Associates, taught “Exploring Your City” on four consecutive Monday evenings: September 26, October 3, 10, and 17.

Participants in “The African-American Legacy in Pittsburgh.”

Tour with Landmarks

Historic Harmony and Zelienople Sunday, December 11 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. $40 members $45 non-members Boarded the bus at Station Square, and travel to Zelienople, where we will visit the Houses of c. 1805 and the Passport House of c. 1808. In the National Historic Landmark District of Harmony, we will enjoy a midday tour of three houses and dine in the Harmony Inn. Antiques shops will be open in both towns, and the Zelienople Historical Society and Harmony Museum will welcome our group.

Call Mary Lea Demer at (412) 471-5808 for reservations and details.

Old Allegheny Christmas House Tour

December 9, 10 & 11

Tour with Landmarks

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tickets for the tour are $15 each.

Six restored Victorian homes will be decorated to celebrate a 19th-century Christmas.

Special features: A Candlelight Tour and Gourmet Dinner on Friday evening, $35 per person. A Tour of Lights on Saturday and Sunday; Tickets are $27.50 each.

Call 315-8884 for tickets and details.

Education News

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Other Projects of Note

On July 21, Walter Kidney and Louise Sturgess of Landmarks spoke to teenagers working with the Community Literacy Center about the history of the Allegheny and Monongahela Side neighborhoods. On August 16, the teenagers presented their poems, dramatic scenes, and videos as part of a program titled “Eye on the River.” In cooperation with the Pitt Informal Program, Landmarks offered a course on Victorian Gardening, presented by Dr. Harry Harman of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Pittsburgh. Following a workshop on July 23, participants toured gardens in the restored Victorian neighborhood of Allegheny West. Student reaction to the class was in every case, “MUST!”

Mary Ann Eubanks, Landmarks’ education coordinator, presented two inservices this fall: 15 teachers of gifted students in Allegheny County were introduced to Landmarks’ educational resources on September 23 during a workshop sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit; 45 Diocesan social studies teachers learned about Landmarks’ educational resources during an inservice program at Canevin Catholic High School on October 7. Marietta Grzybowski, social studies area coordinator for the Pittsburgh Diocese, stated that this inservice day was one of the most successful ever presented.

The Perfect Gift

Organ Music from Historic St. Luke’s

Relive your visits to Old St. Luke’s in Scott Township, or discover what you’ve been missing, by acquiring a copy of a new cassette recording, Organ Music from Historic St. Luke’s. Organist Richard Koonen performs religious and secular music of the 17th and 18th centuries on the fully restored organ of 1823. The cassette is only $8.95 and is available at The Landmarks Store.

Perfect and appropriate harmonies for the holiday season (or any season).
This past spring, at the inspiration of Landmarks' education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks, Landmarks created a two-hour walking tour in downtown Pittsburgh featuring the griffins, gargoyles, eagles, lions, dragons, and other creatures that adorn historic buildings. Nine schools (600 students) participated in the pilot program of the "Downtown Dragons" walking tour in May, June, and July. Based on the comments of students and teachers, Landmarks' education staff created educational materials and trained docents to present the walking tour. Now, Landmarks is pleased to introduce "Downtown Dragons" as its newest educational resource.

The walking tour begins at Station Square. Students and teachers are given handsomely designed name tags to wear, and then the adventure begins. Participants cross the Smithfield Street Bridge, tour city streets, and learn about the history and architecture of Pittsburgh; they experience the sights, sounds, and com- motion of city life, and they come to understand something about the city's character. Large color photos, taken by Gerald Hare, are used throughout the tour to help students identify the city creatures. At the conclusion of the tour, participants are given a bookmark that helps them recall tour highlights and facts.

The tour is appropriate for students in grades three through eight. No more than 15 students are permitted in any one walking tour group, and there must be one adult chaperone for every five students. The tour fee is $4.00 per student (although members of Landmarks receive a discount), and in addition, each participant must bring money for the return ride to Station Square via the Light-Rail Transit.

Call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808 for further information or to reserve a date for your school field trip. "Downtown Dragons" is a valuable learning experience. The information provided on the tour and the experience itself can be incorporated in language arts, social studies, and art classes. Or, the field trip can simply be a rewarding downtown adventure, introducing students to Pittsburgh's rich history and architecture.

