

Address Correction Requested

# PHLF News

No. 138 May 1995 Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

## In this issue:

- A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County
- The Western Pennsylvania Traveler: Amazing Town to the North
- Pittsburgh's Landscape Tradition
- Pittsburgh Architecture: Materials

## Preservation Fund Loans Initiate and Continue Neighborhood Revitalization

*Landmarks' Preservation Fund continues its active role in community and neighborhood development this year with new projects and continuing technical support in three city neighborhoods.*

*Through collaborative efforts with local banks and with various citizens' groups, Landmarks has aided in the purchase and rehabilitation of older properties to revitalize communities. Recent projects in Manchester, Garfield, and Wilkinsburg demonstrate Landmarks' strong, ongoing commitment to the development of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods.*



Margaret Court Building,  
1131 West North Avenue,  
Manchester

### New and Ongoing Projects in Manchester

During the October 1994 National Trust for Historic Preservation conference held in Boston, director of Preservation Services Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. told his audience about an historic Manchester neighborhood mansion — the Margaret Court Building — to demonstrate how creative financing can be used to obtain and rehabilitate historic properties.

The Margaret Court Building, a commanding 100-year-old Richardsonian Romanesque presence at the corners of North and Fontella Avenues, was purchased by the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) from the Urban Development Authority (UDA). The structure, once a single-family house, features a corner tower and a broad two-story bay on the main facade. The third floor is detailed with arched windows flanked by engaged columns and capitals.

\$120,000 of a \$140,000 Preservation Fund loan from Landmarks, made in 1995, will enable MCC to retire the debt on the mortgage and continue renovation of the structure. The building has been divided into seven units;

Rippl Building, 1319 Allegheny Avenue, Manchester



MCC's offices are temporarily located in one of these. Five of the units are rented at market price and one is rented as a Section 8 unit. MCC manages and maintains the building.

\$20,000 of the loan will be used to enable MCC to purchase and restore a row house at 1333 Liverpool Street. Upon completion, the Victorian structure of 1882 will be a single-family unit.

As we reported in the July 1994 *PHLF News*, a 1994 Preservation Fund loan of \$250,000 enabled MCC to embark on its first commercial venture — acquisition of the Rippl Building at 1319 Allegheny Avenue to house four businesses: Peoples Choice Deli and Mini Mart; Wade's Barber Shop; Bobbi J's Hair Fashion Studio; and a laundromat. Peoples Choice features home-cooked meals, hot and cold sandwiches, a full line of groceries, health and beauty aids, and household items. Wade's Barber Shop offers haircuts for both men and women, while Bobbi J's is a full-service salon and school of hair design. The building as well as the laundromat is managed by MCC staff.

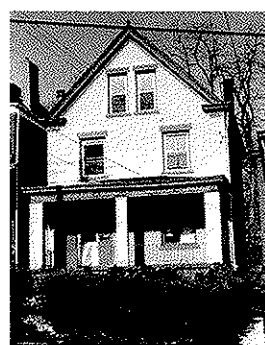
MCC executive director Rhonda Brandon expressed her organization's gratitude for Landmarks' support: "Our relationship goes back to the 1970s with [preservation of] the 1300 block of Liverpool Street. Landmarks has been very supportive of Manchester."

### Affordable Housing in Garfield

Landmarks is working with the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, the Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc., and Mellon Bank to develop affordable housing for residents in the Garfield community.

In 1994, the Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. (GJA) received a loan of \$29,000 from the Landmarks/Mellon Bank Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative (CNDI), discussed in the July 1994 issue of *PHLF News*, designed to provide community groups with a single funding source for long-term projects. The loan enabled GJA to purchase two houses at 5407 and 5437 Black Street. The two structures are scheduled to undergo extensive restoration; when completed, they will each consist of two rental units with one and three bedroom apartments. People earning 50% or less of the area's median income will be eligible to rent the apartments which will be managed by GJA. Construction at 5407 and 5437 Black Street is expected to start this summer and should be completed within a six-month time frame.

The Black Street Project is a scattered site rehabilitation project encompassing a half-mile radius, begun by GJA in 1992 with assistance from the City of Pittsburgh



5407 Black Street



5437 Black Street

and UDA. It is the intention of the Black Street Project to improve living conditions and stabilize property values in the area. When completed, 20 buildings will be involved. The revitalization of housing will be tied to plans to develop a small retail area, including a grocery and drug store, at Mossfield Street and North Aiken Avenue. GJA development assistant, Thea Young, has called Preservation Fund support "invaluable to the community."



The former Horner Middle School, 807 Wallace Avenue, Wilkinsburg

### Wilkinsburg Facility Makes Steady Progress

As reported in the March 1993 issue of *PHLF News*, Landmarks has been providing technical support services to Wilkinsburg's Hosanna House, a community service organization, since 1992. Today, both Landmarks' president and Landmarks' Preservation Fund director are personally providing technical support assistance to Hosanna House. Executive director Leon Haynes states: "It is because of technical assistance and expertise provided by Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Slaughter (and his predecessor Stanley Lowe) that we are going to be able to accommodate the needs of the community, particularly of our young people."

Arthur Ziegler serves on Hosanna Houses' Financial Advisory Team, composed of representatives from foundations and corporations, who assist the staff and board of directors in acquiring capital to rehabilitate the 78-year-old former Horner Middle School (designed by Ingham & Boyd) as a permanent community center. Once the Horner School building is occupied, future plans call for a capital campaign to fund Hosanna House programs.

Howard Slaughter serves on the Core Development Team, a group of bankers, architects, and general contractors who work with staff to facilitate the organization's objectives and fundraising strategy.

Hosanna House received a 1994 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Award of Merit. "We received the award for the work we are doing in the Wilkinsburg community and for preserving the Horner School," explained Leon Haynes. "It is an award we are very proud of."

*Editor's note: We thank Diane I. Daniels for providing the information and photographs for this story. Ms. Daniels, the business writer for the New Pittsburgh Courier, is providing assistance to Landmarks in covering the work of the Preservation Fund.*

PHLF News

Welcome New Members

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation welcomes the following new members and organizations that have recently joined Landmarks. We look forward to the participation of these new members in our work and special events.

- Charles A. Astfalk  
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Baldwin  
Jerome Balvo  
Victor Bertolina  
Mark & Jamie Blatter and family  
Betty M. Chidlow  
F. J. Coyle  
Fox Chapel Area High School  
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Gaab  
Michael Gilligan and John Indalecio  
Dr. Leon L. Haley  
Hosanna House, Inc.  
Henry Huminski  
Independence Middle School  
Anne-Marie Lubenau  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Malick  
Judi Mangan
- Karl and Rachel Meyers  
Deborah A. Novak  
Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Oliver  
Stephen and Pye Pajewski and family  
The Pittsburgh Children's Museum  
Praise Christian Academy  
Daniel C. Prevade  
Roberta L. Romano and family  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank S. South  
Mr. & Mrs. Furman South IV  
Mr. & Mrs. H. H. South  
Nancy B. Stewart  
Robert N. Teeter, Ph.D.  
Michael P. Weber  
Yvonne Michelle Wehrer  
Rose Werner

Welcome Corporate Members

- Benefactors**  
Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania  
PNC Bank Corp

**Patrons**  
Hilb, Rogal & Hamilton Company
- Partners**  
Calgon Corporation

In Memoriam

Gay Arensberg, 1917-1995

Gertrude Hays Arensberg — well known to many of our members as “Gay” — died on March 28 at her home in Shadyside. We deeply regret her passing and will always fondly remember her.

Gay was ever ebullient and effervescent, an affirmer of life, a person who had a deep respect and admiration for the visual arts. She took particular interest in children's books, and donated hundreds of illustrated children's books to the University of Pittsburgh. Many of them were first editions and out-of-print volumes dating to the 1800s.

Her life was not without tribulation. But she rose to every occasion where she was needed by her family and friends, offering help with sensitivity and self-effacement. She and Charles, our chairman for our first 30 years, were married 55 years. Together they raised a fine family, maintained an historic house in Shadyside filled with a fine collection of paintings, china, and *objets d'art*, and saw much of the world.

We extend our sympathy to Charley and his family at this time.



Charles and Gay Arensberg

Roy Lubove, 1934-1995

Several years ago, we of the Landmarks staff became personally acquainted with Roy Lubove. We had known of him through his book of 1969 — *Twentieth Century Pittsburgh* — and now, some time in the late 1980s, we came frequently into the orbit of this vivid character, this observer of the Pittsburgh scene who was continuing to observe and record its changes and who, we were glad to see, was an ardent preservationist.

Roy Lubove has left us, but a new, greatly enlarged *Twentieth Century Pittsburgh*, now subtitled *The Post-Steel Era*, is soon to be published, and in it his friendship for Landmarks and the work we do will be manifest.

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 operation of Station Square, an historic riverfront property opposite downtown Pittsburgh.

- |                          |                                                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.   | President                                              |
| Louise Sturgess          | Editor/Executive Director                              |
| Elisa J. Cavalier        | General Counsel                                        |
| Tom Croyle               | Comptroller                                            |
| Mary Lu Denny            | Director of Membership Services                        |
| Mary Ann Eubanks         | Education Coordinator                                  |
| Barry Hannegan           | Consulting Director, Historic Parks and Gardens Survey |
| Thomas Keffer            | Superintendent of Property Maintenance                 |
| Walter C. Kidney         | Architectural Historian                                |
| Linda Mitry              | Staff Accountant                                       |
| Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. | Director of Preservation Services                      |
| Albert M. Tannler        | Historical Collections Director                        |
| Ronald C. Yochum, Jr.    | Facilities Management Assistant                        |
| Greg Pytlik              | Designer                                               |

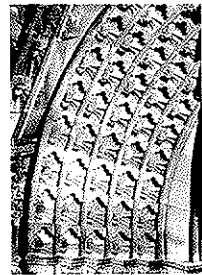
Historic Religious Properties Initiative: Renovations Complete at Five Religious Properties

In November 1993, the Allegheny Foundation awarded a grant of \$44,000 to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to undertake a 12-month study addressing the needs of historic religious properties in Allegheny County. In that time, the Historic Religious Properties Initiative (HRPI) developed the guidelines for a program to provide technical assistance and grants to area churches and synagogues. With \$10,000 remaining from the initial Allegheny Foundation grant and an additional \$30,000 contributed by Landmarks, the HRPI was then able to offer grants of up to \$6,000 to religious sites involved in the pilot program. The March 1995 issue of *PHLF News* detailed the proposed projects, and now we announce their completion.

- The old slate roof at Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Hill District has been replaced with durable new roofing.
- The crumbling sidewalk at Dormont Presbyterian Church has been resurfaced, and a new handicap-accessible ramp has been constructed at the church's side entrance.
- The two towers of St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale have been fitted with water-shedding louvered panels.
- The stained-glass windows at West End AME Zion Church have been covered with protective panels, and more efficient insulation has been added to the church's attic.

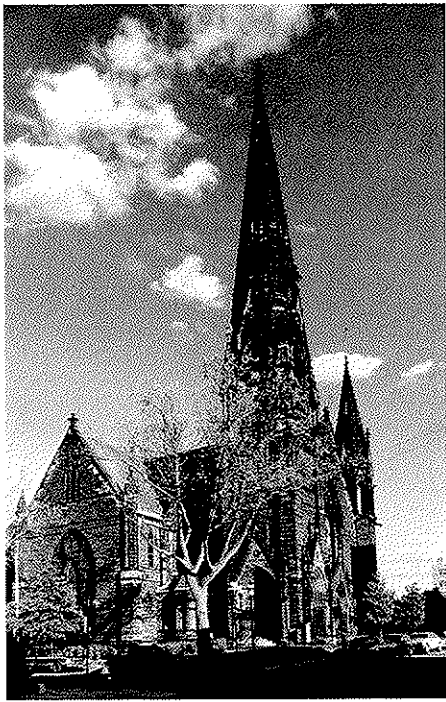
These successes demonstrate the promise of the Historic Religious Properties Initiative — that with adequate funding it may provide the technical and financial assistance to help preserve and care for the religious landmarks that contribute to this region's architectural heritage.

Calvary United Methodist Church Receives Assistance



Detail, Calvary United Methodist Church

In addition to these original participants in the pilot program, the Historic Religious Properties Initiative extended a grant to Calvary United Methodist Church at Allegheny and Beech Avenues in Allegheny West. Calvary, known as the Tiffany church because of its exquisite stained-glass windows, has a staff which has long been active in fund-raising and is committed to the stewardship of the church. Thus, when the threat



Calvary United Methodist Church in Allegheny West

of a gas leak prompted a professional study of the heating system, Landmarks and the HRPI were solicited for help. The results of the survey detected no leak but found that the furnace needed immediate modifications. The Historic Religious Properties Initiative provided Calvary with \$500 for the initial study and an additional grant of \$5,500 which the church matched for a project total of \$12,000. Most of the funds were used to upgrade the heating system; the remainder were allocated to the church's gargoyle replacement fund.

Technical Services Provided

In addition to the progress made with these five churches, the Historic Religious Properties Initiative has actively supported other area churches and synagogues with technical assistance and guidance in maintaining their properties and in their attempts to secure state restoration funds. Many other religious organizations have contacted Landmarks to voice their support for the program.

In the past year and a half, Landmarks' staff has worked closely with the owners of historic religious properties in Allegheny County and leaders in the field of religious property preservation nationwide. The HRPI has clearly demonstrated the need for a permanent program offering funding and technical assistance to local historic religious properties in Allegheny County and the value that such assistance will generate for each congregation ... and for our communities.

Intern Assists with Historic Religious Properties Initiative



Landmarks' Historic Religious Properties Initiative — a preservation effort targeted at restoring houses of worship which typically receive little or no outside funding — is moving successfully forward thanks, in part, to the volunteer efforts of architectural historian Laura Ricketts. Before coming to Landmarks, Laura finished her master's degree in art history at Penn State and spent two semesters teaching courses in American art and architecture at Penn State. In her work for the Historic Religious Properties Initiative, Laura is acting as a liaison between Landmarks and the participating churches and researching sources of funding and alternative uses for religious buildings.



# A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar:

## African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County

*The rich legacy of black Pittsburgh in meeting and transcending problems in the past gives one confidence that today's problems also will be overcome.*

—Laurence A. Glasco

On May 3, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation released its latest book, *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County*, during a reception at the Carnegie Library in Homewood. (The library is one of the African-American landmarks identified in the book and is featured on the cover.)

Funded by Dollar Bank and Landmarks' Revolving Fund for Education, the 84-page book is based on information originally collected in 1991 and

1992 for the African-American Historic Sites Survey of Allegheny County. The survey was conducted by Landmarks Design Associates Architects with assistance from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation; it was funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

*A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar* begins with an essay, "The Importance of History," by Frank E. Bolden, veteran newsman, community activist, and noted authority on local black history. Mr. Bolden writes: "James Baldwin ... reminds us that 'History is not merely something to be read. And it does not refer merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are consciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do.'"