Intern Janeen Swaby

In May, Janeen Swaby, a senior in the undergraduate architectural studies program of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, joined Landmarks for a 10-week period as an intern to assist with the Historic Religious Properties Initiative. The internship allowed Janeen the opportunity to gain three credits toward her Bachelor's Degree with a double major in architectural history and urban studies. Janeen's duties included site visits to seven churches and synagogues and documentation of the needs of these religious properties. She kept in close touch with Partners for Sacred Places in Philadelphia, informing them of Landmarks' progress. Janeen provided valuable assistance to Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of the religious properties study. We thank Janeen for all her work and wish her well as she returns to college ... for a semester at sea!

Thank you, Jasenka

In late May, Landmarks was pleased to welcome Jasenka Totoric as a summer intern. Jasenka, sponsored by Landmarks' member Michael Taylor, arrived from Sarajevo in July of 1994. She is enrolled at LaRoche College, seeking a degree in interior design. Jasenka assisted Mary Ann Eubanks with various educational projects, and then helped build a model for the Federal-North project being designed by Landmarks Design Associates. Thank you, Jasenka, for volunteering your time and talents to Landmarks.

Still Going Strong:

New educational materials also have been created for "Portable Pittsburgh." Landmarks' most popular educational program since its creation in 1988. Over 4,000 students and adults learn about Pittsburgh's growth from each year through this 60-minute presentation. At the request of a school or community group, a specially-trained docent from Landmarks visits a class of up to 30 students (or adults), unpacks nearly 30 artifacts, and then highlights 200-plus years of Pittsburgh's history in a lively, interactive 60-minute presentation.

The new packet of educational materials includes a teacher's guide, name tags (incorporating the city seal), a bookmark, worksheet, and timeline that folds out to be a poster of Pittsburgh facts over 200 years. Forty-seven sessions of "Portable Pittsburgh" already have been scheduled for the 1994-95 school year. The fee for a school presentation is $35.00; the fee for adult groups is $50.00. Members of Landmarks receive a discount. Call Mary Ann Eubanks today at (412) 471-5808 if you would like to reserve "Portable Pittsburgh," or for further information.

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Historical Marker Recognizes National Negro Opera Company

On Sunday, September 25, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the African-American Community of Pittsburgh celebrated the dedication of an official State Historical Marker commemorating the founding of the National Negro Opera Company in 1941 at the site of the old Carrick School of Music, at 7101 Apple Street in Homewood. In this building, Madame Mary Cardwell Davison, teacher, music-conductor, and impresario, founded the first national black opera group. The intangible property of the company of musicians performed Verdi’s “Aida” in the Syria Mosque in October 1941, and also performed in Chicago, New York City, and in Washington, D.C.

A rendering of George A. Roberts Hall, to be constructed a few feet away from Homerschlag Hall at CMU.

Robert Hall

Correspondence with Carnegie Mellon University indicates that CMU is fully committed to construction of George A. Roberts Hall on the Junction Hollow side. In the July issue of PHLF News, we deplored this location as marring one of the great architectural spectacles of the city. Now, since this massive structure must be built, we may as well examine it in detail.

The Boston architects, Payette Associates, are described in How Buildings Learn (reviewed on page 10 of this issue) as “a technical building specialist firm,” and two laboratory buildings that they did at Princeton in collaboration with Robert Venturi are described as exemplary in plan. The massing and placement of Roberts Hall are presumably dictated, then, by practical considerations.

A cross-section indicates that Roberts will be separated from Homerschlag by a reed, already in place, 22 feet wide, and that it will rise above road level about 36 feet, just below the belt course at Hamerschlag’s third-story level. A glazed bridge will connect the two buildings at Hamerschlag’s second floor. Roberts will be about 260 feet wide, compared with Hamerschlag’s 242. The material is to be concrete of a “warm” limestone shade, which is apparently to be marked off into panels in a rather 1960s manner by scoring with grooves. Homerschlag, of course, is cream-colored brick and white terra cotta, more delicately detailed. The bow ornament of the armored cruiser Pittsburgh, at present visible from the service road, is to be placed above the central conference room that crowns the building.