Laurence A. Glasco, associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, skillfully condenses a wealth of historical information into a clear, concise essay, "Blacks in Pittsburgh," that summarizes the black experience from the late 1700s to the present. The essay is illustrated with many historic photographs.

*Black Pittsburgh's impressive cultural, educational, and social history shows that black Pittsburghers have always managed to transcend divisions caused by class, topography, and neighborhood, and to use cultural and social institutions to cope with racial discrimination.*

—Laurence A. Glasco

Eliza Smith Brown, project director of the African-American Historic Sites Survey of 1992, wrote the "Sites" section of the book. "More than mere shelter for man's activities, architecture can teach, inspire, and remind us of the significance of our past," writes Mrs. Brown. The guide identifies 62 places that stand out as landmarks in the context of local and black history. "This guide recognizes some of the survivors," Mrs. Brown notes. "They are to be treasured, maintained, and where possible, restored. When we find our collective memories embodied in bricks and mortar, we have an opportunity to preserve these memories for generations to come."



*The Homestead Grays, 1913, organized out of a group of Homestead steelworkers, went on to win eight of nine Negro National League titles.*

*A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar* is handsomely designed by Greg Pytlík and includes 115 black-and-white photographs. Instructor Iris Dawn Parker and student assistants Kawama Hightower and Portia Hornick of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild produced many of the photographs in the book. Historic photos were provided by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and The Pittsburgh Courier Photographic Archives, among other sources.

*A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar* may be purchased (\$8.95) from The Landmarks Store at Station Square or by completing the order form on page 5. The book is a treasure, presenting information about the African-American community that can inspire us as we work to improve the quality of life in this Pittsburgh region for all citizens.

*The National Negro Opera Company's performance of Aida in Pittsburgh, c. 1941.*



*Crawford Grill No. 2, at 2141 Wylie Avenue in the Hill District, is one of 62 sites identified in the book as having significance in African-American history. Opened in 1943 as a companion to the first Crawford Grill, this establishment also became a major center for black social and cultural life in the Hill District, as well as a popular entertainment mecca for a racially mixed crowd from all over the city.*



*Martin Robison Delany (1812-1885), today considered "The Father of Black Nationalism," published the city's first black newspaper, The Mystery.*



*The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker, located at Third and Market Streets downtown, is near where The Mystery newspaper office once was.*



Announcing the formation of...

**BROWN**  
**CARLISLE &**  
Associates Inc.

Eliza Smith Brown and  
Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D., Principals  
Historic Resource Consultants

- Cultural Resource Management
- Historic Preservation Planning
- Research and Documentation
- Historic Lectures and Tours
- Publications



175 Woodridge Drive  
Carnegie, PA 15106-1311  
Phone (412) 279-5222  
FAX (412) 279-9924

# Education News

## “Portable Pittsburgh”: On the Road for Seven Years



A portrait  
of c. 1858

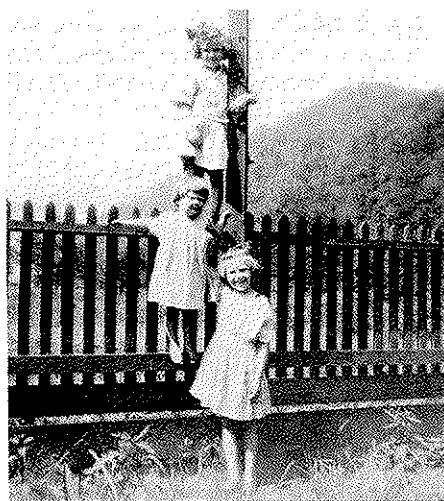
After nearly seven years of being “on the road,” many of the display photos and artifacts in the “Portable Pittsburgh” kit were looking almost as old as Pittsburgh itself: so, all of the visuals were reprinted and laminated in time for the spring 1995 sessions. Most of the Pittsburgh views are in color now and several new photos have been added. A photo album of family portraits from c. 1858 to the present has been created which students particularly enjoy seeing.

A second kit of artifacts and photographs has been created so that we can accommodate more teachers and offer more sessions, especially during the peak demand period in the spring.

Many people contributed artifacts to the “Portable Pittsburgh” kits. We are pleased to thank the following:

- Dr. Eva Curry, for donating an early electric toaster;
- Jim Rieger, for donating a miner’s cap;
- George Klipa at the USX Corporation, for donating iron and steel samples;
- James Willey at PPG Industries, for donating mini-windshields;
- Mike Enfante at Alcoa, for donating aluminum samples;
- Elaine from Heinz USA, for donating antique catsup bottles;
- Arlene McNalley, for donating early department-store charge cards;
- Jeff Lee, for donating early glass bottles;

- Dr. Gary W. Weber, Jim Finley, and the scientists at PPG Glass Research, for donating PPG window glass;
- Mary Lu Denny, Louise Sturgess, and Landmarks, for donating photos for the family photo album;
- Marc Eubanks, for donating surgeons’ caps;
- Allegheny West Civic Council, for donating vintage clothing;
- Nancy Stewart, for donating handmade linen and wool.



Sisters in the 1930s

It has always been the “touchability” of the artifacts that has made “Portable Pittsburgh” so successful. We are most grateful to all who have contributed “new” artifacts to the “Portable Pittsburgh” kit so we may continue to have a quality program.

With the two kits, our docents are busy this year through June offering 111 sessions of “Portable Pittsburgh,” reaching 3,885 students in area schools.

## Pittsburgh 50 Years from Now

Following the “Portable Pittsburgh” presentation highlighting 200 years of local history, students are asked to predict what Pittsburgh will be like in 50 years. Craig Reitmeyer, a third grader at St. Albert the Great School, predicts that:

*50 years from now,  
Pittsburgh is full of schools,  
labs, libraries, hospitals,  
and homes. We only  
have one running steel mill.  
Pittsburgh has so many  
businesses, many families  
can work. Technology and  
education are very high.  
All in all, I think  
that this city is the best.*

Kaitlyn Stasik of St. Albert the Great School chooses to name Pittsburgh the “Robotics City” 50 years from now:

*The universities and  
businesses could work  
together to build the robotics  
industry. Unemployed  
workers could be retrained  
and factories built where  
steel mills used to be.*

### Trustee News

Edward V. Randall, Jr., president and CEO of PNC Bank and a trustee of Landmarks, was honored on March 21 as the recipient of the Vocational Rehabilitation Center’s James F. Compton Humanitarian Award. This award recognizes the efforts of a corporate leader or of a corporation in advocating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.



School children in 1888

The changing fashion of Heinz ketchup bottles, from 1870 to the present



### The 30-Minute Kennywood Architect

At the invitation of Kennywood, Landmarks’ education staff and architect David Julian Roth of The Downtown Design Company developed a series of worksheets for students to use when they tour “Pittsburgh’s Lost Kennywood,” the newest Kennywood attraction. The education program was first used on May 11, when students from area schools participated in a physics, communications, and architecture day at Kennywood.

If you plan to visit Kennywood this summer with your family, call Louise Sturgess at (412) 471-5808 and she will mail the worksheet to you so your children can be Kennywood architects for 30 minutes!

### Spring Inservice and Adult Education

Landmarks continues to offer classes through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for teachers and through Pitt’s Informal Program for the general public.

“Exploring Your City” was presented to 24 teachers from Allegheny County schools on four Monday evenings: March 27, April 3, 10, and 24. Anne-Marie Lubenau, an architect with Perkins Eastman Architects, taught the two-credit inservice class.

For information on the summer inservice classes, please call the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at (412) 394-5700.

Over 35 people attended a class on “Exploring the Interior Architecture of Pittsburgh’s Downtown Landmarks” offered through Pitt’s Informal Program. Education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks presented a two-hour lecture and slide show on April 20, followed by a Saturday walking tour on April 22.

### “Architecture: The Building Art”

Landmarks’ traveling exhibit “Architecture: The Building Art” spent the month of April at Independence Middle School in Bethel Park. Over 350 eighth-grade students were introduced to basic architectural principles through the hands-on activities and exhibit materials. Before using the exhibit in the classroom, teachers from the school participated in a walking tour of downtown. The exhibit was used by teachers and students to augment a month-long interdisciplinary, interteam unit of study on immigration to Western Pennsylvania.

To reserve this exhibit, please call Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808.

### Downtown Dragons

Lions, griffons, and eagles — Oh my! Students from Fox Chapel Area High School, O’Hara Elementary School, Fox Chapel Country Day School, Markham Elementary School in Mt. Lebanon, and Jefferson-Morgan Elementary School in Greene County toured the streets of downtown Pittsburgh this spring with docents from Landmarks. In their search for lions, griffons, and city creatures sculpted in stone and terra cotta they learned about the history and architecture of Pittsburgh and experienced the sights, sounds, and commotion of city life.



### Private Group Tours

During the last several months, our volunteer tour docents have presented illustrated slide lectures to the Retired Men’s Group in Pleasant Hills, the Whitehall AARP #2050, the Monroeville American Association of University Women, and the Adult Education Group at CCAC South. They have escorted tours for



DeBolt Somerset Bus Company, Butler Motor Tours, Independence Middle School, Midstate Bank Key Classic Members, Northmont Presbyterian Church, Laurel Mountain Chapter of the Assessor's Office, and Mountainview Tours of Latrobe. In December, Landmarks looks forward to participating in the American Bus Association National Convention in Pittsburgh by escorting a church tour for tour operators.

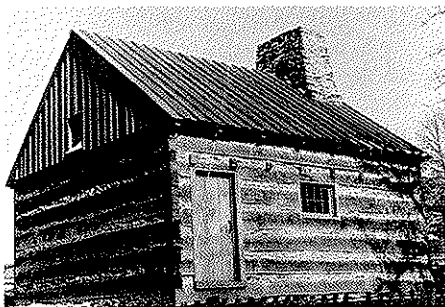
### New Docents Ready for the Spring

"Portable Pittsburgh" now has 14 trained docents to present programs to school children and adult groups. We wish to welcome five new docents who recently completed their "spring training": Ed McKenna; Becki Butler; Janeen Swaby; Marjorie Scholtz; and Laura Ricketts.

We at Landmarks thank all of the docents — old and new — for their commitment to the "Portable Pittsburgh" program. The job requires time, patience, enthusiasm, a knowledge of Pittsburgh history, an ability to work with people, and lots of energy. Each docent comes to Landmarks to pick up the kit of artifacts and photographs, drives to a school or community group to present the hour-long program, then returns the kit to Landmarks. In their presentations, they share their knowledge of Pittsburgh history with others, inspiring many students and adults.

### Volunteers Needed at the Neill Log House

Preservation Pittsburgh and the Department of Parks and Recreation are forming a volunteer group to preserve and develop the Neill Log House on East Circuit Road in Schenley Park. Built in the 1780s, the house is one of the few 18th-century structures remaining in the city. Volunteer guides and gardeners interested in historic preservation are needed. Call Dwight Fong at (412) 731-3243 to volunteer or for further information.



The Neill Log House, which has been designated a City Historic Structure, has the potential to become a first-class facility to showcase the early history of Pittsburgh. Preservation Pittsburgh (an advocacy organization for preservation, historical, architectural, and cultural matters) and the City of Pittsburgh are working together to develop this little-known treasure that was saved and restored by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1968.



Photos by Diane I. Daniels

## In the Schools During Black History Month

As part of the Black History Month Young Entrepreneurs Workshop, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of Preservation Services at Landmarks, spent his morning on February 20 at Arsenal Middle School with students from a variety of Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Mr. Slaughter, Reverend David Brock (executive director of the Lifeline Community Outreach Center in Wilkensburg), and Diane I. Daniels (a writer for the *New Pittsburgh Courier* and *PHLF News*) discussed careers, computers, and entrepreneurship with sixth- and seventh-grade students.

Topics discussed by Howard included: how to fill out a job application; the purpose of a Social Security card; and how to decide upon a career and job salaries.

Reverend Brock, who has traveled the country since 24 years of age as a computer representative, explained the concept and importance of personal computers and the significance of computer technology now and in the years ahead.

Ms. Daniels outlined the advantages and disadvantages of being an entrepreneur and the hard work it takes to be successful in one's field of interest.

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. of Landmarks with Pittsburgh Public School students at Arsenal Middle School.



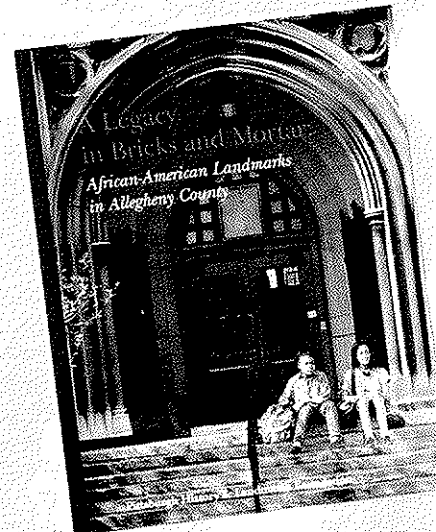
Jim Desch and Monica Tilman of the Pittsburgh Public Schools organized the Black History Month Young Entrepreneurs Workshop to provide students with information to prepare themselves for the future. The program purpose was to paint a picture of real world experience by using professionals to speak to the students. Howard encouraged the students to pattern their lives after role models in the community.

Howard was interviewed on the show because of his leadership role in the African-American community and of Landmarks' Preservation Fund, which provides financial and technical assistance to inner-city neighborhoods. He spoke about the excellent work that is being done in Wilkensburg through the leadership of Leon Haynes. "Leon Haynes is one person who recognizes how important it is to make a difference in the community. His tenacity, his efforts go without saying," stated Howard during the television program.

Esther L. Bush, president and CEO of the Urban League of Pittsburgh and a trustee of Landmarks, commented on this unprecedented cooperation among Pittsburgh's communications community. The campaign was made possible in part through the support of Mellon Bank.

Editor's note: We thank Diane I. Daniels for providing the information for the above two stories.

# A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County



## ORDER FORM

Published by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation  
Text by Frank E. Bolden, Laurence A. Glasco, and Eliza Smith Brown  
Soft cover; 84 pages; 115 photos

ISBN 0-916670-17-1 \$8.95

A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar

Number of copies that I would like to purchase, @ \$8.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount due: \_\_\_\_\_

10% discount for members of Landmarks: \_\_\_\_\_

PA residents add 7% sales tax: \_\_\_\_\_

Plus postage and handling: \_\_\_\_\_

One to four books: \$3.00

Five to 10 books: \$7.00

TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make your check payable to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, referenced "Legacy Book.")

Please mail the book(s) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form with payment to: Louise Sturgess  
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation  
One Station Square, Suite 450  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170.

Any questions: call Louise at (412) 471-5808.

Thank you for your order!

## Elegant Temporary Housing



5405 Fifth Avenue  
682-2300

The Suite Life ... at an Affordable Rate

★ Decorator Furnished Studio, One or Two Bedroom Suites Beautifully Accessorized and includes equipped kitchen, Free local phone, VCR. ... everything!