The architects have sought to assure us: “We fully recognize the architectural passion of Homerschlag Hall. It is our attempt and opinion that we have embraced Homerschlag; and we have created an inviting personality for [Roberts] without concealing science and program in historic fashion.” Which are verbal tributes to the need for harmony.

And yet, we feel that:

• The exterior material should not be concrete, which is bound to be cold and dead; it should be cream-colored brick above the basement level, with white trim.

• The fronts should be set back, if possible, as they rise, rather than having the uppermost windows on the Junction Hollow front jut forward. The concrete surfaces and the projections suggest that we are back in the 1960s, with uninspired designing and marring Hamerschlag as much as possible.

• The prow ornament from the Pittsburgh should not be worn like a tiara on top of the conference room; one can see it there. It should be moved to the central lawn, where a place can surely be found for it, or it can be gilded or painted as it was at sea.

It is probably too late for any of these recommendations to be considered save the last. The ornament deserves to find the prominence at last that has always been its due. I hope the ornament may be saved, and if not, that it may be mounted in a prominent place, where it would actually be seen and seen up close, is the obvious location.

Kennywood Park Wins National Preservation Award

Kennywood Park is a rare slice of Americana. From the circa 1923 Jack Rabbit roller coaster to the Noah’s Ark funhouse built in 1936, Kennywood incorporates the best surviving examples of many classic amusement park rides. For keeping an American treasure alive and thriving, this 96-year-old playground in West Mifflin received a 1994 National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation during its conference in Boston this October.

Unlike most other preservation awards, Kennywood Park has the rare distinction of being commended for not undertaking a massive renovation, avoiding the woodwork’s commitment to ongoing maintenance from the start has not only preserved the amusement park, but has also afforded the facility to remain in active operation for nearly a century. Landmarks extends a warm congratulations to Kennywood Park on the occasion of this award.

DeWinter/Ziegler Fund Aids Religious Properties

The DeWinter/Ziegler Fund, established in 1986 by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. and his family to honor Mary DeWinter and Mabel Ziegler, grandparents, as well as Arthur Ziegler’s parents, made three donations in September: the fund contributed $2,000 toward the chiming of the bell tower at Calvary United Methodist Church in Allegheny West; $100 toward a new speaker system for the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church at 1400 Boyle Street on the North Side; and $200 toward the Building Restoration Fund of Congregation B’Nai Israel on North Negley Avenue in Highland Park.

The DeWinter/Ziegler Fund was established as the first Family Endowment Fund at Landmarks, supporting historic preservation projects of all kinds; the fund is not limited to religious structures. Gifts are made by family members on an annual basis.

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Attend a book-signing party and illustrated lecture by Clyde Hare on Monday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m., in the P&LE Room of the Station Square Shcator."
The Southern Expressway

Plans are moving ahead for building a superhighway from Pittsburgh southward to West Virginia. The most recent proposal from City Planning will have the final link in the city come up river through the old LTV site and connect to the Birmingham Bridge, leading into downtown Pittsburgh. Outbound traffic would travel on a separate highway to be built on the north side of the river. We have many misgivings about this road- way, based on our experience of all the other expressways that have been con- structed around Pittsburgh and around other cities in the United States.

Everyone knows that no highway solves a traffic problem; each generates more. No highway adds to the assets of a city; each depletes them. No highway augments the city’s business, each creates suburbs and edge cities that compete with the central city. No highway enhances rural living: each contributes to its destruction. The city and the countryside are enhanced by installing excellent public transit and rail systems. Cars cost us far more in money and kill and maim more people than any other form of transportation.

We certainly concur in the need to open the Mon Valley to and improve Major 65 and the Liberty Tunnel entrance. But we don’t believe that we need a full-fledged expressway. We need to make other investments to improve our area.

Raymond L. Reaves, director of the Allegheny County Planning Department, has best stated the position with which we would concur, and we reprint a letter, published in the July 30 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, for your consideration:

The state is proposing to spend $2 billion or more to build an express- way in the Mon Valley and a Southern Beltway. New roads and highways can either to reduce congestion or to promote economic development. This expenditure falls on both counts. There is no evidence that substantial congestion exists in this corridor except in Allegheny County where it does exist outside the county, it is not significant relative to other locations in the region.

With respect to economic development, expressways are a necessary but not sufficient condition. For example, Washington is at the crossroads in two interstate highways, yet that area has been losing population.

As also evidenced by travel on expressways throughout this region or others in the United States, most interchanges do not have development surrounding them. Where there is substantial development, it is generally of two types. One type is the retail mall or office park. In a region such as ours with a declining-to-stable population or job base, malls simply divert expend- itures from other either malls or more importantly, older downtowns. In addi- tion, office concentrations are usually constructed at the expense of down- town areas.

The second type of development around interchanges is distribution facilities which provide mostly few jobs at relatively low wages.

Why then is the state proposing to construct this road? The best evidence is that it is in the mistaken belief that an expressway will generate economic development peculiar to expressways studies, including those by the Federal Highway Administration. At best, new expenditures provide a basis for developmental activity, but do not generate it.

Now, if a new expressway is not at the expense to revitalize the Mon Valley, what is? The first task is to identify what we mean by revitalization. Only then can we invest in the appropriate infrastructure to make it happen. Instead of investing in yesterday’s jobs and yesterday’s infrastructure, we should build on the existing network of communities and infrastructure, as well as relatively inexpensive vacant land along the rivers to make the Mon Valley not only a pleasant residential area, but an area with the assets to attract tomorrow’s economic generators.

These generators will be in the com- munications and high technology fields. To support this, the following investments, of less than $2 billion, would be effective:

1. Upgrade the existing road system and complete critical links. This will cost about $500 million.

2. Upgrade the school systems along the lines being developed by the Mon Valley Education Consortium. The recent international conference in Detroit concluded that seamless, life- long learning which will build and maintain, attainment work force is critical to being competitive in the next cen- tury. The expenditure of several hundred million dollars could make the Mon Valley a world focused on the transition to a post-extraction and post-manufacturing economy. We seek such knowledge and experience throughout the world is practically endless.

3. The Mon Valley could become a national and international research, development, training and education center in the environmental field.

4. Fiber-optic cable, teleports and other forms of communication of the most advanced type would support tomorrow’s jobs.

5. A center for magnetic levitation research, development, training and manufacturing would make the Mon Valley a center of jobs and manufactur- ing for the high-value end of MAGLEV technology throughout the United States and perhaps North America.

Critics will say that the funds which might be available to build the express- ways cannot be used for these other activities. Their response is that it is a failure of vision and a failure to use our wealth for the appropriate investments. We can change laws.

— Raymond L. Reaves, Director Allegheny County Planning Department

We would add to Mr. Reaves’ sugges- tion that we consider augmenting the Pittsburgh Light-Rail and consider extending it out through the adjoining counties such as once existed with the interurban trolley system, now destroyed.

HUD Emphasizes Preservation

On October 5, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, attended a roundtable meet- ing on historic preservation, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Participants identified ways to make preservation an integral part of communi- ty development and a more vital compo- nent of HUD programs. HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and National Trust Director Richard Moehl invited 50 preservation-ists from across the nation to attend the forum. Participants listened to brief presentations from preservationists and housing authorities — including Stanley Lowe, executive director of The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, and former Landmarks’ Preservation Fund director — and then divided into discus- sion groups where views and information were exchanged.

Preservation Fund Announces New HOPE Program

This June, Landmarks and the non-profit organization Regional Resources, Inc., announced a $100,000 revolving line of credit to develop appropriate and afford- able housing for low-income, mentally disabled persons. The program, known as HOPE (Homes of People Empowered), will provide loans for the acquisition of real estate to assist Allegheny County res- idents with special needs and who require special living conditions. The line of credit, administered through Landmarks’ Preservation Fund, will enable Regional Resources, Inc., to purchase and restore downtown housing stock for the disabled. For further information about HOPE, call Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services, at (412) 471-5808.

News About Stanley

Stanley Lowe, who took a leave-of- absence from Landmarks at the beginning of this year, is now executive director of The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, responsible for the well-being of 9,300 tenants. First executive director of the Manchester Citizens Corporation, Stanley came to Landmarks in 1983 as director of the Preservation Fund. In his 10 years of work at Landmarks with community organizations and lending institutions, Stanley became a figure of national prominence.