★ **SHORT TERM FLEXIBLE LEASE**

★ 10 Minutes from Downtown. 5 Minutes to Hospitals & Universities. 1½ Blocks from Walnut Street's Fashionable Shops and Fine Restaurants

★ MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

## The Western Pennsylvania Traveler

# Amazing Town to the North

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

*In the Picturesque Valley of the Vanango [sic] surrounded by beautiful hills, which are about equally divided between woodland and cultivated fields, orchards and meadow lands, and upon both banks of the historic French creek (Vanango River), is situated the pretty little town of Cambridge Springs.*

Cutter's Guide to Cambridge Springs, 1902.

Ninety years ago, in a small town north of Pittsburgh, 40 hotels and rooming houses served an international visitation. One inn survives today, the only one to serve customers continuously since about 1885: the Riverside Inn on French Creek at Cambridge Springs.

The boom at "Cambridgeboro" came unexpectedly — and almost never came at all. In the words of the Riverside Inn history:

The discovery of the magical and healing mineral waters came about quite accidentally. A salt well driller employed by Colonel Edwin L. Drake, of Titusville fame, discovered oil in Titusville in 1859, causing an epidemic of "black gold fever" among the creek valley residents.

One of these local oil seekers was Dr. John H. Gray, who owned a large farm along French Creek. One day in early 1860, as he was walking along the banks of French Creek carrying a metal probing rod, he stopped to "lean and contemplate." When he did so, the rod quickly sank into the earth, nearly throwing him to the ground. He excitedly believed that he had made a discovery of oil; however, a jet of crystal spring water spurt forth.

The doctor then forced an old gun barrel (then a penstock), into the opening and the water flowed freely for the next 15 years. Although Dr. Gray was not too excited about his "water" discovery, it was soon rumored around town that the men who worked on the Gray farm and other farms along the creek, drank from the penstock, and rarely got sick.

In 1884, Dr. Gray took a patient to Hot Springs, Arkansas. There he supervised treatment at Blue Sulphur Springs and was struck by the similarity of its water and that which he had tapped along French Creek.

Once home, he went prospecting again, and made more openings in the valley soil. He discovered four more jets of the same "charged" spring water and for years after, the valley of French Creek was known as "Fountain Valley."

---

*We in Pittsburgh can be glad that, only two hours away an Inn continues 110 years after it was built; it has seen history made while the town grows and forms of transportation change.*

---

To test the water for medicinal purposes, Dr. Gray began treating cases of dyspepsia and kidney and liver complaint, and found, to quote an old Riverside Inn brochure, that the "waters, unassisted, affected many cures."

Determined to give the world the benefit of the water's healing powers, Dr. Gray erected a spring house and began selling mineral water at a "nominal price."

## "The First Health Spa of Its Kind"

Cambridgeboro then began to attract visitors, and was renamed Cambridge Springs in 1877. In 1885, a fine hotel built of wood was erected along French Creek at the edge of the town and named the Riverside Inn, which, the history says:

was perhaps the first health spa of its kind. Therapeutic installations included all kinds of baths — Russian, Turkish, cabinet, electrical, seasalt, mineral, and needle. A Vibratory for electrical treatments and an X-ray machine were available as well. Licensed physicians supervised these operations and one of them, Doctor G. E. Humphrey, pointed out that, "while guests could have expert electrical treatment if they wish, there is nothing at all at the Riverside to remind one of the unpleasant features of a sanitarium."

The Riverside Inn could accommodate up to 300 guests and had a spacious dining room (somewhat barren in decor compared with its current appearance) and a music room with a handsome large fireplace. When I visited the hotel the week before this past Christmas, logs in the fireplace were burning nicely and guests were chatting and reading and enjoying a drink around the fire.

According to the town historian Ed Ledrick, five local businessmen originally built the Riverside Inn, the most important of whom was J. B. Wilbur, a local hardware man. The main lobby area rose first.

However, the original group was not immediately successful. There were several defaults according to Mr. Ledrick, and then the Riverside Inn was acquired by Mr. W. D. Rider from Franklin, Pa., who was described by Mr. Ledrick as a junk dealer and a real estate promoter. He was not a wealthy man, but he enlisted partners for his real-estate ventures. He added a casino about 150 feet further along French Creek; it contained shuffle board and bowling alleys. He later added a boardwalk from the back of the hotel across the adjacent marsh to a distant spring house, now a ruin.

## Rider Hotel and Others

Bolstered by his success with the Riverside Inn, Mr. Rider acquired land at the highest point in town from Mr. T. M. Nagle of Erie and laid plans for a hotel of great magnificence and enormous size for what had been a sleepy rural village.

He broke ground on July 4, 1895, and opened in 1897 the Rider Hotel, which was described as "strictly first class" and cost \$500,000. Accommodating 500 guests in grandeur, it was embellished with an assortment of Classical and Romanesque stylistic details and a veranda providing a promenade 1,000 feet around the building. Inside it offered a theater, ballroom, a grand dining room with "sweet music during the dinner hours," and was lighted with 3,000 incandescent arc lamps powered by its own plant, according to the 1902 *Cutter's Guide*.

Hotel Riverside





A passenger elevator "in constant service" lifted guests to their rooms and the rooftop lookout where summer-long visitors went daily to view the beautiful Pennsylvania countryside. The health and therapy facilities, operating 9:00 a.m. to midnight, were "as complete as any offered in the country."

Guest rates were \$2.50 to \$5.00 a day in the summer season, reduced to \$2.00 to \$4.00 in winter.

In spite of a major fire that swept through the town in 1897, Cambridge Springs floated high on its mineral water. Served by the Franklin and Warren Railway Company, which had arrived in 1851, and by the Meadville and then the Pittsburgh & Erie Railroad Company, which changed its name to the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company in 1858, and finally by the Erie and Lackawanna, it had good service to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and New York. In 1903 the interurban trolley from Meadville arrived, and a network of trolley tracks soon connected the town with other towns in the surrounding countryside. In fact, when a well-known woman died in 1913 it was easier to ship her body via trolley north to Erie and then place it on the Bessemer Railroad to take it back south to the little town of Conneautville than it was to go overland directly to this nearby village.

Other hotels were erected, most of which were made of wood, and many in their turn burned. The Cambridge House on Main Street was razed and a new version built in 1893, but that burned in 1897. The Highland Hotel was turned into a hospital in 1934 and now serves as a nursing home, much augmented with modern additions. The Bartlett House, built of brick, opened on Main Street and, although during the years it lost its central tower and fine porches, it remains as housing for the elderly.

The boom days did not last long. Mr. Rider died in 1905 and the Rider Hotel almost immediately declined. It was sold through a much-contested bankruptcy proceeding for \$27,500 to Mr. Nagle of Erie, the man who had originally sold the property to Mr. Rider and had become a principal holder of the bonds: a familiar pattern in the real-estate industry, even today.

Although the town began to enjoy modern developments — including an electric power plant in 1905, the erection of a new City Hall by public subscription in 1908 (a curious flatiron-shaped building erected of concrete block), and common and additional hotels including the National Hotel, the Todd Sanitarium and Bath House, Shady Lawn Guest House, and the Hotel Kelly (with an almost Byzantine tower) — the decline continued.

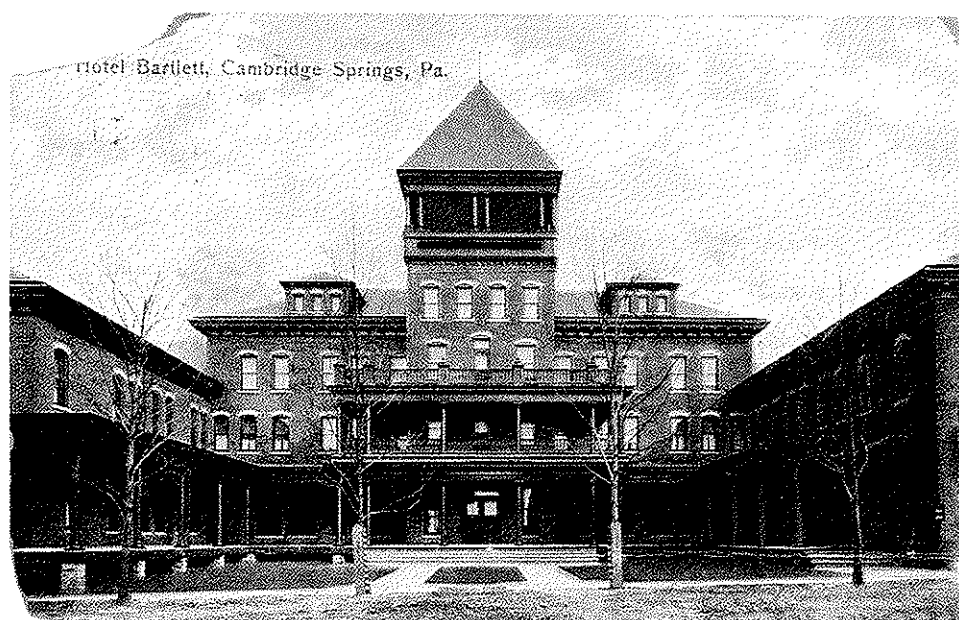
## Riverside Inn Survives

The Riverside Inn, nonetheless, continued to attract guests; however in 1908, it suffered in a tornado that traveled along several streets of the town and clipped the rear of the end of the hotel and its barn. By then it had been acquired, probably about 1895, by William Baird. He, who became one of the leading citizens of the town and president of the local bank, operated it successfully into the 1940s with his sons. Even as the springs of the area became less important and the other hotels vanished, the Bairds rebuilt the boardwalk across the marsh to the spring house and maintained lovely grounds and gardens. In fact, the Inn was particularly well known for its fine vegetables picked right from the gardens next to the hotel. There was a golf course, but it was sold later and became independent.

In the meantime, the decline of the great Rider Hotel after 1905 continued,



*Hotel Rider*



*Hotel Bartlett*

but J. J. Flannery had visions for the place and acquired it in 1910. Flannery is best known as the promoter of the element vanadium and was a major Pittsburgh real-estate developer at that time, building the Iroquois Apartments on Forbes Avenue in Oakland, which still stands. (Years ago Landmarks rescued the stained-glass window celebrating the discovery of vanadium from another building of Mr. Flannery's in Oakland.) He ran the Rider Hotel for two years but found it burdensome and sold it to the Polish National Alliance, who opened a prep school called Alliance College. It grew into a four-year institution but the building burned spectacularly in 1931. Visitors at the Riverside Inn could see the conflagration from their windows. The land was vacant until, after local controversy, a women's medium-security prison opened on the site in about 1991. It is there today.

The automobile began to dominate transportation in the 'twenties. The trolley vanished by the end of that decade, and by the 1950s the rail station was largely gone except for a portion that remains today as the volunteer firemen's pool hall.

But the Riverside Inn, weathering fire, windstorm, economic decline, and changes in attitudes toward the healing properties of mineral water, had owners of positive outlook. In 1928, plans were drawn for the Bairds to augment the Inn by creating a new main entrance at the northern end, placing two swimming pools between the wings, and handsomely landscaping the property. Unfortunately, architect C. Patton Cody of Erie must have realized belatedly that his proposed extensions would regularly have been flooded by French Creek. Then

the Great Depression set in, and the plans were not implemented in any form.

Still, the Inn, with its extensive veranda and three major wings with a central tower over the lobby continued to command the view of French Creek from the town. A breezeway was erected between the Inn and the Casino so that people could traverse between the two in inclement weather without resorting to coats and umbrellas.

The Inn began to feel decline by the 1960s. In 1968 the quarter-mile boardwalk to the springhouse closed, never to reopen. It was offered to the Rotary Club as a feature of the town to be maintained, but the cost of liability insurance was too great for the Rotarians to take on. Today, only the supporting piers of the boardwalk remain.

The Inn then passed through a series of owners, receiving along the way the great distinction of being named to the National Register of Historic Places, in spite of its deteriorating condition, in 1978.

Finally it was sold to a religious group in the early 1980s. While the group continued the hotel operation, the Inn was also used as a place of residence for about 60 people who did not integrate successfully with the townspeople. They created consternation by teaching their children themselves rather than sending them to public school. Although the religious group put a new roof on the building and maintained the Inn to some degree, they did not appear to be sympathetic to its Victorian architecture. They left the inhospitable environment of the town in 1985, selling the Inn to Michael and Marie Halliday of Meadville. By then it needed considerable work.

## Restoring Riverside Inn

As Marie Halliday explains, the Inn was in very, very bad shape. The Hallidays spent the first several years doing the basics while keeping it open as a hotel. They had to re-wire the entire structure, install an electric smoke alarm system throughout the building, enclose stairs for fire safety, replace rotting woodwork, and update rooms — a mission that extends right through today. A crew is continually working on improving the rooms, while endeavoring not to destroy their basic Victorian character. The Halliday crew is busily removing dropped ceilings and is restoring the original plaster. The Hallidays tackled the Casino building by re-establishing the ballroom on the main floor and creating the "Victorian Room" on the lower floor looking out on the gardens. It is used for marvelous dinner theater from July through December.

Adjacent to the Music Room lobby is the Blue Room, which has been refurbished, as has the main dining room — a handsome large room with a great bay window looking toward the town. The Rose Room will soon be restored, and these can be used as meeting rooms.

Marie speaks of how depressing it was to labor through the early years when they discovered how the building had been permitted to deteriorate. There were surprises every day, but some were rewarding: they discovered that all of the baseboards in the lobby were marble for instance, though they now look like wood because they are covered with brown paint. Soon these will be restored.