National Trust Conference

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., Al Tannor, Gregory Yochum, Thomas Keffer, and Patrick Gilligan represented Landmarks at the National Trust Conference in Boston from October 26 to 30. Over a dozen neighborhood leaders from Pittsburgh also attended the Conference, as well as Stanley Lowe from the Mayor’s Office.

More than 2,500 preservationists from around the country attended the confer- ence, making it the largest ever.

Record Attendance

The Duquesne Incline reported in its October newsletter to members that “the number of passengers carried during the third quarter of 1994 exceeded all previ- ous records.” Exactly 222,619 people rode the incline!

The Duquesne Incline is an inclined railway between the Liberty Tunnels and the Manchester Bridge, leading into downtown Pittsburgh. It was built in 1879 and has been in operation ever since.

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Library News

Albert M. Tanase

Books and Articles about Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture

Some library visitors come to the James D. and Winifred Tepper Library on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square hoping to find a specific answer to a specific question; still others hope to find a variety of materials which will aid them in researching a broad yet well-defined subject. Hence libraries house many books, and other related materials — maps; photographs; miscellaneous clippings, articles, and other odd bits collected by those who preceded us — the process of searching for information, answers, and evidence can be rather like a treasure hunt. One of the most pleasurable of activities is to browse through the book shelves without having any particular purpose in mind, hoping to make a discovery or be surprised by finding the unexpected. What we find may be pertinent to our immediate needs, or it may be something to recall and revisit at a later time.

Another pleasure to be found in libraries is identifying and pulling together the various books and articles, about a topic; isolating, if you will, a mini-library within the library about some significant phenomenon or subject by choosing the most useful writings on that subject and thus helping readers explore it on their own. People often ask: “Is there a book about this?” or “What should I read on this subject?”. What they are looking for is a guide or a list of books; in the latter case, a bibliography.

During 1993-94, Landmarks gave tours to out-of-town groups of visitors from the West Coast, the Midwest, and, in conjunction with the opening of The Heinz Architectural Center, art historians and curators from around the country and Europe. All of these visitors were impressed by Pittsburgh’s architecture; several said to me, “Why haven’t we heard about your architects; why isn’t this known about these wonderful buildings?” In order to answer these questions — and since our library is a resource published to educate us about our architectural heritage — I have compiled a bibliography: concise, yet comprehensive and annotated (that is, each book or article and the work of each regional architect is briefly described).

Pittsburgh’s Landmark Architecture: A Concise Bibliography is a 12-page, paperback compendium of published books, articles, and works-in-progress on historic architecture in the greater Pittsburgh area prior to 1950. The bibliography includes writings about: architectural research; comprehensive and critical architectural history; descriptive guides to historic buildings, districts, and public art; and prominent architects and their extant work. A sampling of architectural articles, from an eighteenth-century mansion house to a Ukrainian housing complex, is included. The reader will find the scope of the nation’s leading architects including Frank Furness, H.H. Richardson, Daniel Burnham, Ralph Adams Cram, Benjamin Goodhue, Joseph Urban, Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, and Marcel Breuer, and locally prominent architects such as John Chisollet; Longfellow, Alden & Harlow; Henry Hornbostel; Benno Janssen; Frederick G. Schodde, Jr.; and Peter and Cornelia Berndtson.

The bibliography costs $2.25 per copy and is available from the Landmarks Store in The Shops at Station Square.

Books of Interest

Preserving Futures

A generalization about nineteenth-century fiction holds that a wedding terminates an episode of novelistic intrigue. Stewart Brand chooses the French approach: once the consummation of the building campaign has arrived, and the architect’s client has walked through the front door as an occupant, what thereafter? The author’s pursuit of answers is highly imaginative in scope, lively in prose, and very rich in graphics with many comparison photographs to show how a building or a whole street scene can change.

The point is that the book is that form had better not follow function; that a building meticulously adapted to a precisely-stated program will be too rigid to accommodate the unforeseeable requirements of the future. The building, on the other hand, that is spacious and adaptable, rather vaguely conceived as far as a program goes, is apt to survive. Brand’s thesis is that, if we build “the most loved and legendary building of all at MIT” is Building 20, a World War II collection of heavy fames that is architecturally featureless but infinitely adaptable with hammer and saw, and psychologically comfortable for the venturesome minds that have worked there. Another such Proteus at MIT, oddly, is William Welles Bosworth’s very stately Main Building of 1916, whose planning was left to an engineer. A chapter of special icon is reserved for “magazine architecture” that sets or follows current fashions and is calculated for publication rather than use.