**Join Landmarks on  
July 22 and 23 for a  
membership tour to  
Cambridge Springs, Pa., and  
Riverside Inn.  
Call (412) 471-5808  
for tour details.**

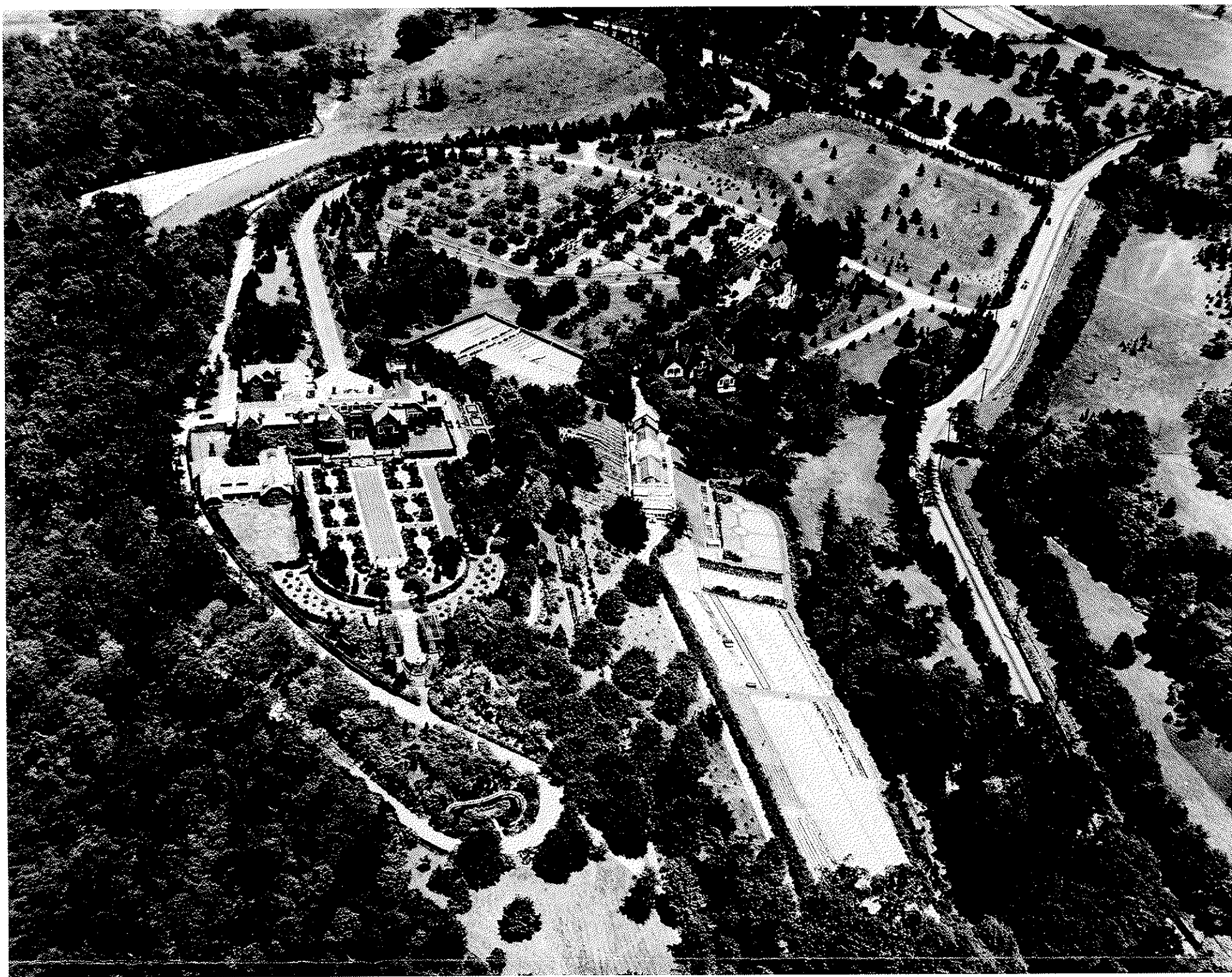
The Hallidays retained and acquired appropriate but widely varying furnishings to place throughout the lobby, the Music Room, and along every corridor in the building. Because the corridors are seven feet wide, they have been able to place chairs, china closets, buffets, lamp stands, and even sofas along them.

Private bathrooms have been added, small but serviceable, and superfluous closets have been removed in the guest rooms. Suites have been created, and the bedroom furniture is a collection of styles from about 1880 up through 1950. In fact, two beds in the same room can be astonishingly different in style.

Mike Halliday has located or unearthed a great many documents, pictures, and bric-a-brac from the Inn's past and plans to create a museum exhibition in the main hallway linking the Music Room with the lobby. On one side will be a portion of his collection of historic local postcards, numbering over 1,000, and on the other side will be a long case containing the objects. Right now the hall is lined with historic articles on the history of the Inn, photographs and engravings, and the architect's plans, never implemented, from 1928.

During this 1995 season, the dinner/theater will operate with musical reviews, mystery weekends, and a Canterbury Feast featuring Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance," followed in December by a "Riverside Christmas"

*Continued on page 14*



A complete Sewickley estate, Henry R. Rea's "Farmhill," viewed from the air in the late 1930s. The mansion was demolished in 1952, but houses built for the children and ancillary buildings remain.

# Pittsburgh's Landscape Tradition

Barry Hannegan

The Garden of Eden is widely cited as an image embodying our innate love of the planted environment. It might be also taken as a symbol of the disappearance in our area of so much of our garden heritage. It is as an effort to counteract such continuing loss in Allegheny County that the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has undertaken its Survey of Historic Parks and Gardens. By "historic," we mean any site created before 1950. It must be a designed garden or landscape, but the designer can be an amateur just as well as a master landscape architect, and in some instances we will probably never know who it was who arranged terrain and plants with such a sure eye. The site need no longer be in existence, but some record of it is essential; early photographs or prints, a watercolor perhaps, or even an account in a journal, newspaper, or diary. "Parks" and "gardens" will be freely and generously interpreted to include almost all sorts of

planted sites, such as cemeteries, the thoughtfully developed city back yard, amusement parks, and even early traffic islands.

Current knowledge of our region's garden history is scant, but enough is known to allow us to recognize that the Pittsburgh area has a long and worthy tradition of landscape design. The former city of Allegheny (now Pittsburgh's North Side) boasted one of the first significant public parks west of the Allegheny Mountains: the old Allegheny "Commons" still provides the North Side with its chief amenity. With the founding of the Allegheny Cemetery in 1844, Pittsburgh stood at the forefront of the development of the Romantic park-cemetery movement. In the years around 1900, landscape designers such as William Falconer made their careers here. At the turn of the century, leading Pittsburgh families created numerous richly planted estates, most of which survive now (if at all) in photographs and renderings. Before 1930, Pittsburgh benefited as much as any American city from the stream of public and private commissions undertaken for local clients by the Olmsted firm. More recently Pittsburgh has been home to Ralph Griswold and the firm of Simonds and Simonds, names recognized internationally in landscape architecture. Given that this much of a local tradition is common knowledge, we can be sure that there is much of interest and value still to discover and document.

The survey will move forward on several fronts. The search for existing and lost sites alike is well under way, with more than 200 of them already identified. A team of volunteer assistants is being formed to help with research.

If a park or garden still exists and if there is some documentation telling us how it looked at an earlier date, an evaluation can be made as to the present condition of the site. If circumstances allow, recommendations can be made about restoration efforts. If nothing of the landscaping survives, the lost property is entered in the list of Lost Gardens, one of the goals of the survey. Eventually, the inventory of sites existing, altered, and lost will become a register containing not only the list of sites but all known

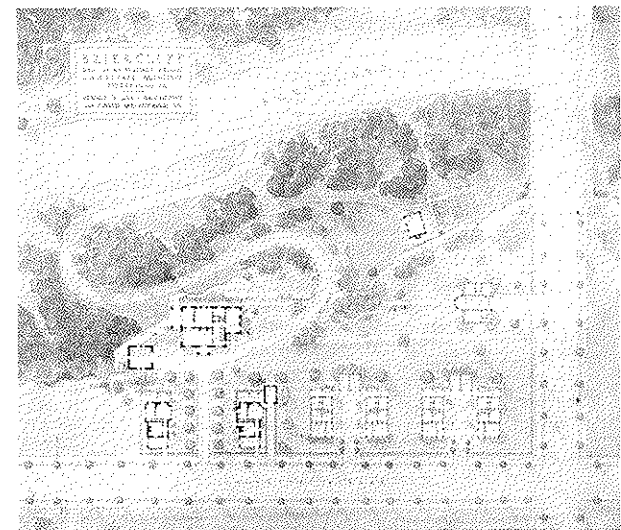
documentation for them. This register, available to all interested persons through Landmarks' library, will form the foundation of knowledge for any further investigation into local garden history.

In enlarging its range of involvement to embrace the planted as well as the built environment, Landmarks will be able to offer a fuller and richer knowledge of our local heritage and provide the support necessary for the restoration and preservation of significant examples of our garden and landscape history.

A small residential garden in Shadyside, c. 1935, identified by Landmarks' Historic Parks and Gardens Survey as an early work of Ralph Griswold.

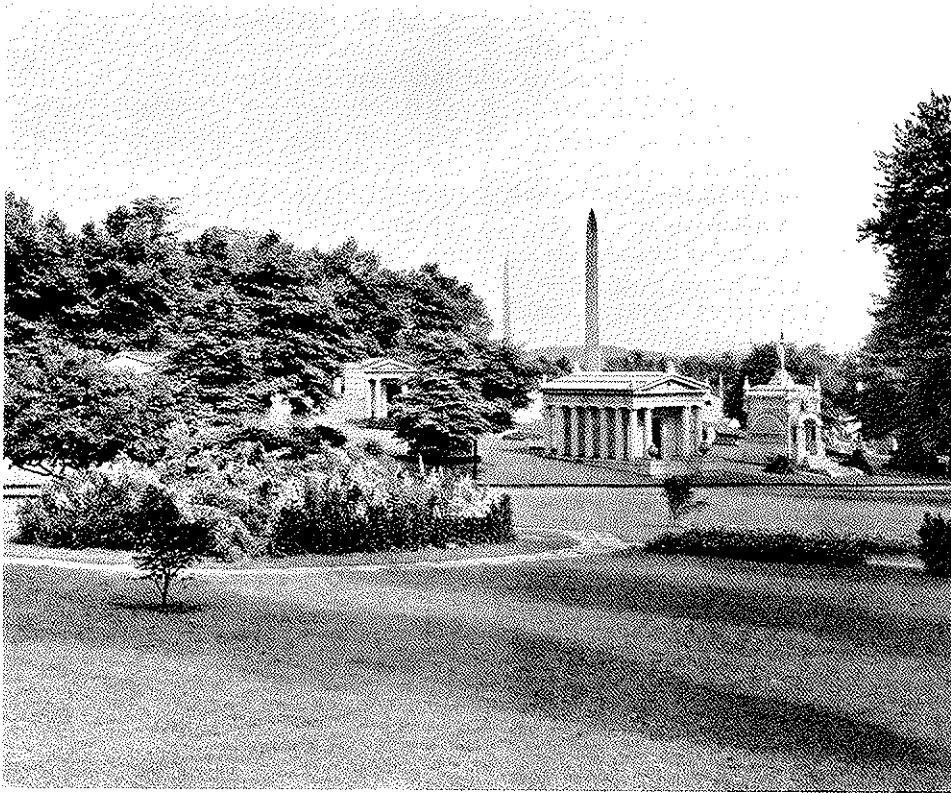


Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh

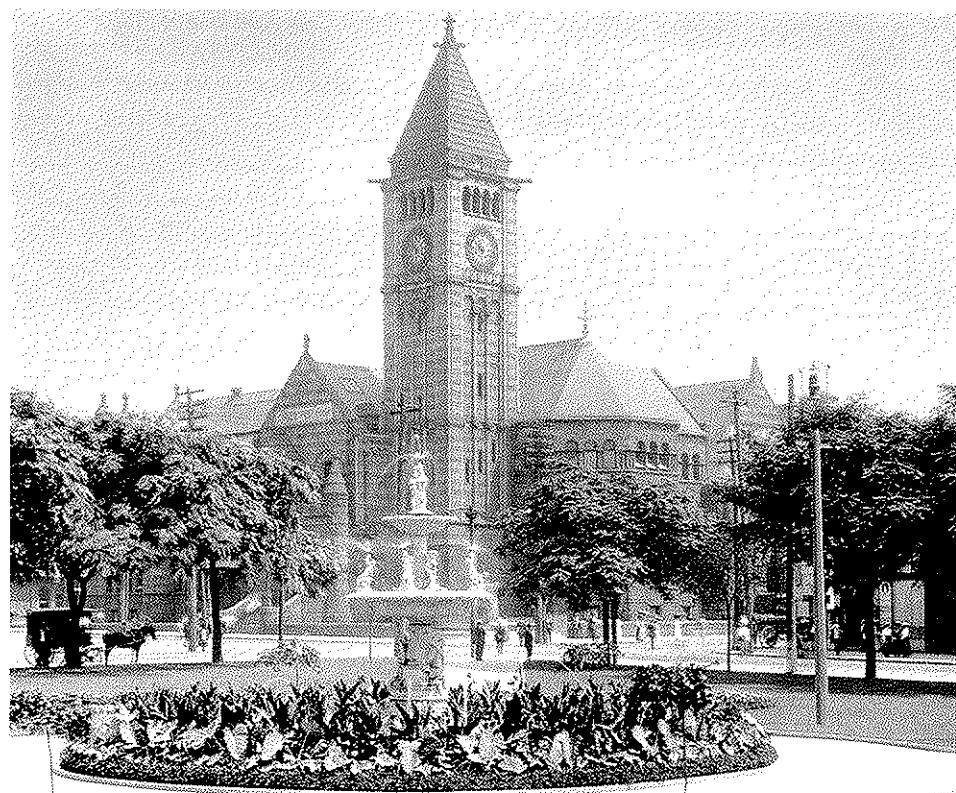


The plan of an exceptional property designed by Edward B. Lee for a noted local landscape architect, Bertholdt Frosch, around 1915. The precipitous site, typically Pittsburgh, allowed Frosch to develop an extensive "hanging" garden behind the house, which is shown in the plan just to the left of center.





Allegheny Cemetery was opened in 1844, an early example of the American “rural” cemetery type. Substantially re-designed by William Falconer early in the century, the Cemetery is a splendid example of the park style of American cemetery — a mixture of lush groves, rich ornamental plants, elegant monuments, and broad lawns — truly, the Elysian Fields.



Ober Park, in downtown Allegheny c. 1900, displayed the Victorian taste for bedding out tender plants in precise regular design.

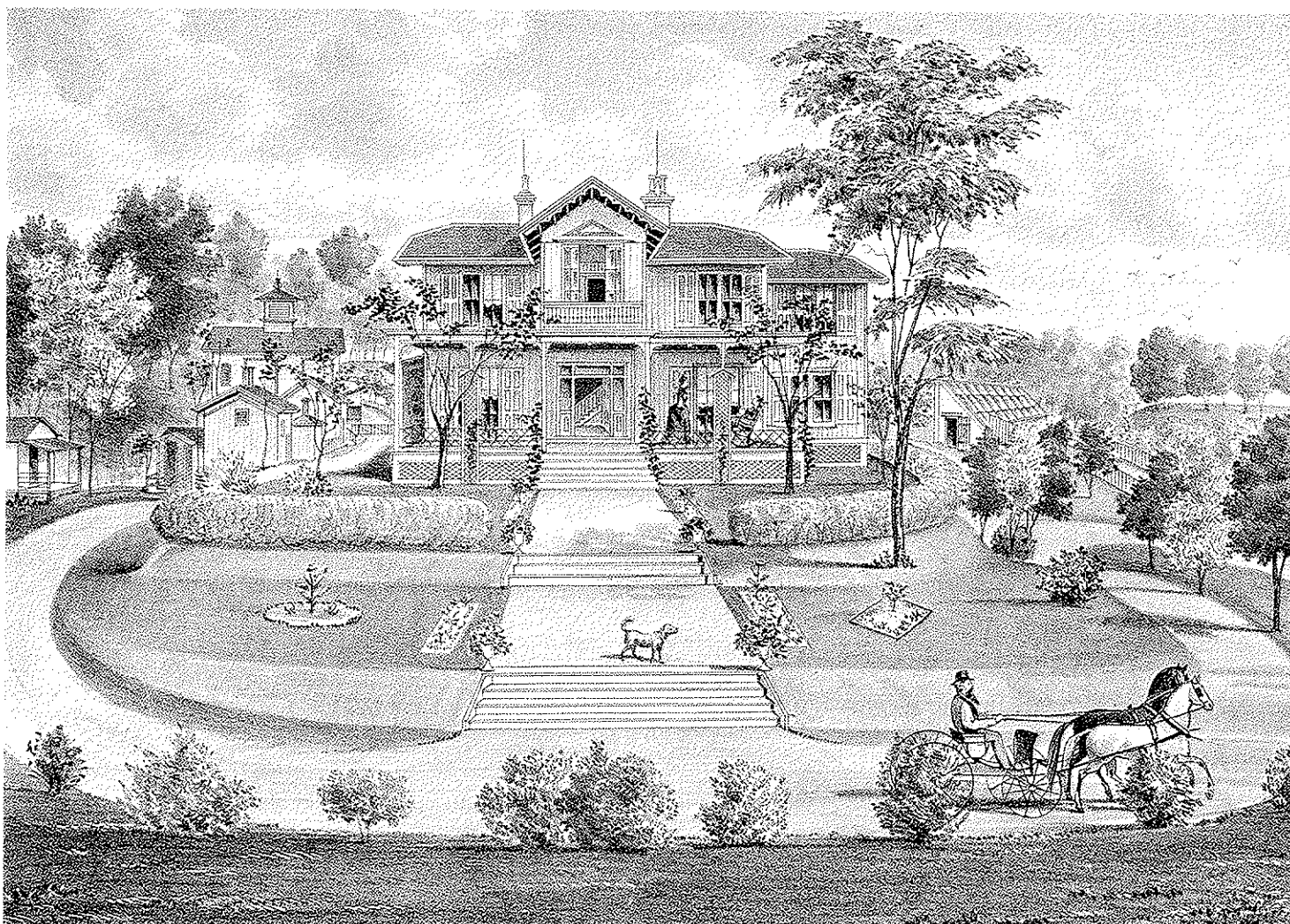


Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh



Far left: Panther Hollow early in the century, with the English-style landscaping of Schenley Park’s designer William Falconer.

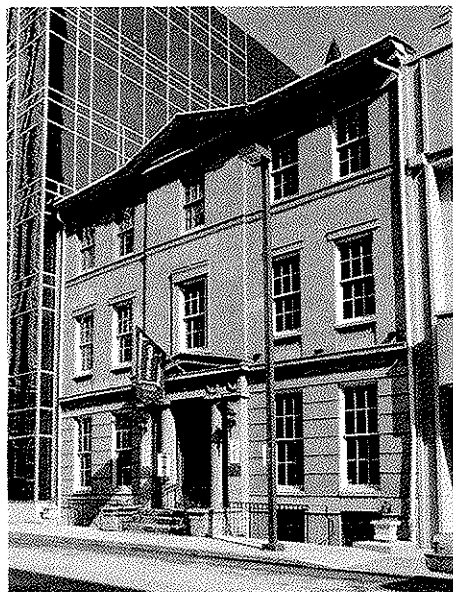
Left: The great eastward-facing terraces of the R. B. Mellon estate, sometime after 1920 when they presented, according to Jamie Van Trump, “... an impression of crowded and intricate splendour unrivaled in Pittsburgh.” “Lyndhurst,” the Thaw mansion across Beechwood Boulevard, appears in the distance.



A quintessential Victorian cottage, the residence of Daniel Jenkins, in Plum Township, as it looked c. 1876. Among many garden characteristics of the period are the scattering of geometrically shaped flower beds, the total absence of foundation planting, and ample provision for vines, which are just beginning to find their way up trellises and porch posts.

## Old Places into New Hands

*The last year has been a treat for some of us at Landmarks, in that we have been getting into buildings we had known only from the outside. It just so happened that they were up for sale and thus laid open to public view.*



### Burke's Building

John Chislett's handsome office building of 1836 has had to survive the fire of 1845, a turn-of-the-century fire of its own, and various development schemes that never quite came off. Yet it has endured, a tasteful presence downtown on Fourth Avenue, a sole survivor from one Pittsburgh historical period, and despite everything a piece of sound construction.

The owner, the Elmhurst Company, is looking for a tenant who will take the entire 8,500 leasable square feet. Elmhurst will install a complete new HVAC system, make basic repairs, and remodel the interiors to the wishes of the tenants. The interior shutters, all that remain inside from 1836, and the 1900-period stair, mantelpieces, and sheet-metal ceilings will be elements of the remodeling.

Interest in Burke's Building and its existing plan is already apparent, but no firm arrangement had been made as of early April. Anyone interested in the possibility of renting this historic building is invited to call William Hunt, The Elmhurst Company, (412) 281-8731.

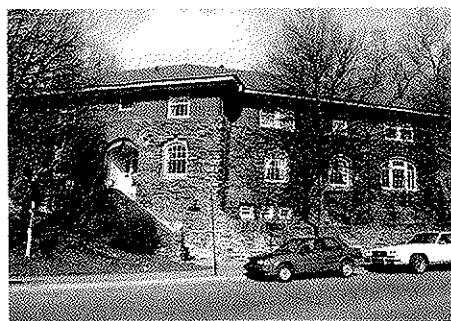


Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

### The Hamerschlag house

Palmer & Hornbostel, New York architects but with an increasingly-bigger practice in Pittsburgh, developed a quasi-ethnic or quasi-rustic manner that veered away — seemingly — from the vigorous Beaux-Arts manner for which they were better known. At Carnegie Tech, Henry Hornbostel designed in the grand manner for the main campus but housed the students in dormitories in a sort of peasant idiom, gritty rubble, fancy brickwork, oversailing eaves. Arthur Hamerschlag, Carnegie Tech's superintendent, was housed not too differently from the students in this house of c. 1910 at the turn of Bigelow Boulevard opposite Schenley High School. The walls up to the second-floor window level are in rubble, formless stone, with mortar joints so sunken as to suggest the dry masonry of a New England farm wall; above is red brickwork in stack bond, and broad boarded eaves marked off in diamonds with mold-

ings. Inside is much dark woodwork with slender moldings, unfancy but delicate beside the exterior and the rocky hillside to the rear.

The agent is Nancy Donahue, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, (412) 361-4000 or 371-7146. The asking price is \$419,000.



### "Rose Hill" (the Hill-McCallum-Davies house)

As winter ended, one of the four original houses of Evergreen Hamlet was up for sale with an asking price of about \$800,000. The board-and-batten frame house is of a sort extremely rare in the Pittsburgh area these days: a central projecting gabled element flanked by verandas is to be found overlooking the Hudson River much oftener than a Ross Township valley. The motif was probably first used in the U.S. in the 1830s by the New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis and was promoted by the landscape architect and arbiter of taste Andrew Jackson Downing. In our case the architect was the Pittsburgher Joseph W. Kerr and the date 1852. Inside "Rose Hill" the effect is light and airy, thanks to 13-foot ceilings and tall windows. Interested parties may speak with Lee Goldblum, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, (412) 361-4000 or 661-4041.



Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

### The Sellers House

Those familiar with the East End will know the Sellers house at Walnut and Shady, an Italianate house of 1858 that was long the rectory of Calvary Episcopal Church. We had thought that this would come into the benevolent hands of Joedda Sampson and Allegheny City Restorations, best known thus far for the Cafe Victoria on Western Avenue in Allegheny West, the large Sampson house across the street, and Victoria Hall, the former Ursuline Academy in Bloomfield.

The Sellers house has been left in good condition generally, and its grounds are ample and have vestiges, probably, of its early gardening layout. One rather sad feature of the house as time has left it is the gray exterior paint, applied to rather soft brick and impracticable to remove. Red paint would have restored the color approximately, but not the texture.

One might have thought that the March 10 hearing in Orphan's Court would have been a mere formality. Joedda Sampson

wanted to buy, Calvary wanted to sell, and the City of Pittsburgh, to which the property would go under the terms of the will if Calvary did not want it, did not want it either. The property, besides, was on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Commonwealth might have been assumed to favor the property's passing into the hands of someone with a proven record of good care of historic buildings.

But a Commonwealth attorney suddenly objected to a sale to Joedda and announced a readiness to appeal any court decision favoring the sale. The house is now in limbo; the law is prepared to become Dickensian, it seems, and permit ruin as a way of proving its rigor.



Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

### The Klages house

In 1922, when he was designing the Beverly Place house of the Klages family, Frederick Scheibler was no longer the obvious Modernist of Old Heidelberg or Highland Towers. His contemporary Parkstone Dwellings and Eva Harter house showed a similar departure from the geometry of a decade before toward domestic architecture that was quaint, even pixyish, but that as might be expected carried on the art glass and other craftsman work of even his most avant-garde earlier work. Big roofs with relatively low eaves now emphasized the idea of primitive shelter, the geometry was no longer so obvious, and the stone, however rugged, was in fact carefully selected and brought across the state at considerable expense: the laminated silver-gray Wissahickon schist that Scheibler must have discovered around 1910 when he was designing a house for the Philadelphia area. It is a lovely stone but that of another locality. Inside, another habit of Scheibler continues: that of inserting stained-glass panels into upstairs doors and windows, not perfect for privacy but distinctive. This house was sold early this spring.

### Sunnysedge Designated A City Historic Structure

Sunnysedge, the Dr. James D. McClelland house designed by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow in 1886 and profiled in the March issue of *PHLF News*, became a City of Pittsburgh Historic Structure by unanimous City Council vote on March 31, 1995. At the preceding hearing held on March 22, City Council heard testimony concerning historic designation, including a statement by Landmarks historian Walter C. Kidney; Council members also examined a copy of Margaret Henderson Floyd's *Architecture After Richardson* with great interest. Thirty-five historic sites have so far been designated as City Historic Structures.

### Art Cinema

A half-century ago, the Art Cinema at 809 Liberty Avenue was the place where you went to see artistic or at least imported films, such as the British thriller "48 Hours" or "Man About Town" with Maurice Chevalier. Those days passed away and porno took over long ago, but

now it looks as if the art is coming back. The theater facade is no wonderful thing, 1920s nondescript in cocoa-colored Flemish bond over a Modernistic fascia in a street with notably older fronts, but the return to "art" in a generally accepted sense will please many. The Pittsburgh Filmmakers will use this 200-seat space for films and videos, and for lectures and live performances too. Jon Jackson and Greg Mottola of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson are architects for the project, whose completion is expected in August.

### The Ornament at CMU

Mid-March saw further accumulation of paper on the controversy over what should be done with the lavish bronze bow ornament of the 1905 armored cruiser *Pennsylvania* (later, *Pittsburgh*). The Carnegie Mellon University administration continues to insist on its placement on top of the new Roberts Hall, under construction in Junction Hollow, though there it would be hundreds of feet from the nearest viewing position. We have suggested that the Ornament (why not capitalize it?) be placed on the central lawn, gilded and painted as originally. Professor Wilfred Rouleau hopes that, despite its size (17 feet long, 16 feet broad, 8 feet high, 7,000 pounds), it can go to the Naval Museum in Washington by a large and handsome model of the ship. Edward M. Furgol, a Navy Museum curator, is opposed to the Roberts Hall placement, and Norman M. Cary of the Naval Historical Center in Washington is against it too for several reasons and finds our central-lawn idea acceptable. It is not clear what will happen, though it appears that the Navy retains title to the Ornament, cares about its proper display and maintenance, and feels that the tiara-like placement on Roberts Hall would not serve these purposes.

### PCRG Publishes Annual Lending Study

*Summary of Lending in the City of Pittsburgh 1993* [Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, January 1995] is the most recent PCRG analysis of the lending records of 11 Pittsburgh banks to city neighborhoods. The summary report, funded like its predecessors by Landmarks' Preservation Fund, although unpaginated, weighs eight-and-one-half pounds! The 1995 report notes that during 1993 lending in city neighborhoods increased; it also notes that black residents still were granted far fewer loans than were white residents. The report states:

In light of these disparities, the relationships that the 32-member coalition of neighborhood groups developed in 1988 and continue to maintain with local financial institutions represents cooperative attempts to reduce, minimize, and even eliminate these gross inequalities. The question that must be asked is: what would the lending picture look like *without* PCRG and the concerned efforts of eleven banks.

It was PCRG's mission when it was first organized in 1988 to work *with* financial institutions to promote and develop fair lending patterns and practices through regular, ongoing relationships between community and bank. It is evident that, from the results of this study, significant gains have been accomplished. It should also be obvious that much work has yet to be done.

A copy of the lending summary report is available in the Landmarks library.



## Trouble in Sewickley

Since 1983, the Borough of Sewickley has had a legal mechanism for historic preservation similar to that of Pittsburgh in having a Historic Review Commission (HRC) whose Certificate of Appropriateness is required for any publicly visible exterior alteration to buildings within a designated Historic District; Sewickley has three historic districts at present.

It is practically inevitable that some property owners are going to fret or rebel when some sort of legal force is applied to the matter of preservation, and thus it has been in Sewickley, where District 3,



One of the best third-district houses: 422 Frederick Avenue in Sewickley

the least prosperous, has seen revolt against repairs of mandated quality. This situation appears to have led to a rift — incomprehension and outright accusation, indeed — between the HRC and the Borough Council. Furthermore, the original Ordinance 1024 of 1983 was revised last October through Ordinance 1144, which revised the definition of “exterior alteration” and thus limited the scope of the Certificate of Appropriateness to work of a structural nature. The ordinance now allows removal of authentic non-structural work — siding, trim, ornamentation — and mistreatment of facing materials, e.g. the painting of stone or the sandblasting of brick.

The implications of Ordinance 1144 and the intense political situation led to a meeting on February 27 at which Michael LeFevre, community preservation coordinator of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, met with HRC and Borough Council members. His tone of speaking was conciliatory. He stated that the whole square mile of Sewickley should be an historic district, such is its beauty and character, and such is the amount of money many owners have invested in the retention of these qualities. On the other hand, the HRC must realize that economic hardship can exist, and as the administrator of the Historic Preservation Ordinance it must reach an agreement with the Borough Council on the basic values: the interest of the whole community balancing the rights of the property owners. Compromise must be accepted.

Thus, Harrisburg has rightly asserted the usefulness of a preservation law — recommending, to be sure, coverage of non-structural work once more — yet accepting that it must operate within a modern, changing community with limited means.

The ordinance change elicited concern from many people and organizations. Consequently, after the February 27 meeting, Borough Council seemed to be willing to review the ordinance once again. Our letter deploring the ordinance change, sent to Borough Council, may or may not prove helpful.