This exploration of the alternative fates of buildings deals with historic preservation, in passing and also in a chapter on this “quiet, populist, conservative, victorious revolution.” Brand’s treatment of the subject is factual and full of pragmatic admiration for its popular and financial success, yet appreciative of the values that have occasioned the success: beauty, tradition, quality of construction, and workmanship. (He is also amusing on Santa Fe’s creation in the 1950s, an architectural history, its conversion into what Garrison Keillor calls an adobe theme park.)

To sum up, this following of buildings into time is most interesting for anyone who sees history as a continuing process.

Anecdotes

This is a book of 26 historical essays plus a memoir, related to events, places, personalities, “odds and ends,” and the city as a whole. Time range is from the Glacial Period to the near-present. Sample subjects are the St. Clair Incline crash of 1909, the controversy over height of the Smithfield Street Bridge around 1880, the caustic personality of Anne Royall, “Pittsburgh’s first feminist”; the slave trade in Pittsburgh; and the city “as others saw us.” There is an appendix, “Memories of an Old Resident: The Early 1900s.”

Trevor Hadley has given us a copy of his book, which we have gratefully added to our library.

A Book About Scheibler


Frederick Scheibler, these days, is an architect whose name rarely appears in the architectural press. In his own productive time from 1905 until some 20 years later, he designed buildings that were determinedly modern and extreme, but sometimes a little silly, any of the above or in some combination but always with a distinctive touch. A primarily East End architect working almost always with small budgets, he always found some way of bringing his design out of the ordinary.

Parkstone Dwellings, 9037 Penn Avenue, Point Breeze

The present book, the first on the subject, shows how Scheibler was influenced by his pre-Bauhaus Modernist contemporaries abroad, and occasionally too by Frank Lloyd Wright and other Americans. Scheibler is not in fact to be seen as a pioneer architect, except in having introduced progressive designs to Pittsburgh; he is a half-step behind Ohlrich, Mackintosh, and Wright. But he understands what they are doing, and goes beyond imitation. In the 1920s, as in the case of other architects, he seems to have abandoned Modernism in his very large domestic practice for overall quaintness and an Arts and Crafts attention to materials. But here too is a quiet individualism, not the plunge into mere cuteness so prevalent some 60 years ago.

The book, summarizing all that is known about Scheibler to date, is probably the beginning of Scheibler literature rather than its only one. A companion book or article on his drawings and other works would be needed.

Impact of the Canals

This is a set of papers presented at two symposiums in 1991 on “the impact of canals on the course of American urban life.” The subject canals are the Minnesota Waterpower, Pennsylvania, Santee, Alexandria, James River & Kanawha, and Delaware & Raritan. The Pennsylvania Canal paper is by Ronald C. Carlisle and a paper on the Delaware & Raritan by John B. Irion, and while it summarizes the Pennsylvania Public Works system as a whole, still focuses on the development and preservation of a lift lock and weight lock at the North Side, close to the canals’ terminus in 1828.

We thank Mr. Carlisle for his donation of a copy to our library.

Wooden Hotels to the North

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

We remember with nostalgic pleasure those incredible Victorian summer hotels where the well-to-do settled in for the summer months, enjoying languid days rocking on the veranda, dressing for three meals a day, poking about in the summer gardens. By the late 1840s these balmytonces were supplanted by guests with less affluence and less time: families who went for a weekend, and organizations that liked meeting rooms, abutting golf courses, and tennis courts. Bedford Springs Hotel might be the best remembered locally, now perhaps on its way to new life with the help of a state grant of $5 million.

But what of those to the north of Pittsburgh? Do we still frequent Hotel Conneaut, Hotel Riverside at Cambridge Springs, the Athenaeum at Chautauqua, and that odd array, the Lenthall at Bensenville, Point New, York? For future issues I hope to write some hotel essays, nearby journeys to historic towns, sites, gardens, restaurants, and inns. In the meantime, look at the groundtre that existed within the area when it was serviced by rail to every town.