It may be of interest to read portions of two documents Landmarks has prepared for the Borough. The first, dated May 20, 1994, was prepared for the Historic Review Commission:

## Historic Zoning Standards in Sewickley

**Basic attitude.** *The Historic Review Commission, by its very existence, introduces an element of the artificial into the future of certain places that have attained more or less spontaneous excellence. In large areas of Sewickley, neighborly consideration, income levels, tastes and attitudes in common, and building resources have resulted in individual beauties and overall harmonies that have led to their designation as “historic” Districts.*

*To be a force for good, the HRC must do three things: first, prevent visual degradation of the Districts; second, make decisions fair to property owners; third, encourage excellence in new construction, additions, and remodelings. The first of these is its reason for being; the others mitigate the consequences of its being.*

**Fairness.** *A few years ago, when the proposal was made to designate western Shadyside a City Historic District, protesters introduced complaints along the lines of, “My child’s tuition, spent to restore a Victorian porch!” and similar beggars-clad-in-silk apprehensions. It will probably be necessary in some cases to divide applicants for Certificates of Appropriateness into two categories. In the first, owners who acquired their properties before there was reason to anticipate being absorbed into a Historic District .... With such owners, fairness may require less-than-pure standards of preservation.*

*The second category is that of owners who have acquired property that, as they should be aware, has been or is likely to be designated, either individually or as an element of a District .... These will have no reason, if Fate has been kind and competent professional advice has been rendered, to come before the HRC making a poor mouth and pleading for harmful changes ....*

**Excellence.** *Unless a property of fundamental architectural, historic, or scenic importance demands full protection, nothing the HRC does should discourage the realization of first-rate new design, beautiful in itself and appropriate as an element of the street scene ....*

**Rationales.** *Whatever the visually-experienced results, the architecture of the last half-century has been introduced to the public on such a tide of words, doctrines, theories that it is important to remember that it is the actual, constructed building that you will have to live with ....*

**Taking time.** *Both fairness and the pursuit of excellence require that owner, architect, and HRC take ample time in the effort to produce a design that will please everyone ....*

**Style.** *The presence or absence of certain types of ornamentation or detailing should not affect judgment of a proposed design. To design well in a style requires not only an acquaintance with its ornamental vocabulary but also a sense of and respect for its characteristic massing, proportions, materials, etc. ....*

**Materials.** *It is less important to insist on conformity to the general type of material prevalent at a certain place than to insist that whatever material is proposed meet a certain standard of quality .... Imitations of materials and constructional methods are apt to look too hard, too thin, or something of the sort, and there is something irritating, besides, in the*

*thought that sound building practice of the past is being faked for mere visual effect.*

**Color.** *... There should probably be a chart of wall and trim colors based on those now to be found in a District. As always this limited palette can be exceeded if it can be shown to be of positive aesthetic good ....*

**Massing and proportion.** *In new construction, two possible problems are those of the small house set amid big older ones and the house with a large footprint but a single-story plan, so that it tends to sprawl .... The problem of the little house is easier to solve: simple overall geometry, good proportions, careful detailing, and an absence of pretense are the elements to look for ....*

**Additions.** *There appears to be an attitude in official places that any addition to an existing building should be stylistically distinct from the original work. This is an academic rather than an aesthetic position, and it may be best to repeat the original detailing or create variants on it ....*

**To sum up:** *In all this, there may be no inviolable rule. While an HRC should not be whimsical, with no apparent rational link between one decision and the next, it is not a Civil Service entity with a manual of rules and guidelines. Its decisions should be as close to perfect as may be, given all the matters involved, and since the beauty and the perceived essential quality of a community are fundamental considerations, intuition should accompany more obvious and plodding forms of reasoning.*

Advice on the individual Historic Districts followed.

The second document, dating from this March, defines “trim” for the Borough Council, as it had requested:

**Trim:** *This term is not precisely definable, but generally implies builder’s work that:*

- is visibly different from ordinary wall areas, doors, window sash, or the like;*
- emphasizes the edges of wall areas, openings in walls, or other places where one area ends and another perhaps begins;*
- can be applied or removed without affecting the structural integrity of any part of the building.*

*Thus, typical trim would be decorative carpentry: door or window surrounds of millwork or profiled planking, corner boards on clapboarded house walls, vergeboards hanging from gables, imitations of stonework such as pediments or quoins. Decorative work, even woodwork, applied to building exteriors need not under this definition be trim; one could put fancy jigsaw work in the middle of a wall area, for instance. In some cases, stonework in a brick structure could perhaps be called trim if it functions as does its wooden counterpart and has no serious involvement in structural integrity.*

## Sewickley Brochure

*Preserving the Historic Architecture of a Classic American Village: Sewickley, Pennsylvania* is now available at The Landmarks Store. The 16-page paperback brochure, prepared by the Sewickley Historic Review Commission, provides an overview of the architectural styles found in Sewickley.

# AT THE LANDMARKS STORE



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

## VIDEOS BRING THE PAST ALIVE

Viewing images of past places and events is more immediate and, for some more compelling, than a verbal retelling of old tales. A large selection of audio-visual tape recordings, priced from \$19.95 to \$59.95, is available at The Landmarks Store to help us see history as well as read about it.

- **Historic Houses:** The store stocks two videos prepared by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist historic property owners: “Inspecting an Old House Before You Buy, Attic to Basement” and “Maintaining Your Old House, Attic to Basement,” \$29.95 each.
- **Pittsburgh:** “The Spirit of Pittsburgh” presents an introduction and overview of the city while “Downtown Pittsburgh” and “Wylie Avenue Days” explore the Golden Triangle and Hill District sections of the city, respectively. Lost architectural treasures are recalled in “Things That Aren’t There Anymore” and “Stuff That’s Gone.” Pittsburgh’s splendid churches are the subject of “Holy Pittsburgh” and residential architecture — creative, grand, quirky, and down-home — is explored in “Houses Around Here.” Pittsburgh’s rivers and the bridges that cross them are shown in “The Mon, The Al & The O” and “Flying off the Bridge to Nowhere.” All of the above are part of the award-winning, ongoing series produced by QED Communications, Inc., and are \$19.95 each.
- **Regional Landmarks and Prominent Citizens:** Documentary images and film allow us to relive the tragedy of “The Johnstown Flood” (Johnstown Flood Museum, \$24.95) or enjoy the rides at the now lost “West View Park” (Kelleher, Russell, & Young, \$24.95). You needn’t leave your house to take “A Video Tour of Old Economy Village” (Videotone, \$19.95), or, via “Kennywood Memories,” share happy days at the best preserved amusement park in the country, or visit “The House on the Waterfall,” Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural masterpiece Fallingwater, designed for the Kaufmann family. Another prominent local family is the subject of “Heinz: The Story of an American Family” (QED, \$19.95 each).

These and other videos available at The Landmarks Store make the perfect gift for Pittsburghers living away and for visitors to the city who want to “take home” and share the experience of “being there.”

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

THE LANDMARKS STORE  
BALCONY LEVEL  
THE SHOPS AT STATION SQUARE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219-1170  
412-765-1042

# View from a Window

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.



The Monongahela Wharf in modern times, with Wood Street to the right.

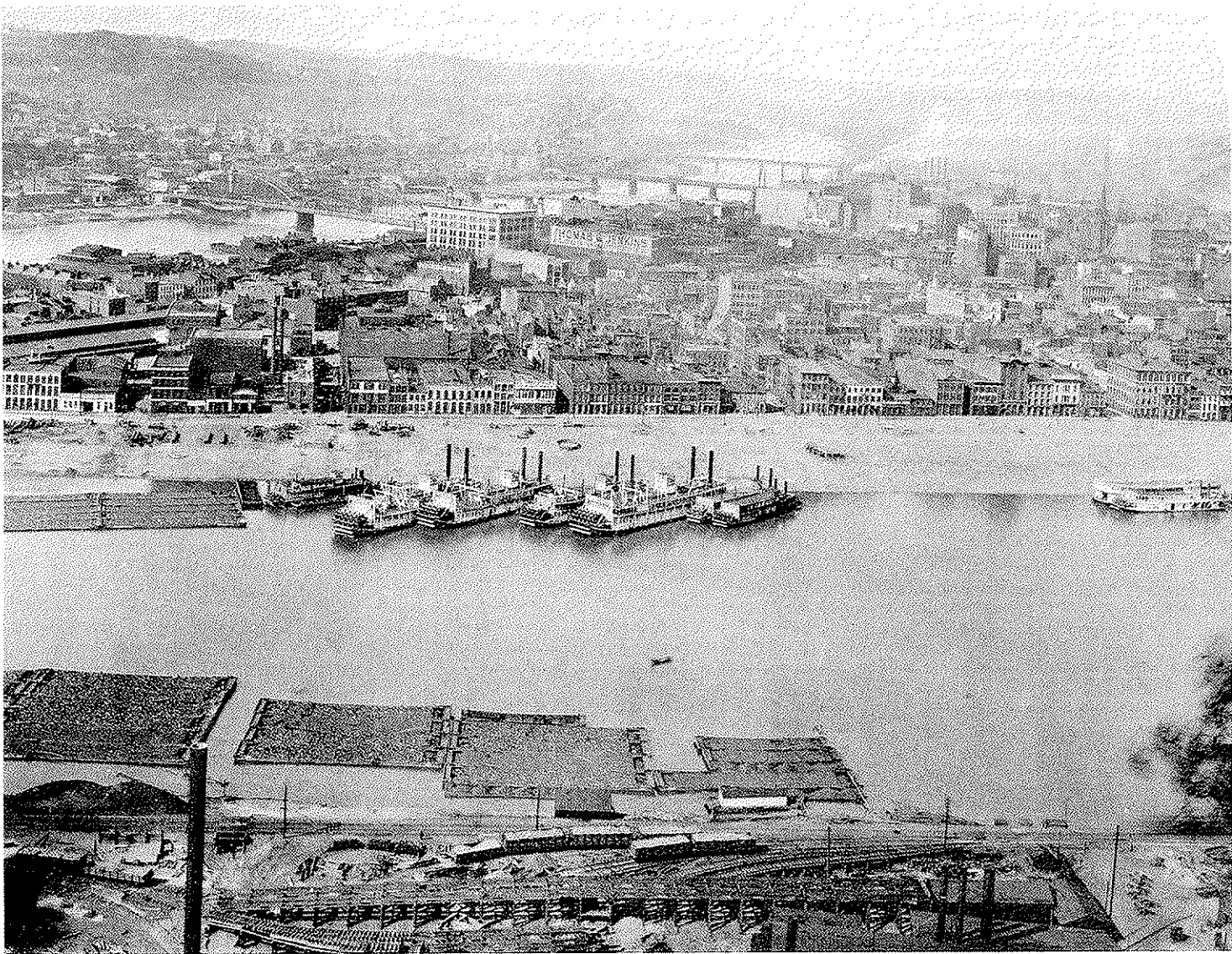
The historic buildings of Water Street, or Fort Pitt Boulevard, or Firstside, or by any other name are, like Shakespeare's roses, just as sweet.

My office window in The Landmarks Building at Station Square frames the wonderful late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century buildings between Wood Street and Market Street facing the Monongahela River. They are amazingly intact.

True, there has been some insensitive remodeling of two or three of them at street level; Victorian window panes have been replaced with modern dark sheets of glass, and one building has had an additional floor added which is a cross between a sensitive renovation and a gizmo, but by and large a section of our river-front architectural heritage is still intact.

Rising behind it is the sleek and always startling PPG complex, and beyond it the cardboard-boxy Fifth Avenue Place, and to the east the CNG Building trying to

Below: The Monongahela Wharf in 1893, from Mount Washington. The large white building left of center is Joseph Horne's new store, burned out in 1897.



make its statement with its girded bridge roof line, but in-between is the magnificently ornamented, one might almost say encrusted, Benedum-Trees Building. And directly behind the gentle buildings of Firstside is the Boulevard of the Allies parking garage, which seems to send steel beams going in every direction.

How refreshing are the buildings of Firstside, standard bearers of ordinary commercial design of the nineteenth century but humane in scale, handsomely decorated, and stalwart survivors.

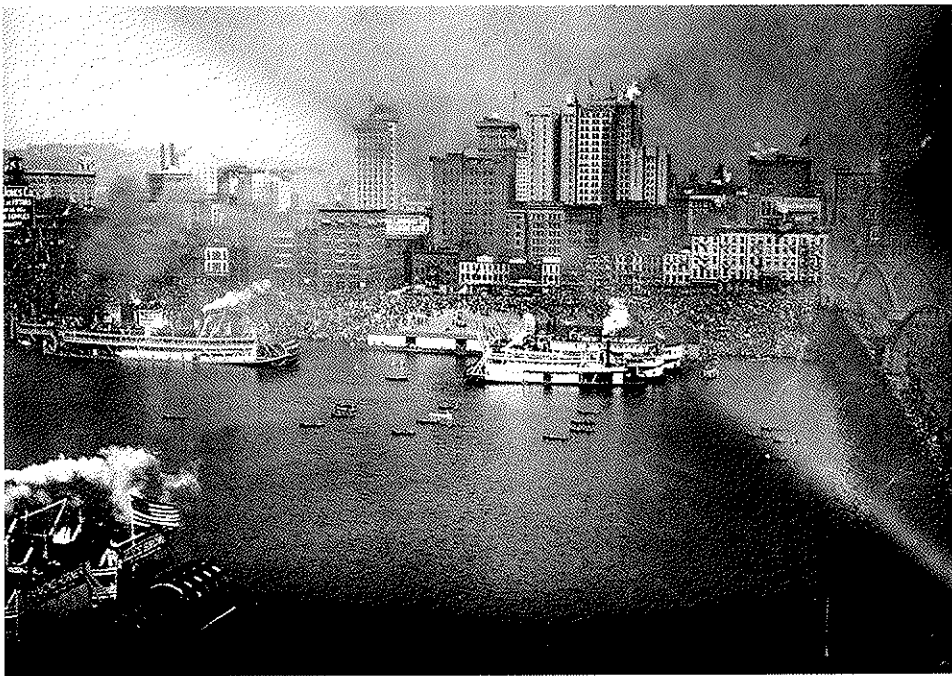
All are built of brick with painted wood trim, and they rise in height from Market Street to Wood Street, where the newest of the buildings, the Conestoga,

*How refreshing are the buildings of Firstside, standard bearers of ordinary commercial design of the nineteenth century but humane in scale, handsomely decorated, and stalwart survivors.*

commands the corner in spite of its diminished cornice and the unfortunate fire escape attached to the building on the river side.