Hotel Riverside at Cambridge Springs, PA

Hotel Conneaut, Conneaut Lake, PA

Hotel Bidder, Cambridge Springs, PA
PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE: Not as We've Come to Know It

Walter G. Kidney

On September 12, 1885, the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail looked like this, seen from Grant and Diamond Streets. The brick core of the tower, partly masked by the shadow from the tower of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, is rising to the far left. To the right, semicircular gaps in the plank flooring indicate the turrets flanking the Diamond Street entrance. Within the building site are the ten steam-powered cranes described by a contemporary:

First arose within the middle of the square a peculiar frame-work well braced and supported. Around it was attached a system of derricks, composed of masts and horizontal booms, which constituted one of the notable features of the work. In lifting the materials into place on the Court House, ten derricks were used... The masts with their booms were so placed that in their swing the whole area of the Court House was covered within the circles which they inscribed... By means of these derricks each piece of material was lifted and conveyed to its exact position. The heavy belt courses, each piece of which weighed tons, were gradually put in place and the service of but a few men were required in handling the most massive materials. In connection with this remarkable system of derricks signals were conveyed over electric wires. Many times over the motive power used was not in sight and to an observer this system of derricks as seen in picking up and carrying materials to place seemed to act as though possessed of intelligence.

To the rear, the Jail is well along, granite facing in place, a rectangular gap awaiting the Bridge of Sighs. Behind are the bare slopes and tenements of Boyd’s Hill, the Bluff.

Three years and 12 days later, the Courthouse was launched on the expected flood of oratory. In its future lay numerous remodelings, some degradation, some restoration, covered in Landmarks’ publication of 1988 by James D. Van Trump, Majesty of Law: The Courthouses of Allegheny County. The Courthouse was soon imitated by other architects nationwide, and the Jail was to become a world-renowned example of eloquent architectural simplicity. Today, both are in the elite class of National Historic Landmarks.

THE LANDMARKS STORE
The Book and Gift Shop of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
FREDERICK G. SCHEIBLER, JR. “Pittsburgh’s most important ‘original’ architect”
– James D. Van Trump

Martin Aurand,
The Progressive Architecture of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr.
The University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994, $49.95

Scheibler designs available exclusively at The Landmarks Store:
• Cross stitch pattern of a Rose Frame Window from the Aurelia Jemison Rowhouses, 1909, $18.95.
• Full color 11" x 14" photographs of three of Scheibler’s most important buildings from the Landmarks Library Collection. Special order: $60 each.

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George Westinghouse

IDEAS FROM HIS DRAWING BOARD
MEANT JOBS AND PAY FOR MILLIONS

For half a century, probably the most important half-century in industrial history, George Westinghouse was in the forefront of developments that changed the way people traveled, how they worked, how they lived.

At age 22, he devised and developed a new concept for stopping trains, a braking system operated by compressed air. That invention alone would have gained him a prominent place in industrial history, but there was much more.

After the introduction of the air brake came the friction draft gear and related apparatus which hastened the growth of railroads as they became the economic lifeline of the United States as well as other nations around the world.

Meeting another need of the railroads, he pioneered in the development of automatic signaling and interlocking switches, contributing to the safety of railroad traffic.

Starting with a well drilled in the yard of his home in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh, he developed a system of transmitting and using natural gas, not only for lighting and heating homes but giving a great boost to the steel mills and other industries, which now had a reliable new source of clean and efficient fuel.

And, probably most important of all because of its widespread application to the lives and living of people all over the world, George Westinghouse was the entrepreneur who introduced the alternating current system of generating and transmitting electricity for power and light. This marked the beginning of the Age of Electricity and all the benefits it brought for the home and factory and farm.

Taking all of his inventions together, it is most likely true that no one inventor contributed so much to make the lives of people everywhere safer, easier, more pleasant and more productive.

The companies George Westinghouse founded have provided gainful employment for hundreds of thousands of men and women over the years. But in far greater number are the jobs he created for the railroads, for the natural gas industry, for the multitude of businesses which grew with the advent of convenient electric power.

George Westinghouse once said: "If someday they say of me that in my work I have contributed something to the welfare and happiness of my fellow men, I shall be satisfied."

From the perspective of a century later, that wish has been abundantly fulfilled.

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
One of the Original Westinghouse Companies.
Founded in 1886.