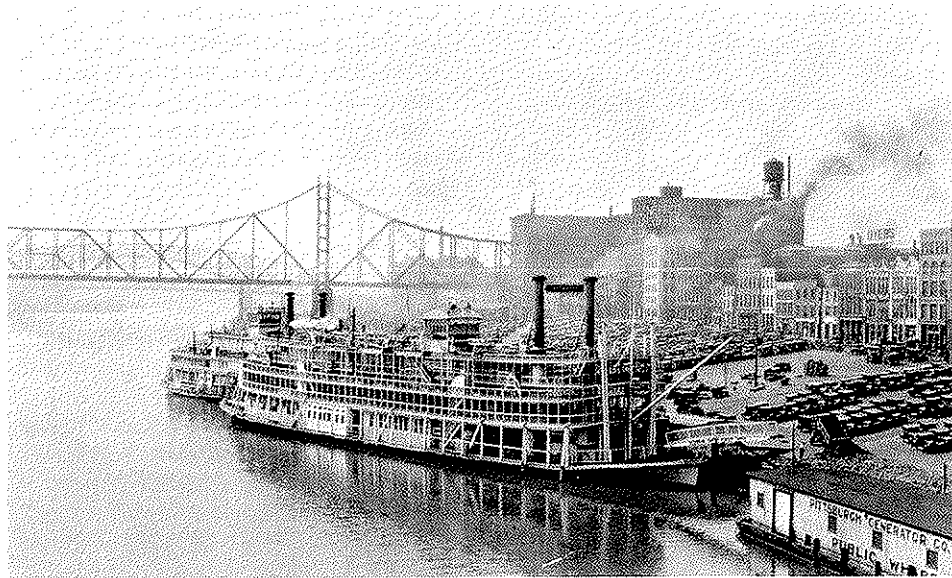
Current uses provide a nice urban mixture, including professional firms, the restaurant Piccolo Piccolo, and an "automatic control" company. Deterring pedestrian use of the street and close-up enjoyment of these pleasant facades is the noise from the Parkway and Fort Pitt Boulevard; plans to relocate the upstream side of Fort Pitt Boulevard by shoving it against the downstream side and lowering the Parkway will probably reduce the noise while increasing the sense of traffic passing the buildings.

A park along the river now occupied by the wharf parking is in the distant future:



The Monongahela Wharf from the top of the P&LE Station in 1908, during the Sesquicentennial celebrations.

The Monongahela Wharf around 1920, with the Wabash Bridge in the background and still-remaining buildings to the right. The large packet is probably the Homer Smith of 1914, later the Greater Pittsburgh that burned in 1931.



a wonderful idea, but will the funds be available to maintain it? I strolled through Point State Park recently only to find trees cut down to the ground but not replaced and shrubbery removed, and I was reminded of the wildflower planting that has long since vanished. The master plan for restoring Schenley Park entails a \$20 million renewal package; our other parks all need millions of dollars of maintenance. How will the money be found to maintain this projected new park and the new park along the Allegheny River as well? Let's include endowment funds in the capital budgets for them.

In front of these buildings, wharfs, streets, railways, expressways, and parking facilities all have come and gone. In my own lifetime I have seen the Parkway built and will soon see it demolished in this area and rebuilt.

But the little buildings of Firstside remain, and in the sweeping view of downtown from Station Square they continue to engage the eye most pleasantly while Progress comes and goes around them.



## Circa 1930

This excellent view of the present Station Square property and the city beyond was presented to us by Robert L. Spear, Senior Vice-President of Prudential Securities.

The presence of the Koppers Building on the horizon toward the left but the absence thus far of the Gulf Building dates the view about 1930. The fresh limestone of the Koppers Building shows up white, but the newest buildings have generally returned to darker, richer colors from the light terra cotta and granite of earlier in the century. Indeed the new Grant Building, a few blocks left of the Smithfield Street Bridge, has a dark bronzy look.

Monongahela Wharf, sloping and without super-added highway construction, is a parking lot, though a few wharfboats and packets continue an earlier form of traffic. In the foreground, the Wabash Bridge looks trim and handsome, and ready to stand a thousand years.

The Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Station has taken over all the south shore of the Monongahela that is readily visible, including the cleared land just this side of the bridge where the Clinton Furnace, first blast furnace along the river, had stood from 1859 until a year or two before. The railyard area will increase over the next two decades but then decline, while the 700-foot trainshed by the Smithfield Street Bridge will come down in 1935.

In the late 1950s a plan was proposed to put a stadium across the river — upon it, that is — replacing the bridge, and the late 1960s witnessed briefly a mixed-development scheme that would have obliterated every trace of the P&LE Station.

Today Station Square proudly occupies the area to further the elaborate plans of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Our organization is entering its fourth decade of preserving the history and traditions of Pittsburgh.



## Preservation Concerns for New Zoning Code

*This article was submitted by Carol Kowall, Esq. on behalf of Preservation Pittsburgh. Ms. Kowall is a member of Preservation Pittsburgh and serves on the Zoning Advisory Group appointed by Mayor Tom Murphy.*

The City of Pittsburgh is engaged in total revision of its Zoning Code. On the face of things, the Zoning Code does not address preservation issues, which are left to the Pittsburgh Preservation Ordinance. However, the superficially neutral Zoning Code provisions can have a major impact on the preservation and adaptive reuse of historically, architecturally, or culturally significant structures and districts throughout the city. The last revision of the Zoning Code, from 1958, had a wide variety of both planned and unplanned effects on commercial and residential areas. For neighborhoods and structures not designated under the Preservation Ordinance, zoning can tip the balance of the economic decisions property owners make. It is essential that the preservation community have a voice in the development of the Zoning Code.

Landmarks and Preservation Pittsburgh urge those interested in the preservation issues which will be affected by the revised Zoning Code to attend the forthcoming public meetings on the proposed changes in the industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential sections of the Zoning Code.

One example of a seemingly neutral zoning provision that affects demolition versus adaptive reuse is building height limitation. In a neighborhood where the existing commercial buildings are primarily two stories high, raising the limit to permit four-storied buildings will encourage the construction of higher buildings, allowing more intensive use of particular parcels of property. Some neighborhoods in Pittsburgh need such increases for viable commercial neighborhood centers. However, other neighborhoods have relatively healthy commercial areas and many buildings that add charm and intimacy to their shopping areas. In these neighborhoods, developers can be prompted to consider reuse of existing structures through unaltered building height standards.

Other zoning techniques can encourage rehabilitation and restoration of significant structures. A developer could be offered "transfer of development rights" as a reward for restoring an existing significant building. Transfer rights would permit a developer to transfer the right to build a larger or taller building to another parcel of land where the added height or size would not harm the area's character and where additional development was needed to upgrade a depressed commercial district. A number of other zoning incentives to encourage adaptive reuse and restoration have been adopted by other cities to maintain buildings which add a sense of place and preserve the uniqueness of the social fabric and history of the city.

Pittsburgh has a wealth of large residential structures well suited to restoration and adaptive reuse. In structures where restoration for single-family occupancy is prohibitively expensive, the trend has been to increase the intensity of use and permit conversion to multiple residence dwellings, but this may not always be the best answer to maintaining neighborhood character. Pittsburgh should look closely at very low-impact commercial or semi-commercial uses that may, in some instances, encourage restoration and maintenance of large residential structures. With appropriate limitations a nonprofit foundation, an architect's home-based business, or a similar type of occupancy may exist in a single-family neighborhood with less impact on traffic and noise than a multi-unit residence might make. These types of businesses may have the funds to restore and maintain their structures in a manner that an absentee landlord may not.

Lot-size requirements, floor-area ratios, and landscaping and parking requirements are only a few elements of the revised Zoning Code that must be carefully scrutinized for the impact that specific changes — whether limitations or expansions of existing regulations — will have on our city's commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential districts.

Pittsburgh has many architecturally interesting commercial buildings throughout the city. Our industrial and mixed-use areas have large structures of outstanding design and ornamentation.

Many of these buildings do not necessarily qualify for the protection of historic designation yet they are, in the minds of Pittsburghers, "landmarks" nonetheless. Do we want to have these structures replaced with concrete block buildings lacking any ornamentation apart from cheaply designed decorative facades or garish fluorescent signage? Do we want to encourage the development of pre-packaged chain building designs reproduced in every other city in the country? Which alternative will foster a healthy balance of commercial and residential uses? Which choices will maintain the city's regional cultural and commercial centers with aesthetically attractive residential neighborhoods for every economic class? These choices depend on a Zoning Code with sensitivities to both the economic needs and aesthetic amenities of Pittsburgh.

Voice our common concern: the new Code must not tip the balance against adaptive reuse in favor of a misplaced emphasis on changes that focus only on the bottom line and thus encourage commercial development that has no concern for quality of life.

## THE LANDMARKS STORE

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

### GARGOYLES

*Fanciful and Grotesque Creatures That  
Originally Adorned Waterspouts and  
Kept Evil Spirits at Bay*

All manner of whimsical beings are available —  
from tiny, leering faces to full-figures — 2 inches  
to 2 feet high, from \$2.95 to \$110.

- Statuettes
- Candleholders
- Bookends
- Decorated Boxes and Corbels
- Pewter and Sterling Silver Earrings, Pins, and Pendants
- T-Shirts

For Kids — Carve Your Own  
Gargoyle Kits, Ages 8 and up

(Too gruesome? We also sell lovely rosettes,  
medallions, mirrors, and angels!)  
Members of Landmarks receive a  
10% discount on all items.

THE SHOPS AT STATION SQUARE  
ON THE BALCONY  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219-1170  
(412) 765-1042



### HISTORIC QUEEN ANNE VICTORIAN reflective of Richardson style.

Professionally refurbished top to bottom.  
Spectacular! Award-winning! All modern  
amenities. Sewickley Village location.  
Offered at \$675,000.

For details call Sally Defino 262-5500.

**Howard Hanna Real Estate**

# Join LANDMARKS

## Support the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in its work to:

- Identify and preserve the architectural, historical, and industrial landmarks in Allegheny County;
- Encourage and support the revitalization of historic inner-city neighborhoods through Preservation Fund initiatives and programs;
- Manage Station Square, the historic riverfront project initiated by Landmarks in 1976;
- Create tours, publications, and educational programs on local history and architecture;
- Educate the public about historic preservation through the resources of Landmarks' library and archives;
- Continue a well-managed, responsive, and creative membership organization with the ability to implement these goals on a long-range basis.

## Membership Benefits

- Free subscription to *PHLF News*.
- Many volunteer opportunities.
- A 10% discount at The Landmarks Store in The Shops at Station Square.
- Free access to our reference library in The Landmarks Building at Station Square.
- Discounts on, or free use of, all educational resources.
- Reduced rates on tours, and invitations to lectures, seminars, and special events.

## Membership Categories

Please enroll me as a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. I have enclosed a contribution in the amount of (*check appropriate category*):

- ☐ Individual \$20 or more
- ☐ Family \$25 or more
- ☐ School and Non-profit \$25 or more
- ☐ Senior Citizen \$10 or more
- ☐ Corporate Supporter \$50 or more
- ☐ Corporate Member \$250 or more
- ☐ Life Benefactor \$5,000 (one-time gift)

The portion of your dues exceeding \$15 is tax-deductible.

"A copy of the official registration and 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)

Please enroll me as a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order to:

Membership  
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation  
One Station Square, Suite 450  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170

**PHLF** Creating a Future  
for Pittsburgh by  
Preserving its Past

## Amazing Town to the North

*Continued from page 7*

musical. Last December, I attended the Christmas show, performed by a theatrical group of fine singers from Erie who took us back with considerable nostalgia to the U.S.O. entertainments of the troops during the Second World War. They performed to a packed house; in fact, the entire series of Christmas shows was sold out in advance.

*If you were to visit the  
Riverside Inn today,  
this rambling wooden building  
would exhibit no obvious sign of  
what it was around the turn  
of this century — save one:  
it does stand as one living symbol  
of the town's once international  
attractiveness — the Riverside Inn  
on French Creek, still providing,  
as it says, "delectable fare,  
a bottle of wine, a soft bed,  
the end of a perfect day."*

Food is American hearty fare, consisting at breakfast of a buffet of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, and pancakes with fresh fruit and juice. Lunch is an assortment of sandwiches, and dinner features beef and turkey, real mashed potatoes, and an assortment of desserts. There is no low-fat menu for those who are concerned about health issues but the food is good. The room rates this season are higher than those advertised by William Baird in 1902 but are still quite modest. Mr. Baird asked \$2.00 to \$3.00 a day or \$10.00 to \$17.50 a week. The rates at last notice were \$85.00 a day for a weekend double room, and suites were \$100. A single room during the week is as little as \$40; all rooms include the breakfast buffet. The dinner/theater is only \$30 a person, and you can have a room for \$20 more.



*Hotel Riverside (Riverside Inn) today*

Although the mineral springs are still available, the Inn utilizes city water. Nevertheless, the hotel provides the marvelous therapeutic effects of its languorous public spaces, and the wonderful views from the breezeway of French Creek and of the grounds of the Inn with the shuffleboard, horseshoes, golf putting, and tennis. It sells itself as "just a few pleasant miles from everywhere." We in Pittsburgh can be glad that, only two hours away an Inn continues 110 years after it was built; it has seen history made while the town grows and forms of transportation change. Even though our reliance on mineral water as a curative has waned (and may now be in for a revival), the Inn has outlasted a series of owners, some who honored and maintained it, some who did not. Now it has been adopted by sensitive and devoted new ones.

If it could speak, this rambling wooden building would tell many stories, not just the secrets of its guests but the tales of an enormous but short-lived boom in a tiny place. If you were to visit it today, this rambling wooden building would exhibit no obvious sign of what it was around the

turn of this century — save one: it does stand as one living symbol of the town's once international attractiveness — the Riverside Inn on French Creek, still providing, as it says, "delectable fare, a bottle of wine, a soft bed, the end of a perfect day."

## Directions from Pittsburgh to Riverside Inn, Cambridge Springs:

- I-279 North to 79 North
  - Go approximately 100 miles from Pittsburgh and take Exit 37, Route 198 East
  - Go approximately two miles on 198, turn left on Route 6 and 19 at Saegertown
  - Proceed approximately eight miles north to Cambridge Springs
  - Cross the railroad tracks, and at the public library turn right, and drive one block to the front entrance at the end of the street.
- Approximate driving time: two hours

# E V E N T S

*Only the dates and titles of upcoming events are listed below. Invitations with detailed information will be mailed to all members, so be alert when sorting through your mail! Or, call Landmarks Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at (412) 471-5808 for further information or to make reservations.*

**May 15-19  
Preservation Week Downtown  
Walking Tours**

**May 19-21  
Stratford Hall and Other Virginia  
Plantations**

**June 8 and 10  
Landscape Designs of Frederick  
Law Olmsted in New York and  
Pittsburgh**  
(Pitt's Informal Program)

**June 19-23  
Exploring Architecture Teacher  
Inservice (AIU)**

**June 26-30  
Exploring Your Neighborhood  
Teacher Inservice (AIU)**

**July 10-14  
Community Technical Assistance  
Center Conference**

**July 10-14  
African-American Historic Sites  
Teacher Inservice (AIU)**

**July 17-21 and 24-26  
Pittsburgh Heritage Teacher  
Inservice (AIU)**

**July 22 and 23  
Cambridge Springs and Grove  
City Weekend Bus Tour**

**August 5 and 6  
Downtown Dragons Family  
Walking Tour**

**September 7, 14, 21, 28, 30  
Caring for Your Historic Home**  
(Pitt's Informal Program)

**September 9  
Bus Tour to Cleveland, OH**

**September 17  
Touring the Allegheny County  
Courthouse AND Jail**

**October 1  
Gateway Clipper Riverboat  
Cruise**

**October 5 and 7  
Pittsburgh's Architectural  
Treasures, Part I**  
(Pitt's Informal Program)

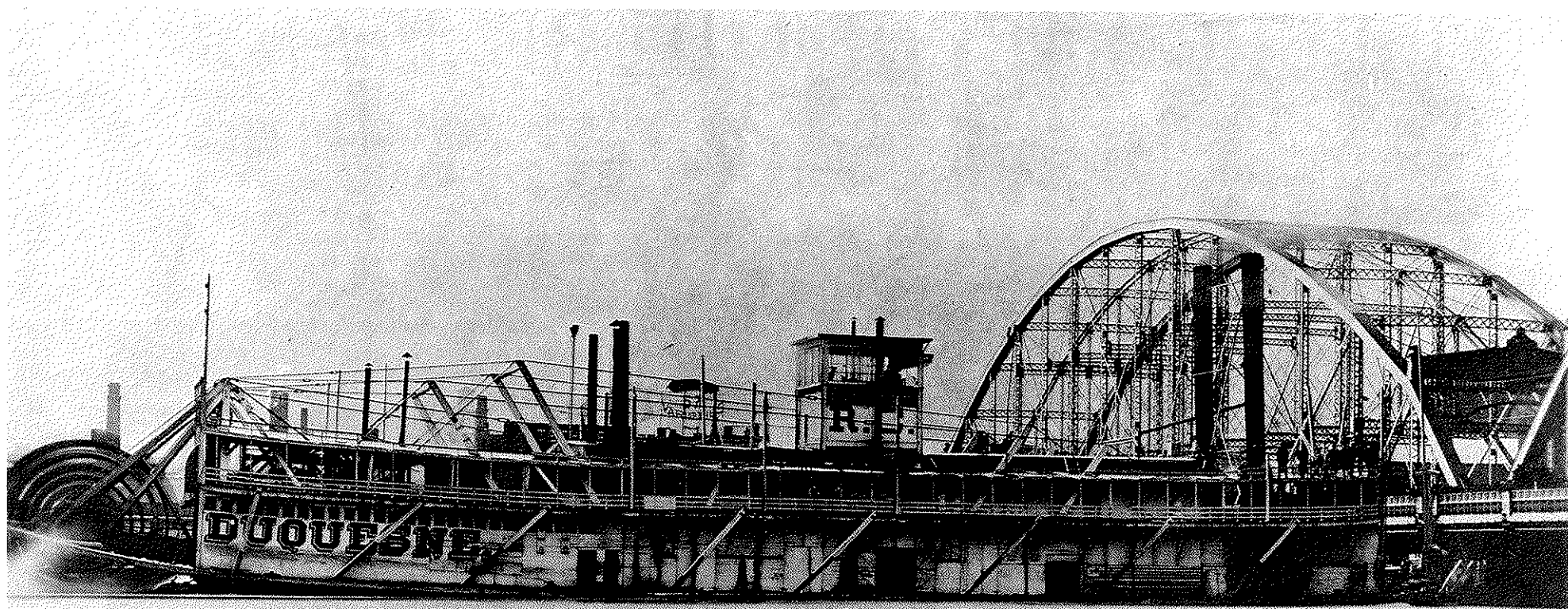
**October 23  
Distinguished Lecture and Award  
of Merit Presentation**

**December 3  
Neville House and Old St. Luke's  
Holiday Tour**

## Noted Architect Lectures During Preservation Week

Thomas Gordon Smith, professor of architecture at Notre Dame University and author of *Classical Architecture: Rule and Invention*, will lecture on "Nineteenth-Century Grecian Architecture in the Ohio River Valley: History and Current Influence," on Wednesday evening, May 17, at the Mellon Institute Auditorium. The lecture is sponsored by A.I.A. Pittsburgh and the Historic Review Commission of the City of Pittsburgh. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Mellon Institute, Fifth and South Bellefield Avenues in Oakland. Call (412) 471-9548 for details.





## Out of the Library: Picture of a Confrontation

In March 1914, with the Allegheny River flooded, the tugboat Duquesne nosed directly up to the Sixth Street Bridge of 1892 at the behest of the U.S. War Department, apparently just to show how inadequate the Allegheny River clearances were. Before 1907 the Duquesne would not have gotten above the Union Bridge, down by the Point, but the demonstration resulted nonetheless in new bridges with higher clearances.

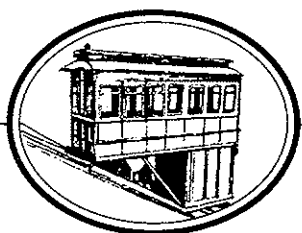
The Sixth Street Bridge was floated away in 1927 to the Neville Island Back Channel to become the Coraopolis Bridge that was demolished in 1994. The Duquesne was built as the H.M. Hoxie at Cincinnati in 1887, exploded in 1906, was rebuilt and renamed in 1907, and was scrapped about 1917. She was a rather old-fashioned wooden boat, as her hog truss suggests, was 213 feet long, and belonged to the Combine, the largest fleet of coal haulers.

### LANDMARKS Welcomes

•  
BLUE CROSS OF  
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
and  
PNCBANK CORP

•  
as Corporate Member Benefactors  
of the Pittsburgh History &  
Landmarks Foundation.

*Landmarks appreciates the commitment  
of Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania  
and PNCBank Corp in helping us  
create a future for Pittsburgh  
by preserving its past.*



### THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF **THE DUQUESNE INCLINE**

*Dedicated to the preservation of  
that which cannot be replaced*

For a membership  
please phone 381-1665

### HARB-CLG Workshop

on urban design, planning,  
and preservation issues

Saturday, May 13, 1995  
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Community College  
of Allegheny County

*\$35 per person, lunch included*

Keynote: Robert A. Beauregard,  
"The Post Modern City and Historic  
Preservation"

Topics: Architectural styles, preservation  
planning, legal issues, grassroots advoca-  
cy, economic development versus historic  
resources

Co-sponsored by Preservation Pittsburgh,  
the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission, Community College of  
Allegheny County, and the City of  
Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission.

Call (412) 621-4114 for details.

*[HARB-CLG: Historic Architectural  
Review Boards-Certified Local  
Governments]*

### Historic Harmony Tour Saturday, June 3, 1995 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tour private homes and museum build-  
ings. Lunch is available at Stewart Hall.  
\$10 Donation. Call 452-7341 for details.



### DOCUMENT AND PHOTO PRESERVATION

- Are you interested in knowing how to make your family photographs last?
- Do you cherish the owner's manual for your 1955 VW Beetle?
- Do you want your wedding and baby videos to survive more than ten years?
- Are you trying to find remaining traces of your family history?

Come to: The Sheraton Hotel,  
Station Square  
on Friday, May 19 from 7–9 p.m.

Discuss these issues and ask questions. You will also learn what Pennsylvania libraries, archives, historical societies, and records repositories are doing to make sure our collections will last for future generations to use and enjoy. The Chair of the Pennsylvania Preservation Advisory Committee will be present to talk about what is being planned for Pennsylvania, and what other states have done to preserve their cultural heritage. Find out what you can do to help. Give us your ideas and suggestions.

A public information  
meeting sponsored by  
the Pittsburgh History  
& Landmarks Foundation



### Architecture after Richardson Receives an A.I.A. Award

At the April 1995 convention of the Society of Architectural Historians, Margaret Henderson Floyd learned that her book, *Architecture after Richardson*, had received an award in history from the American Institute of Architects. The A.I.A. jury, chaired by Philip Johnson, designer of PPG Place, chose Margaret's book as one of 44 from seven countries to be cited for Excellence in International Book Publishing; of these, 11 are in the category of history.

Landmarks was the co-publisher of *Architecture after Richardson* in 1994 with The University of Chicago Press. The book (\$75.00) may be purchased at The Landmarks Store in Station Square.

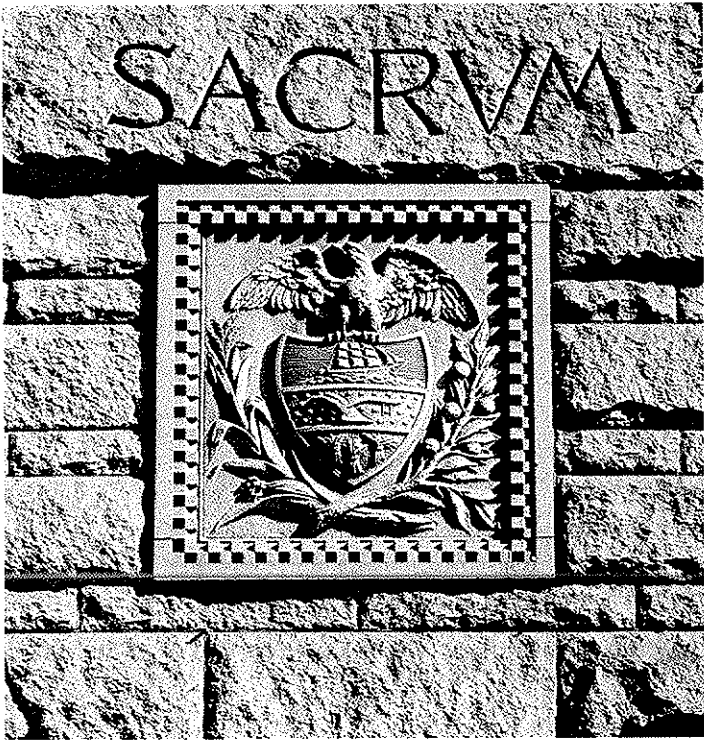
### Members Help Increase Membership

One of our goals this year is to increase the number of members in the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. In March we invited our members to help us achieve this goal by sending us names and addresses of friends or organizations that might be interested in joining Landmarks. Many of our members responded to this request, and we are now in the process of inviting more than 250 people and organizations to join. We thank all of our members who responded to our request and respect the wishes of those who choose not to respond.

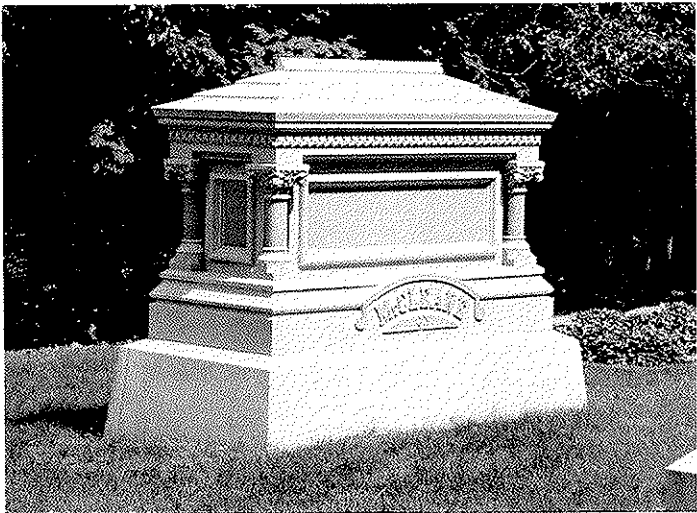
# PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE: *Materials*

Walter C. Kidney

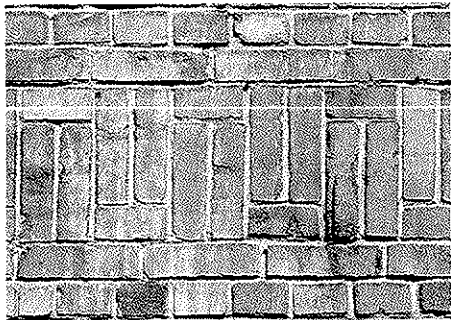
I have been working on a personal sort of book, intended to present architecture — as I have seen it — in its various aspects, and I am going to cannibalize the accumulated words and pictures once or twice for the purposes of the present series. In this issue, the perceived qualities of exterior building materials are the subject: materials so formed, and presented at such a scale, that their color, texture, density, and strength are best felt and appreciated.



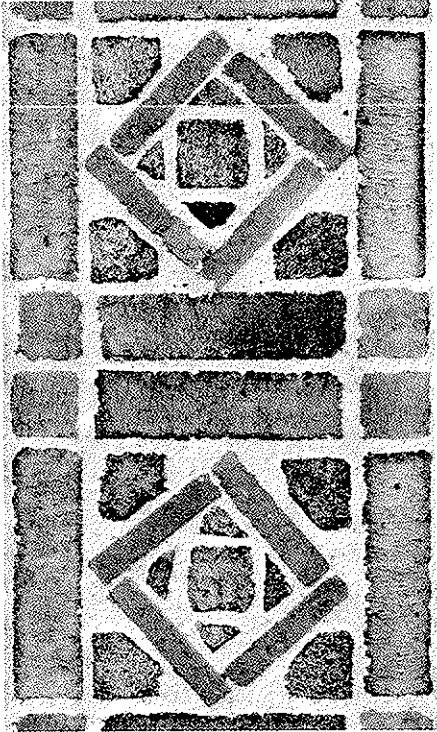
At the Allegheny County Courthouse, downtown, that obdurate material granite quietly recalls its resistance to the hammers that eventually bashed it down to an approximately flat surface. Concentrated, intensive tooling created a crisp, lively image of the County arms.



Granite again, at the McCleane tomb at Allegheny Cemetery: delicate chiseled capitals, surfaces with a frosted smooth finish, surfaces with a mirror gloss. Miniature architecture, with the material treated just right for the scale.



Around 1910, brick might be treated almost like water color. Here are two examples opposite each other on Elmer Street at Negley Avenue. The first (above), from an apartment house of 1909 by Janssen & Abbott, is a light strawberry-red brick that has been strangely distorted in the molding and firing: very unusual. The second (right), from 1912 and by an unknown architect, is a rough-textured brick ranging in shade from charcoal gray to cherry red, set in thick, sandy, warm-colored mortar.



Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

Board-and-batten walls — vertical planks and strips of millwork — reveal the woodiness of wood used as a thin membrane, only an inch thick, sounding loudly when rapped. Machine-cut wood, not wood carved or roughly dressed in massive pieces. Board-and-batten siding not only celebrates one treatment of its material; its delicate verticals create a beautiful shadowed surface under sunlight, and help correct bad proportions. This photo shows the Abbott-Marshall house of c. 1860 at 918-20 St. James Place in Shadyside.



Terra cotta, being molded as clay then fired to hardness, allows great license. Here is a service station by the William G. Wilkins Company on Baum Boulevard in the East End, c. 1915.



Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh