

# PH LE

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

# NEWS

No. 141

January 1996

- Landmarks Assists Manchester, Hill District, and Entrepreneurs Through Its Preservation Services
- Looking Back on 1995
- Cities Worldwide Look Toward the New Century

## Program Priorities in the New Year

*On November 1, 1995, the board of trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation approved the following work plan emphasizing preservation services, education, and the historic parks and gardens survey, and announcing several special initiatives. The staff's priority is to carry out this work plan as much as possible while maintaining flexibility to respond to local preservation crises or needs.*

### Preservation Services

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. directs this area of work at Landmarks with great leadership, initiative, and charisma. Through his professional experience as a banker, his knowledge of local neighborhood groups and community leaders, and his heightened awareness of preservation policies nationwide, Howard is able to create programs that help individuals purchase and renovate historic properties in inner-city neighborhoods for residential or commercial uses. In 1996, Howard will:

- extend new loans through Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund to neighborhood groups that propose feasible plans for the acquisition and/or renovation of historic properties;
- continue existing programs such as the "Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative" with Mellon Bank and the "Working in Neighborhoods" initiative with an 11-bank consortium;
- work with financial institutions to offer Community Reinvestment Act and sensitivity training;
- work with HUD and the Urban Redevelopment Authority to determine how community and block grant funds can be allocated for historic preservation;
- work with selected historic city neighborhoods to secure historic designation status through the City of Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission;
- assist Manchester in its \$20 million development campaign to demolish severely blighted public housing units, purchase and restore Section-8 properties, and construct affordable rental units for public-housing residents;
- underwrite the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group's annual lending institution loan report; and
- raise funds for a grant program at Landmarks to provide financial and technical assistance for the preservation of historic area churches and synagogues.



Photo courtesy of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

### Special Initiatives

Arthur Ziegler will lead our staff in several new initiatives this year. He plans to:

- work with the Mayor's office and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust to evaluate the economics of restoring historic buildings in downtown Pittsburgh for various uses;
- provide technical assistance to the Federal/North project;
- work with Bidwell Training Center to establish a greenhouse and office complex for a training program in horticulture that could benefit historic neighborhoods;
- work with Point Park College and the Carnegie Library on the downtown Library Center in the old Colonial Trust Company building;
- prepare a plan and grant request for providing preservation services to towns along the Mon-Fayette Expressway;
- create a "Scenic Byways" program with Allegheny Kiski Valley Historical Society to submit to PennDOT and the Federal Bureau of Roads; and
- work with PennDOT to ensure that the new Wabash Bridge is handsomely designed.

Arthur provides valuable leadership in bringing many groups and people together to ensure that historic preservation is a key ingredient in the new plans and proposals for our developing city and region.

### Historic Parks and Gardens Survey

Barry Hannegan will complete Landmarks' Historic Parks and Gardens Survey. Through research and field work, he continues to uncover and document a rich landscape tradition in Pittsburgh, primarily from the turn of the century until about 1950. Alas, little evidence of this legacy can be seen in our landscape today. The photo shown here is an excellent example of the kind of material that Barry is discovering.

Barry will prepare an illustrated report describing the survey findings, share the results with interested community groups, garden clubs, and local and national magazines, and use the survey results to influence policies for the care and maintenance of what remains of our historic parks and gardens in this region. Long an authority on landscape history, Barry is now an advocate for preserving Pittsburgh's landscape tradition.

### Education

The work of our education department involves many people on Landmarks' staff: Louise Sturgess, Albert Tannler, Walter Kidney, Mary Ann Eubanks, and Mary Lu Denny, as well as 34 volunteers, and free-lance instructors Sue Neff, Tom Demko, David Roth, and Anne-Marie Lubenau.

Our agenda in 1996 includes providing private group tours and slide lectures

*This photograph of 1901 shows us the acre-size garden to the rear of the North Negley Avenue residence of James R. Mellon, son of Judge Thomas Mellon. The garden, hardly more than a glorified backyard, was known, according to a newspaper account of the period, for its miniature effects intended, apparently, to shrink the features of an estate to the exigencies of an urban site. The tiny waterway that flows through its four-inch-wide channel in the middle of the garden can just be sensed in the horizontal line in the lawn to the left, while its destination, a small, irregularly shaped pond, can in fact be seen to the right of center in the middle distance. A miniature vegetable garden was planted behind the small cabin-like building in the center of the view; this structure was identified as a facsimile of Judge Mellon's thatched cottage in Ireland. Although the overall appearance of the garden seems strangely diffuse and spotty—a seeming throw-back to the scattered plantings of the Gardenesque style of the early nineteenth century—there is good evidence that this casual effect was deliberately created by J. Wilkinson Elliott, quite likely the most important garden designer active in Pittsburgh a century ago.*

(Continued on page 6)

PHLF NEWS

Thank You Corporate Members

Your contributions in 1995 helped the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation:

- **CREATE** the “Working in Neighborhoods” initiative, an economic development program between Landmarks and an 11-bank consortium for minority business entrepreneurs;
- **WORK** with local lending institutions to ensure that lending programs and products were available to meet the needs of inner-city residents;
- **PROVIDE** financial and technical assistance, through the Preservation Loan Fund, to community groups in the Pittsburgh region that proposed feasible plans for re-using historic properties;
- **PROVIDE** technical assistance to the Manchester Citizens Corporation in its successful effort to obtain \$7.5 million in federal funds to improve public housing in Manchester;
- **DRAFT** a proposal for the creation of a permanent Historic Religious Properties program at Landmarks, providing technical and financial assistance to support the restoration and adaptive use of historic religious structures in Allegheny County;
- **INITIATE** a survey of historic parks and gardens in Allegheny County;
- **TEACH** more than 10,000 students, teachers, and adults about Pittsburgh’s history and architecture;
- **PUBLISH** *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County*, and distribute free copies of the book to schools and libraries in Allegheny County;
- **PARTICIPATE** in urban planning discussions as an advocate for historic preservation;
- **CONTINUE** to create a future for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.

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As of December 15, 1995, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation had received major contributions from the following sources. We are very grateful to each donor. As a result of these gifts and of membership contributions, Landmarks was (and is) able to pursue its work in creating a future for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.

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Anniversary Gifts Designated to Support Landmarks’ Work

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation congratulates Barbara and Raymond Rackoff on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. We thank the following people and businesses for their generous contributions in celebration of this occasion:

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Memorial Contributions

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks the following people for their recent memorial gift contributions:

- Sherley T. Blaxter, Mr. & Mrs. John P. Davis, Jr., Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. McGough, and Mrs. Cleveland D. Rea in memory of Barbara Drew Hoffstot.
- Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr. in memory of J. Judson Brooks.
- John P. Davis, Jr. in memory of James D. Van Trump.
- Jane A. Tiegel, in memory of Robert W. Baur.
- Jessie Clark Riley, in memory of J. Norman Riley.

Wedding Gift

We also thank Dr. & Mrs. Michael Friedberg for making a contribution to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation on the occasion of the marriage of Paul Teplitz.

Library Donation

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation wishes to thank Templeton Smith, of Mount Lebanon, for a copy of *One Who Made a Difference*, his biography of Eliza Kennedy Smith.

Library Seeking Past Issues of PHLF News

Recently we inventoried our holdings of *PHLF News* and discovered that Landmarks does not have a complete set! The library’s set begins with No. 33—the (March/April) 1972 issue. We are missing some later issues as well: No. 86 (Spring) 1983; No. 87 (Summer) 1983; No. 95 (Summer) 1985; and No. 96 (Winter) 1985. Can any of our members supply the missing issues 1–32 and 86, 87, 95 and 96? If you can help out, call Al Tannler at (412) 471-5808.

Become a Tour Docent

If you have some free time and are interested in Pittsburgh history, then call Mary Lu Denny for details about Landmarks’ tour docent program. This January, February, and March we will be offering a training course for people who are interested in leading tours of the city or presenting slide shows featuring Pittsburgh’s history and architecture. We hope to hear from you. Call Mary Lu at (412) 471-5808.

PHLF News is published four 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.

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## Your Membership Matters! Thank You for Joining.

*Members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation provide a strong collective voice on behalf of historic preservation. We are pleased to acknowledge the following people and organizations that joined Landmarks in 1995. Each new member adds strength to our organization. Welcome, one and all.*

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## IN MEMORIAM: J. JUDSON BROOKS

On September 16, 1995, Judd Brooks died at the age of 86 at his home in Edgeworth. He was a founding trustee of Landmarks and a strong supporter of our organization for three decades. We will miss him greatly, and extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Judd and his wife Laura (who died in 1984) owned and cared for one of the most important landscaped historic properties in Allegheny County. "Newington," on Shields Lane in Edgeworth, was passed by inheritance from one generation to the next since its beginning. It was created by Major Daniel Leet for his married daughter and her husband, Eliza and David Shields. The southern portion of the red-brick house dates from 1816 and the northern portion from 1823. "Newington" is surrounded by ten acres of gardens, which include a grand formal garden designed by Bryant Fleming in 1910. There is the tradition that Samuel Parsons, Jr., one of America's great landscape architects, was responsible for designing the plantings around the lawns in the 1870s.



Judd and Laura traveled widely and always brought home new ideas that helped them care for their house and gardens. They planted annual gardens, maintained perennial gardens and beautiful formal gardens, and looked after the great, aged trees that arched high over the landscape. Judd created a wonderful formal boxwood garden, a lilac allée and a rivulet lined with Hemerocallis. He was a breeder of rhododendrons and held an annual Memorial Day garden party so visitors could stroll through the gardens and see the new varieties he was creating. Each year he added to the humus of the rhododendron beds by stacking more oak leaves under the shrubs.

Judd had a great interest in architecture and in the work of Landmarks. He attended board meetings regularly and participated in many discussions involving preservation problems. Unfortunately, he became ill before we started our survey of historic parks and gardens, but we sent him material to review, and he called us with comments.

We hope that in the new year we can work with Judd's family to develop a plan for preserving "Newington" and its gardens, so the legacy of Judd and Laura Brooks can live on and be enjoyed by the community.

## Award of Merit Nominations

Call Walter Kidney at (412) 471-5808 if you would like to nominate an individual or organization for consideration by Landmarks' 1996 Award of Merit Committee. Each year, Landmarks recognizes individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Pittsburgh's historic architecture and increased public knowledge of our heritage. The Award of Merit Committee will meet in June, so call us in the next month or so.





## Hill District Benefits from Preservation Loan Fund

A \$99,000 loan was made to the Hill Community Development Corporation from Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund in September 1995. The loan was used to acquire the New Granada Theater, located in the 2000 block of Centre Avenue.

Built in 1927 as the Pythian Temple, the New Granada Theater will soon be utilized as a multi-cultural arts and entertainment center.

Elbert S. Hatley, executive director of the Hill CDC, said that as a result of the loan from Landmarks, the Hill CDC was in a much stronger position to negotiate with private sources for the development of the theater. The total project is expected to take \$7.5 to \$10 million to develop and will generate numerous jobs.

"Without the support and assistance of Howard Slaughter and Landmarks, we would not be able to do anything with the building. The New Granada Theater has historical significance to not only African Americans in the community, but to many city residents and people throughout the region," said Mr. Hatley.



New Granada Theater in the Hill District

## Landmarks and Local Savings Banks Announce "WIN" Initiative

On September 6, 1995, Landmarks and officials from 11 local savings banks announced an economic development initiative to provide loans to small businesses located in low- and moderate-income or historic neighborhoods throughout Allegheny County. The initiative, called "WIN" ("Working in Neighborhoods"), provides loans up to \$75,000 per applicant with a maximum loan term of 15 years.

The initiative is a collaborative effort between Landmarks and the Community Development Lending Group, a partnership of 11 local savings banks:

Keystone State Savings Bank  
Laurel Savings Bank  
Mt. Troy Savings Bank  
Pennwood Savings Bank  
Pittsburgh Home Savings Bank  
Sewickley Savings Bank  
Spring Hill Savings Bank  
Stanton Federal Savings Bank  
Troy Hill Federal Savings Bank  
West View Savings Bank  
Workmens Savings Bank

Since the announcement of the program last September, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, has received more than 43 loan inquiries. "We are very excited by the initial response," said Howard. "A neighborhood without



Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



Above: Guests at the September 6 press conference announcing the "WIN" initiative.

businesses is truly not a neighborhood. "WIN" will help revitalize our economy by encouraging entrepreneurs to renovate historic buildings for business purposes. As a result, new businesses will provide jobs and services for the neighborhood."

Please call Howard at (412) 471-5808 if you are interested in learning more about the "WIN" initiative.



Photo by Diane Daniels

In November 1995, Landmarks and the Community Development Lending Group approved the first loan through the "Working in Neighborhoods" initiative. Nancy Eshelman, shown here with Howard Slaughter, is renovating a three-story brick house of about 1845 at 2119 Sarah Street on the South Side, with a \$50,000 loan from "WIN." She plans to open her bed-and-breakfast business, The Morning Glory Inn, in February.

Nancy mentioned that she has received "tremendous support from the South Side business community." She heard about the "WIN" program from a banker at the United American Savings Bank on the South Side and contacted Howard Slaughter immediately.

Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



Representatives of the Community Development Lending Group

## National City Corp. Affirms Commitment to Local Neighborhoods

Stanley Lowe, first representative of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and other PCRG members, Mayor Tom Murphy, Gayland B. Cook, community bank president of Integra, Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation were instrumental in convincing Integra's new owner, National City Corp., to agree to make at least \$1.67 billion in loans and grants to Pittsburgh neighborhoods through the year 2000, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and residents, and minority and women-owned businesses. As a result, National City Corp. will create a meaningful volume of residential mortgages and home improvement and small business loans in Pittsburgh neighborhoods. This pledge continues and increases the original lending commitment made by Integra in 1988, and will greatly help revitalize city neighborhoods.

## Technical Assistance Valuable to CCAC Students

How to prepare for meaningful employment was the topic of conversation during a presentation made by Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. on October 20, 1995 to 17 participants in the Community College of Allegheny County's Job Readiness Training Program.

"The information Howard provided to the students was invaluable," said Jim Rawls, retention coordinator of the program. "His presentation was so real, which makes one face the realities of the job-hunting experience."

## New Leadership Initiates Changes at Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Through the leadership of board chairman Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., other key board members, and executive director Dr. Harry D. Clark, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) has restructured its organization, expanded its Board of Directors, focused its mission, and established new headquarters at 901 Western Avenue on the North Side. Dr. Clark brings vast educational experience to his job: during the past 30 years, he has worked as a teacher, administrator, national consultant, and lecturer; he also founded Pittsburgh's Creative and Performing Arts High School located in Homewood. As director of preservation services at Landmarks, Howard Slaughter brings considerable knowledge of the neighborhoods and lending community to his work at NHS.



Mark Stroup, left, and Dr. Harry Clark

Neighborhood Housing Services addresses the needs of low- and moderate-income residents who wish to become homeowners. NHS has created an educational program that helps clients understand the process involved in buying a home. Mark Stroup, NHS's homebuyer developer, receives numerous calls each day regarding home ownership. The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation granted \$20,000 in 1995 to NHS for its neighborhood revitalization activities.

Dorothy Richardson, a resident of the North Side, founded the first NHS in the country in Pittsburgh, in 1968. Now, more than 600 NHS's across the country assist low- and moderate-income families in buying, maintaining, or repairing their homes. Howard Slaughter considers NHS "an important resource in the city, providing educational assistance to many individuals and stabilizing local communities through affordable housing initiatives."

## Program Priorities in the New Year

(Continued from page 1)

upon request, membership tours and special events, adult education classes, teacher inservices, and various school programs such as "Architecture: The Building Art," "Portable Pittsburgh," "Downtown Dragons," and the "Architectural Apprenticeship."

Margaret Henderson Floyd (author of *Architecture after Richardson*; University of Chicago Press/Landmarks, 1994) plans to come to Pittsburgh to lead a membership tour of libraries and homes designed by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow. Landmarks trustee Phil Hallen has volunteered to lead interested members on a weekend tour to Buffalo. We also are exploring the possibility of traveling to Middleton Place and Drayton Hall in Charleston, and locally touring historic gardens, the South Side neighborhood, and ethnic churches.

Much of our energy will be devoted to publishing a new edition of *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County* by Walter C. Kidney. Originally published in 1985, *Landmark Architecture* has been out of print for several years now but is still much in demand. Many new photos were commissioned last October, and Walter has updated the essay and is in the process of writing new entries for the guide section. If all goes well, we will release the new casebound edition in September. It will be dedicated in memory of Barbara Drew Hoffstot, a founding trustee and vice-chairman of Landmarks for 30 years.

## "Woodville," the Neville House

Make a point of visiting the Neville House in 1996 if you have not yet seen the wood-frame "mansion" that has survived for more than 200 years along what is now Route 50 in Collier Township. Landmarks will continue to make physical improvements to the house (a foundation needs to be installed under the rear section of the house and an HVAC system needs to be installed in the house), and work will progress on landscaping the two-and-a-half-acre property in keeping with its historic character. This is the only historic property owned by Landmarks, and it is operated on a daily basis by the Neville House Auxiliary.

## All the Rest

We will continue to encourage people and businesses to become members of Landmarks, and we will acknowledge the accomplishments of others through our Award of Merit and Historic Landmark plaque programs. The James D. Van Trump Library (located on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square) is open to members during the week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by appointment. Members are invited to schedule a time to browse through our collections of books and reference materials.

*We look forward to the challenges of the new year and welcome any suggestions or comments from our members. You may reach staff members by calling (412) 471-5808.*

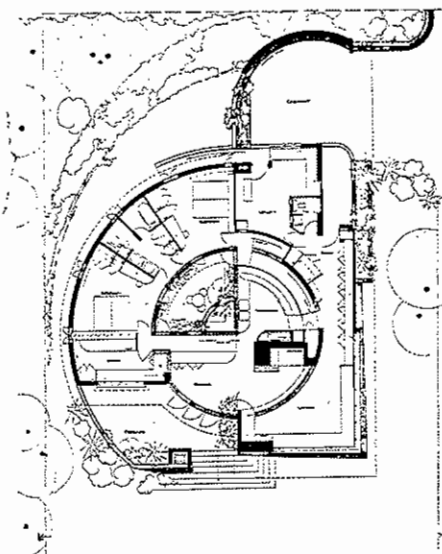
## Education News

### A New Guide to Twentieth Century Architecture: A List of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Buildings and Architects 1950-1996

*Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1995*

Increasing requests from visitors to see and learn about Pittsburgh's late-twentieth century buildings inspired the compilation and publication of an annotated directory of selected buildings erected since 1950 in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

The 18-page booklet, containing almost 100 individual structures designed by over 30 architectural firms, was prepared by Al Tannler, historical collections director at Landmarks. Buildings were included if the architect/firm is well-known, the architect's work has had a significant impact on the region, and the building is conspicuously sited.



*Steinberg residence, Cornelia and Peter Berndtson*

Although the focus of the booklet is Allegheny County, principal late-twentieth-century buildings in neighboring counties are listed. The booklet is primarily restricted to constructed original designs; thus projects (with the exception of Philip Johnson's College of Fine Arts at Seton Hill College designed in 1992) and renovations are not included, nor are interiors, with the exception of Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco Field Office.

There are a bibliography and indices to buildings and to architects. The booklet has been designed so that new information can be readily incorporated. Copies are available at The Landmarks Store priced at \$2.00 each.

### Welcome New Docents

Landmarks' education staff is very pleased to welcome six new docents who will be presenting the "Portable Pittsburgh" school out-reach program this year. We congratulate Barbara Brandes, Josephine Brittain, Amy Schulman, Phyllis Sechrist, Barbara Stull, and Tim Sullivan for completing their training course.

With their participation, Landmarks now has 18 "Portable Pittsburgh" docents. Together, they will take on the challenge of visiting more than 50 schools and community groups this year, informing over 2,000 people about Pittsburgh's history.

### 21 High School Students Participate in Landmarks' Architectural Apprenticeship

On January 24, area high school students who are interested in finding out more about the architectural profession will meet for the fourth session of Landmarks' 1995-96 "Architectural Apprenticeship." They will spend the day at Carnegie Mellon University, learning about its admissions procedure and standards, talking with students, and touring the Architecture Department. The day—and the five-session course—are designed to help students decide if they really want to pursue a career in architecture.

Since 1983, Landmarks has been offering the "Architectural Apprenticeship" through the Gifted and Talented Education Program of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. David Roth of The Downtown Design Company is teaching the Apprenticeship for Landmarks.

Last November and December, students toured Station Square, downtown Pittsburgh, and four architectural firms. In February, they will tour The Carnegie and The Heinz Architectural Center.

### Dollar Bank Underwrites Timeline of Local African-American History

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks Dollar Bank for contributing funds to support the writing, design, and printing of a timeline of important events in local African-American history. Copies have been given to the Board of Education for the Pittsburgh Public Schools and to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for distribution to teachers during Black History Month in February. The timeline is intended to stimulate student research and class discussion.

Eliza Smith Brown of Brown Carlisle & Associates wrote the timeline, based in part on *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County* (Landmarks, 1995). Landmarks is very grateful to Laurence A. Glasco and Frank E. Bolden for reviewing the timeline information.

Any teacher interested in obtaining a free copy of the African-American timeline for school use may call Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808. Limited free copies are available.

### Member Schools Benefit from Landmarks' Educational Resources

Membership in Landmarks gives tremendous benefits to schools that take advantage of the many programs offered through our education department. Currently, there are 40 member schools (or districts) that receive discounts on "Portable Pittsburgh," "Downtown Dragons," and the "Architecture: The Building Art" exhibit. These schools also receive free use of more than a dozen slide shows created by Landmarks featuring Pittsburgh's history and architecture.

Winchester-Thurston has been a member for the past six years. Each year, the teachers at both campuses have used our programs to enhance their curricula at very little cost. To discover the benefits of membership for your school, please call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following academic organizations as members:

Allegheny Valley School District—  
Colfax Upper Elementary School  
Bishop McDowell School  
California University of Pennsylvania  
Canevin High School  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Community College of Allegheny County  
Ellis School  
Forbes Elementary School  
Fox Chapel Area High School—  
QUEST Department  
Fox Chapel Country Day School  
Franklin Elementary School  
Gateway Middle School  
Hopewell Elementary School  
Independence Middle School  
Ingomar Elementary School  
LaRoche College  
Mt. Lebanon School District  
Nativity School  
North Allegheny School District:  
Hosack Elementary School  
Northgate School District—  
Avalon Elementary School  
O'Hara Elementary School  
Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School  
Peebles Elementary School  
Pennsylvania State Educational Association  
Perryville School  
Pittsburgh Technical Institute  
Pleasant Hills Middle School  
Pleasant View Elementary School  
Praise Christian Academy  
Quaker Valley High School  
St. Bede School  
St. Edmund's Academy  
St. Maurice School  
St. Vincent College  
Shadyside Academy Junior School  
South Fayette Township High School  
South Side Area Elementary School  
University of Pittsburgh  
Westminster College  
Winchester-Thurston School

### Spring Classes: Call for Details

Call Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808 if you would like information on any of Landmarks' Spring classes:

- **Gardens Under Glass**  
March 28 and 30  
(An adult education class offered through Pitt's Informal Program)
- **Exploring Your City**  
Monday evenings,  
April 1, 15, 22, and 29  
(A teacher inservice class offered by Landmarks through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit)
- **Exploring the Interior Architecture of Downtown Landmarks**  
April 18 and 20  
(Also offered through Pitt's Informal Program)



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THE PRESERVATION OF

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## Upper St. Clair High School Students Tour the Hill District

*To sum it all up, this tour really brought me in touch with history, both the concrete aspect and the living, breathing aspect.*

—Andy Davis

*Looking back, I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to not only clear up my misconceptions concerning the Hill District, but at the same time to have fun learning.*

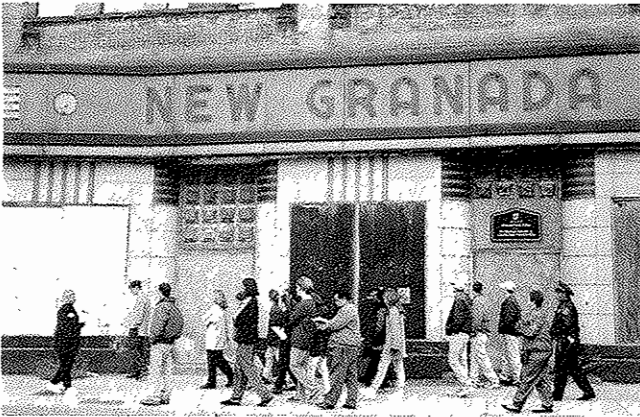
—Matt Boss

*...it was definitely more worthwhile than sleeping in...*

—Mary Hindman

For the first time, Upper St. Clair School District teachers are offering extra-curricular programs to give students an opportunity to extend their learning experience beyond the confines of the traditional classroom. The first of the new "Academy Programs" was offered to 15 students on October 28, 1995, through the leadership of District Superintendent William Pope.

Using the recently published *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County* as a text, students read about the history and achievements of the African-American community in Pittsburgh. After viewing the WQED video "Wylie Avenue Days," they traveled by bus to the Hill District where Mary Ann Eubanks, education coordinator for



Landmarks, led them on a neighborhood walking tour. Susan Stoker, an intern with the Hill Community Development Corporation, and Tanya Payne of Councilman Sala Udin's office, discussed current plans to revitalize the Hill District. Students then dined at the justly famous Crawford Grill, where some of the best known jazz musicians played in the 1940s and 1950s. The grande finale of the tour was an "awesome" tap-dancing demonstration by octogenarian Henry Belcher.

Through this program Upper St. Clair High School students were introduced to a city neighborhood rich in history and architecture. They became aware of the challenges facing the neighborhood today and gained respect for the local residents who are working to improve their community. The students were asked to write about the tour and their experiences, once they returned home, and we are pleased to reprint here Ariel Paredes' essay.

## My Trip to the Hill District

*A couple of weeks ago a few other classmates and I decided to take a volunteer trip down to the Hill District, none of us really knowing what to expect or what it would be like. A few parents told their kids "to be careful on those rough streets, because there are drive-by shootings, gang members, and drugs being sold on every corner." I don't think that any of us were that naive, but a few were dubious. I go to church there at Saint Benedict the Moor and thought that I was pretty aware of everything and the culture, but to my surprise I knew almost nothing. We arrived there at about eleven in the morning and everything was just as regular as any other place. The streets were clean, there were kids out on the sidewalks playing, and there was going to be a Halloween parade that day, and you could just feel the excitement in the air. We took a guided tour through the streets and saw famous landmarks that you could only imagine in their prime. There was one place that particularly caught my attention. It was called the Granada. It was Pittsburgh's version of the Apollo where all the jazz greats and the singers and many other prodigious people performed. It still had its beauty and sense of belonging. They are trying to rebuild the Hill and make it a place you would want to go. They are still taking those baby steps, but that is where it all begins. We went to another landmark which ended up being my church, St. Benedict the Moor. It was great to see people's faces when they entered the church and commented on how beautiful it was.*

*It gave me a sense of pride, to be able to say that "this is my church."*

*I did find out something that was very sad that I never knew before: that the Civic Arena represents the downfall to a once lively generation. For it to be built, they tore down numerous houses and places that were important*

*to people. It might have taken down a best friend's house or store they had spent their hard earned money to build. It gave people a loss of hope, and their struggle to build was for nothing. That was many years ago, but now they are making that leap to make the Hill what it used to be.*

*The last thing that we did on our agenda was to stop at the Crawford Grill. That was exciting and new. We were in the place of many jazz greats. We ate and felt that we had one full invigorating day when Dr. Pope said he had one surprise still left for us. A man by the name of Henry Belcher was one of the Hill's greatest artists. Not in music, but in tap dancing. He was 85 and danced as though he was 25. He was spectacular. There are no words to describe a man of this talent. I had the biggest grin on my face while he performed that I couldn't seem to wipe it off. I was sad to see our day end but as the saying goes, "All good things must come to an end." I hope to be able to enlighten other people about our trip and to take away misconstrued ideas and prejudices. It was a journey and an experience we all needed to take and will guide us all the way through our lives.*

—Ariel Paredes

## Visiting Pittsburgh

Albert M. Tannler

*Thank you for the fascinating tour of Pittsburgh architecture, which you gave for members of the Guggenheim. We enjoyed it very much, and certainly would never have seen so many of Pittsburgh's architectural treasures on our own.*

Susan Madden  
Manager of Membership Programs  
Guggenheim Museum

Although a literary critic once observed that "nothing is harder to sustain than a bad reputation"—he was speaking incidentally about a person not a place—established preconceptions die hard. In spite of recent positive press, Pittsburgh is as yet a largely unknown destination—one still burdened with outdated images of industrial ugliness—and the city's natural beauty and fine architecture are not well known. Visitors usually visit because we are the closest metropolitan area on the way to Fallingwater or because an event of some repute—such as The 1995 Carnegie International—is scheduled. One organization that visited the city last year periodically holds five-day seminars in major American cities. When the 1995 trip—the first to Pittsburgh—was announced, I was told that disappointment or at most polite curiosity rather than enthusiasm greeted the news.

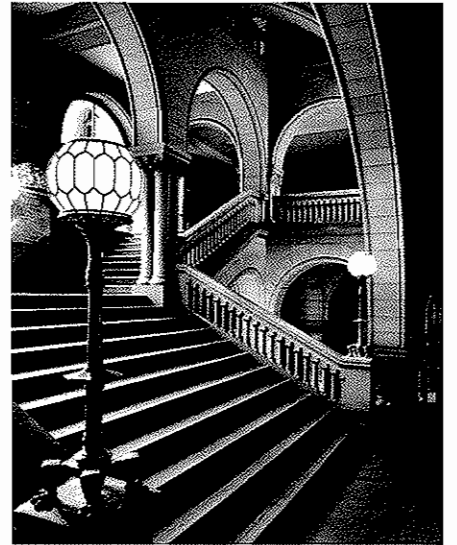
Since I first participated in a Pittsburgh architectural tour in the Fall of 1992, I have seen a typical pattern emerge: visitors arrive with an initial skepticism, are surprised and impressed with what they see and experience, and leave delighted that they came.

In the Spring and Fall of 1995, I presented five specially designed Pittsburgh architecture tours for visiting groups with particular interests and—as always—tight schedules. Each tour was closely planned with the client. What buildings did they want to see? Which specific architects or architectural styles?

In most cases, potential visitors know little about Pittsburgh architecture, with the possible exception of the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail, and need guidance in determining places to visit. Each tour includes visits to appropriate private as well as public spaces. Convincing visitors that two hours is not enough time to see all of Pittsburgh's architectural treasures remains a constant task, as is developing a tour route that links principal sites within the allotted time frame. In all cases, however, our visitors see a range of the city's significant buildings while visiting individual structures that will particularly interest them.

On April 29, 1995, we presented a three-hour bus and walking tour of Pittsburgh architecture for students from Sotheby's in New York as part of a five-day intensive study/field trip to view public and private art collections and buildings. The focus of this tour was a general overview of regional architecture from John Chislett's surviving Greek Revival buildings to the skyscrapers of the mid-1980s. On September 15, we were visited by a group of Wisconsin Art Museum members. Their three-hour tour included visits to buildings designed by Kiehnel & Elliot and Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr.—local architects whose work was related to the mid-western "Prairie School." On October 16, we focused on the twentieth century with members of the Guggenheim Museum; visits to houses designed by

Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer and Cornelia and Peter Berndtson were judged outstanding (as was the view of the city from Mt. Washington at the tour's conclusion). November 3 saw a group of Williams College alumni braving cold and windy weather for a two-hour walking tour of downtown. This tour was planned to accommodate wheelchairs, and highlights included visits to the restored courtroom in the Allegheny County Courthouse and the lobby of the Art Deco Koppers Building. Finally, on November 11, Landmarks assisted the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust with a two-hour bus and walking tour of the Cultural District and downtown



The lobby of the Allegheny County Courthouse

architecture with special attention to public art. Carol Brown and I led a group of enthusiastic art lovers and very good sports from the Art Table organization of New York on a tour that began in drizzle and ended in torrential winds and downpour.

Whatever their reasons for visiting or passing through Pittsburgh, once our visitors are here and experience the exterior and interior splendor of buildings well-made if often overlooked, standing in the midst of unexpected natural beauty, most agree with the sentiments expressed by a visitor after touring the city with Landmarks in 1993: "everyone...has a feeling of pride that they have discovered a wonderfully kept secret—Pittsburgh! We've all taken it to our hearts."

**LANDMARKS has been conducting membership tours of Pittsburgh architecture within Pittsburgh and Allegheny County since 1965; today, such tours are presented at intervals from March through December. In addition to the regularly scheduled tours, Landmarks prepares special tours in response to requests from out-of-town visitors or private groups in Pittsburgh. For information about Landmarks' tours, contact Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808.**

“The vision, the determination, and the originality of the way your organization operates was a mind-opener.”

—an excerpt from a letter from Renee Levine, dean of continuing studies in the College of Art at Maryland Institute, to Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks. Mr. Ziegler spoke at the “Rethinking the City” conference in Baltimore on November 10.



A view from Station Square: looking toward Firstside, downtown.

## Looking Back on 1995

Louise Sturgess

*With the pressures of daily work always moving us forward, it's a luxury to be able to take a moment to think back over the year and reflect on the accomplishments and influence of our organization. 1995 was a successful year for Landmarks, with the following accomplishments to report.*

### Recognition and Awards

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., Walter C. Kidney, and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. each received awards in 1995.

- On November 2, in Washington, Arthur received a Special National Recognition award from Partners for Livable Communities for “leadership on community livability.” He was recognized “for work as a preservationist for all people.”
- On October 6, Walter was named the recipient of Preservation Pittsburgh's James D. Van Trump Award “in recognition of his contributions [as an architectural historian and author] which have enriched and preserved the life of the region and the lives of all who view it.”
- On October 12, Howard was recognized in Pittsburgh during the 1995 Black Achievers Award luncheon, sponsored by *Black Opinion* magazine. Vanessa Pressley Larson, training director and CRA officer of NorthSide Bank, nominated Howard for “his dedication, commitment, and leadership in the community.”
- On December 7, Howard was one of seven individuals recognized by Project “90”, Inc. during its Community Impact Awards Dinner.
- On December 21, Howard graduated from Carnegie Mellon University's

Master of Public Management Program from the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management.

Landmarks also received awards for several books and brochures:

- *Architecture after Richardson* by Margaret Henderson Floyd (University of Chicago Press/Landmarks, 1994) received a “Citation for Excellence in International Architecture Book Publishing” in the category of “History.” The award was presented by The American Institute of Architects on June 20, 1995 in New York City.
- *Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh: Four Decades of Pittsburgh, Frozen in Light* (Landmarks, 1994) was selected to appear in PRINT's 1995 “Regional Design Annual” and was awarded a “Certificate of Design Excellence.” PRINT is America's Graphic Design magazine.
- The photographic book also won acceptance into the 1995 AIGA/Pgh Communications Show, opening on January 16, 1996 at the PPG Wintergarden; *Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh* was awarded a “Certificate of Excellence.”
- *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County* (Landmarks, 1995) was recognized in the 30th Annual Exhibition of Western Pennsylvania Printing (held in Pittsburgh on January 9, 1996) as the “Best of Category” winner for paper-bound books of three or fewer colors. Landmarks' membership brochure, membership folder, and Preservation Loan Fund brochure all received honorable mentions.

### Preservation Advocacy

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of Preservation Services at Landmarks, reports on the accomplishments of the Preservation Loan Fund, “Working in Neighborhoods” program, and Historic Religious Properties Initiative in his column on page 9. In addition, we continued to promote the preservation of

historic Allegheny County architecture and built amenities. Landmarks was involved in the following issues in 1995:

We testified before the Pittsburgh City Council in favor of designating “Sunnylee,” the Marnaux building, and the Sellers house as City Historic Structures, and Alpha Terrace as a City Historic District. We also testified before the City of Pittsburgh City Planning Commission and Historic Review Commission on structures nominated for City designation.

Through newsletter articles we attempted to assist those who sought a suitable place at Carnegie Mellon University to display the bow ornament of the armored cruiser *Pennsylvania*, long borrowed from the Navy and now threatened with an obscure position on top of the new Roberts Hall. We offered the Borough of Sewickley advice on its historic district zoning and advocacy in opposition to a weakening of the present ordinance. We continued to question the need for a new bridge for the airport busway that would cross Station Square, while also being involved in design discussions for that bridge. We praised the reopening of the Smithfield Street Bridge, now renovated and handsomely lighted, but expressed some dissatisfaction in regard to the final paint colors. We published our feelings on the proposed redesign of Grandview Avenue, Station Square's uphill neighbor that is a regional amenity. We also published an extensive critique of the proposed adaptation of H. H. Richardson's Jail as a family and juvenile court building.

We have sought ways of applying the federal “Scenic Byways” program to historic local roads; helped the Oliver Miller Homestead Association in raising funds for that historic structure in South Park; and attended and publicized the Earth Day event at the Rachel Carson Homestead on April 20, when Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt spoke.

Throughout the year, we offered considered, timely, respected opinions on many preservation matters.

### Station Square

Under our contract with the buyers of Station Square, we continued to oversee daily operations and consult about future development. With the reopening of the Smithfield Street Bridge, new tenants came to Station Square, and office occupancy is now about 95%. Gardens were re-created in the area disrupted by work on the Smithfield Street Bridge; several artifacts were given by Quaker State for the historic oil installation on the Riverwalk; a handsome plaque describing the blowing engine was installed; the west lot was paved and fenced; and the tent and amphitheater were enlarged. A new roof was completed for the Freight House, appropriate to and handsome for the building. Woodson's All-Star Grille opened, and is a major draw for dining. Louise Child Care expanded its space and its services to the community. The Sheraton Hotel, Gateway Clipper, and Grand Concourse remained strong anchor attractions.

### Historic Parks and Gardens

After one year of the Historic Parks and Gardens Survey in Allegheny County, project consultant Barry Hannegan has discovered that Pittsburgh was a very important element in our national history of landscape architecture and ornamental horticulture. He has found reference materials documenting the careers of well-known horticulturists such as William Falconer, and lesser-known but very important designers such as Laura Goldsmith. He has identified nearly 300 sites of historical significance in Pittsburgh and the county. Most of these were private gardens. Of these only a handful have survived into the present, and even in these survivors there are usually losses of significant, distinguishing features.

Barry has discovered exceptionally rich references documenting the development of West End Park in the early years of this century, and a private religious garden on a Pittsburgh hillside. On



one occasion, a complete stranger came forward with essential historical information; on another occasion, an enthusiastic owner led Barry on a guided tour of a superb restored garden in Shadyside. He has found, however, that these positive events and positive results pale beside the dismaying evidence of what is nearly the complete loss of our garden and landscape design heritage. Somewhere around 1950, the noon-day brilliance of Pittsburgh's Renaissance incinerated buildings and gardens alike. Unlike Landmarks' earlier, pioneering survey of the county's architecture, the landscape survey seeks to recover traces of what is gone as well, and in so doing, it at times evokes the poignancy of a desiccated flower found pressed between the pages of a yellowed diary.

“Woodville,” the Neville House

Perhaps prompted in part by the Historic Parks and Gardens Survey, we turned our attention to improving the grounds of the Neville House, a National Historic Landmark in Collier Township owned by Landmarks since 1976. Thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the Mary McCune Edwards Foundation Fund, a gravel parking lot was created in the Spring and a border of plants and trees was planted along the parking lot edge in the Fall. In addition, Landmarks allocated \$50,000 in 1995 to the Neville House of c. 1785 so that:

- the sewer line could be replaced;
- a new two-inch water line could be installed from the street to the house and underground service provided to the caretaker's house;
- a sprinkler, security, and fire alarm system could be installed; and
- an ADA ramp and accessible restroom could be designed.

The Neville House Advisory Committee, Allegheny County Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Garden Club of Allegheny County, and Hillcrest Garden Club continued to work with Landmarks and the Neville House Auxiliary on these and other improvements, providing financial support and volunteer expertise. We are most grateful to have their continuing involvement.

Education

We informed more than 10,000 people about the history and architecture of the Pittsburgh region through our tours, education programs, and publications. A participant on one of our tours in 1995 wrote: “They [the two docents] were a great team: enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and amiable.” After attending the “Downtown Dragons” walking tour, a third-grade student wrote: “We noticed the Pittsburgh seal and a carving of a little man in a coal mine [on the Smithfield Street Bridge].” Another student added: “People usually don’t notice all these beautiful things. But I did!” A high-school student in our “Architectural Apprenticeship” program said, “The class was a whole new experience. It opened my eyes and strengthened my abilities.” A teacher who participated in one of our inservices commented: “The information, walking tours, and guest speakers were excellent and appropriate.” And another teacher wrote: “I gained an appreciation for the older inner-city neighborhoods.”

We created a new school program last year, “The 30-Minute Kennywood Architect,” introducing students to the architecture and history of Kennywood, a National Historic Landmark. We also were invited for the first time by Barnes

& Noble Book Store in Squirrel Hill to present several educational programs to children. “Portable Pittsburgh” remained our most popular education program. Our docents and staff presented about 150 sessions to more than 50 schools and community groups, reaching over 3,000 people. Our staff organized many successful membership tours, including visits to Stratford Hall, Virginia; Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania; and Cleveland, Ohio. Locally, we toured Kennywood Park, the Smithfield Street Bridge, H. H. Richardson’s Courthouse and Jail, Neville House and Old St. Luke’s. We continued to host out-of-town groups (see Al Tannler’s article on page 7), and assisted with several conferences.

We published *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County*, as well as a timeline of key events in African-American history, and *A List of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Buildings and Architects 1950-1996*. We began work on the new edition of *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County*, which we hope to publish this fall.

It was a busy and rewarding year, thanks to the efforts of our staff, instructors, and loyal docents.

Library

The death last June of James D. Van Trump, whose book collection is the core of Landmarks’ library and in whose honor the library is named, had repercussions for library activities and collections. Al Tannler prepared an inventory of books, artwork, and furniture belonging to Jamie, some of which will be placed in the library, after his estate has been settled, as a memorial to his mother. Letters Jamie wrote to architectural historian James F. O’Gorman were donated to the library by Professor O’Gorman.

The book collection is now arranged by subject. Each subject section has been labeled and the sections of books on general reference, historic preservation, and urban studies were weeded and given some internal order. New shelving was acquired to hold our Pittsburgh and Allegheny City directories. Inventories were prepared for some of the more important books and journals: the collection of plat books and insurance maps, *Charette*, and *PHLF News*.

Inventories were prepared for collections of papers including Landmarks’ administrative files; *Charette* editorial files; papers relating to Phipps Conservatory preservation efforts; forms and correspondence documenting Landmarks’ historic plaque designations, easements, and National Register nominations. Older inventories to the post card collection and our files on historic preservation organizations, publications, and issues were refined.

Major gifts to the library included the African-American Historic Site Survey Records and 100 books on regional history and architecture from trustee Evelyn Pearson in honor of Barbara Drew Hoffstot, in addition to the Van Trump items mentioned above.

Once again, much of the library’s work was undertaken by volunteers and by students from Duquesne University’s M.A. program in archival studies.

Membership Support

More than 450 people and businesses joined Landmarks in 1995, a number well above annual figures from previous years. This was due to a successful membership campaign involving several efforts. Members sent us the names and addresses of their friends who might be interested in joining, and hundreds of

people and businesses joined as a result. We appreciated the assistance of Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who wrote to Trust members in this area, encouraging them to join Landmarks. In one month alone, 60 new members joined. We also introduced a special book promotion with *Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh*: anyone purchasing the book between October and December received a complimentary membership in Landmarks. As we begin the new year, we encourage our new members to participate in our tours, education programs, and preservation initiatives—and to renew their membership!

Our Trustees

Many of our trustees work on a daily basis with staff members to ensure the success of specific programs and to advance the goals of our organization. Richard M. Scaife chaired the Historic

Two Years Already, I Can’t Believe It!

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr.

Having left Dollar Bank for an interesting career in historic preservation, I find myself suddenly at the end of two years with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, with a much greater understanding of historic preservation and appreciation for its value as a means of economic development. Most people don’t stop to realize that restoring a building and adapting it for a new use creates jobs, provides business opportunities, adds to the stability of a neighborhood, and often encourages further restoration activity. The more initiatives we develop to aid individuals and organizations in the restoration of historic structures, the better off our city and region will be.

The most important new initiative developed at Landmarks in 1995, combining historic preservation and economic development, was the “Working in Neighborhoods” (“WIN”) initiative. This initiative provides opportunities for small business entrepreneurs to move into historic buildings located in neighborhoods that to some degree are distressed. “WIN” provides a maximum of \$75,000 per loan through a joint collaborative effort with 11 local savings banks. Within 30 days of the “WIN” press conference, the “WIN” group approved a loan in the amount of \$50,000 for a bed and breakfast on the South Side, and three other requests quickly followed. This initiative will have a long lasting and far reaching impact.

In 1995 we completed our pilot program for the Historic Religious Properties Initiative (HRPI). When Landmarks launched this initiative, we were inundated with requests from churches and synagogues throughout the city and county. Through the funding support of the Allegheny Foundation, Landmarks provided matching grants to several churches that were in the process of restoring their edifices. Roof slates were replaced on one church. A deteriorated sidewalk was fixed at another and a handicapped-accessible ramp was constructed. Another church used grant funds to protect and insulate its stained-glass windows; and louvered panels were added to the towers of another church to prevent water leakage.

Many of these churches and synagogues do more than just fulfill their religious mission. They house and support YWCA and YMCA programs, headstart programs, food programs, shelter programs, and other community services. Religious structures add stability to our neighborhoods. We will keep

Landmark Plaque Committee in 1995; Janet Taber chaired the Award of Merit Committee; Anne Genter continued her involvement with the Neville House; and Phil Hallen brought in more new members than any other person! Barbara Rackoff, and her husband Raymond, generously requested that their friends contribute to Landmarks in celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Throughout the year, Dr. Albert C. Van Dusen, chairman of Landmarks’ board, graciously provided valuable leadership and advice, and our chairman emeritus Charles C. Arensberg continued to be active on all fronts. We thank all our trustees, staff members, volunteers, and new and “old” members for supporting Landmarks in 1995. Our membership forms a strong collective voice for historic preservation and enables Landmarks to create a future for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.

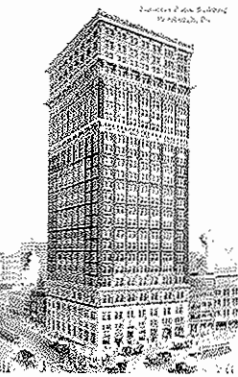
the urgent needs of the many historic religious property owners in mind as we seek funding in the new year for a permanent Historic Religious Properties program. The Preservation Loan Fund continues to make loans to neighborhood organizations that propose feasible plans for reusing historic structures. To choose just one example, we extended a loan to the Hill District Community Development Corporation for the purchase and restoration of the historic Granada Theater in the Hill District, where Billy Eckstine, George Benson, and many other legendary jazz greats played. The need to restore this historic site is paramount to the Hill District’s overall revitalization. It will be a wonderful place for people to visit once it is restored. In addition to loans, we provided technical assistance in 1995. We assisted the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) in its successful effort to secure \$7.5 million in federal funds. For the next three years, public housing units from the 1950s will be demolished or renovated and new housing units will be constructed in a style that complements the historic character of the neighborhood. Through this effort, the MCC will be developing a new model for public housing that may be used on a national level. We believe at Landmarks that technical assistance is as important as financial assistance.

Other involvement includes my appointment to the Board of Directors of the City of Pittsburgh Housing and Development Corporation. Also, I became chairman of the board of directors of the Neighborhood Housing Services of Pittsburgh, Inc., re-elected for a second term as chairman of the board of directors of the Community Technical Assistance Center, and appointed to the board of trustees of the Carnegie Library. I want to share a personal experience with you that occurred during my trip to the 1995 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. I’ve never had an opportunity to be on a ranch and had never met a black cowboy. But there I was, sitting on a ranch in the middle of Fort Worth, Texas, with many other preservationists, and all of us learned a lot about the history of black cowboys. So when we talk about impact, diversity, and excitement, it’s all here at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

# Preservation Scene

## Wood Street Buildings to Be Demolished: More About Lazarus

In our last “Preservation Scene” (October 1995), we nimbly altered the printer’s proof at the moment when the sales deal on the Farmers Deposit National Bank seemed to have fallen through, then observed Richard Penzer’s decision to go through with the sale, even as our printer’s presses were running on our behalf. The bank building, Alden & Harlow beneath the sheet metal, will come down this year. So



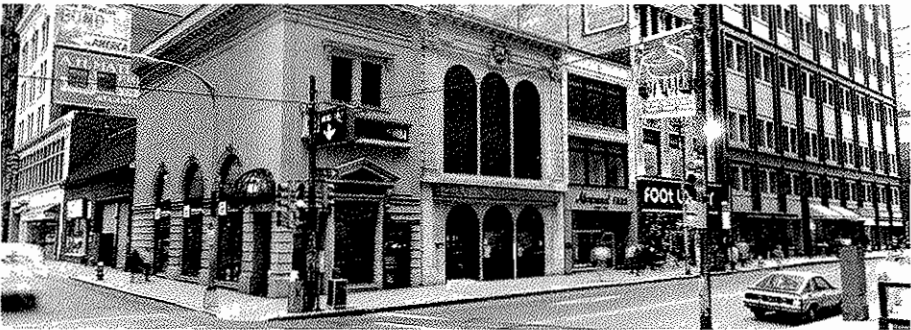
will all other buildings on the Wood Street block front shown here, and buildings along Oliver Avenue and Fifth Avenue halfway up the block. It appears that clearance will go up both Avenues about 275 feet, taking everything visible in these views of Oliver Avenue and Fifth Avenue.

The building on Wood Street next to the Farmers Bank building has a

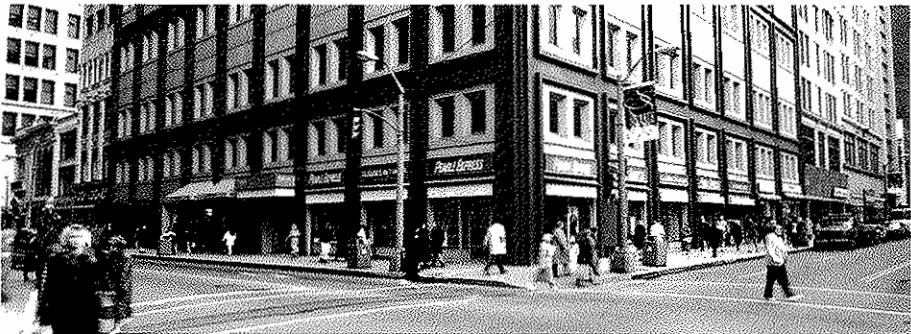
terra-cotta front, damaged, in what is Pittsburgh’s sole surviving example of extravagant Gallic Art Nouveau. The bank at Wood and Oliver, now somewhat altered, was built in 1903 as the Third National Bank, and is a collaboration of D. H. Burnham & Co. and Alden & Harlow. The bank was characterized in *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County* (1985) as a “dignified...essay in gray tones of stone, terra cotta, and [now concealed] Roman brick.”

The adjacent building on Oliver Avenue is a refronting of Alden & Harlow’s White Dog Cafe of 1902, an extension of the Farmers Bank building. Margaret Henderson Floyd describes the White Dog Cafe in *Architecture after Richardson* (University of Chicago/Landmarks, 1994) as “jewellike”—“a blend of Japanese design, of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the English arts and crafts movement.” Today, the exterior has been altered beyond recognition.

Asthetically, losing yet more buildings by architects of the stature of Daniel Burnham and Alden & Harlow or, anonymous though its designer is, the very last local specimen of a major



Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

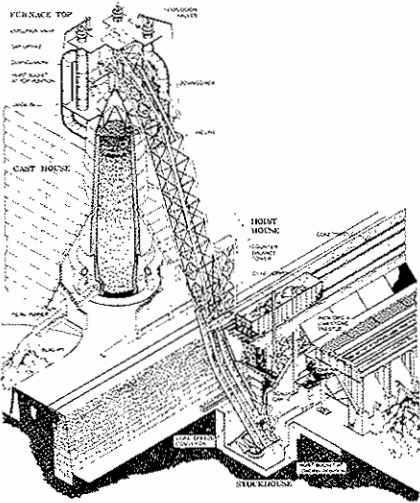


Top: Wood Street, looking up Oliver Avenue. Above: Wood Street, looking up Fifth Avenue.

architectural style is a cause of great concern, particularly when one does not know what will replace them. Economically, \$77.4 million—\$47.9 of which is public funding—will be spent to—in effect—drastically reduce the square footage of a store that once

filled Horne’s (one of the few Pittsburgh buildings designed by the Boston firm of Peabody & Stearns) and relocate it. In the process, architecturally significant buildings, which could be restored at a fraction of the cost, will be obliterated.

Drawing by Christopher Marston, IIAER



Isometric of blast furnace No. 1, Duquesne Works

## The Lost Furnaces at Duquesne

In the little picture books of Pittsburgh and vicinity issued in the 1900s, in the picture post cards of the time, the blast furnaces and hot-air stoves of the Duquesne Works were a standard item: proud and tall, prestige items in a region of heavy industry. On October 11, 1995 the last two of the furnaces were toppled by explosives, lost in a grim sequence that began in 1988 with the fall of the gigantic Dorothy Six.

Though Duquesne’s mayor said, in effect, Good riddance, the blast furnaces

at Duquesne were once distinguished, and steel men talked indeed of the Duquesne Revolution, a rational, scientific approach to overall works planning and to the individual operations. The improvement in blast-furnace practice was conspicuous. Beginning in 1896, two pairs of furnaces shared eight stoves that were alternately “on gas,” heating up, and “on blast,” losing the accumulated heat to the air blast on its way to the furnaces. In place of the brutal old “top filling” method of charging a fur-

nace—having a man on top push a hand barrow to the center, lift the lid, dump the charge, and make a fast retreat before the fumes got him—the new furnaces had an airlock that opened automatically when buckets of the charge arrived after an ascent on an inclined plane. Cranes and railroad cars fed components of the charge—iron ore, limestone, and coke—to the stock house from which the “skip buckets” rose. This mechanization permitted furnace size to increase greatly. Furthermore, the air-lock system allowed

the flammable furnace gases to be trapped off and burned as boiler or air-stove fuel. Furnaces 1 to 4 at Duquesne were where these innovations either were introduced or where they first came together. What fell this past October, then, were the last traces, though much rebuilt over the years, of a technological sensation of a century ago.



The Duquesne Works in Aliquippa, PA, mid-twentieth century.



The Smithfield Street Bridge  
 My class went on a tour of the Smithfield Street Bridge. We saw coal miners and other guys carved in stone. As we crossed it we noticed that it's old and built of steel triangles. It rumbles when you walk on it. There are plaques on it that tell about its history. It's really big. Cars, buses, and trucks go across. The Smithfield Street Bridge is really neat.

Reid Fisher, a third-grade student at Markham Elementary School in Mt. Lebanon, wrote this after participating in Landmarks' "Downtown Dragons" tour.

## Smithfield Street Bridge: the Paint Job

Eugène-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, medievalist, proto-Modernist, and "creative" restorer, once said, "To restore a building is not to maintain it, repair it, or rebuild it; it is to re-establish



it in a complete state that can never have existed at any given moment." This sweeping remark invites skepticism, but it does appear to cover the recent painting of the Smithfield Street Bridge, in which academic rather than aesthetic conditions prevailed. The original main-span trusses of 1883 are documented as being "blue" and the floor structure beneath them as "brown." What we have now, on the structural metalwork of the bridge, may not be the precise hues of 1883, but both the cinnamon brown and the darker version of Delft blue are quite handsome in themselves if not totally in balance. Against the delicate blue trusswork, though, runs a blur of light gray: the aluminum railing, unpainted, that survives from a remodeling of 1933: authentic for its time. Finally, the portals that were refaced, to a light-hearted design of Stanley Roush, in 1915, are painted in a sort of buttermilk yellow carefully reproduced from an actual paint sample of 1915 that had not been removed when the portals were repainted in aluminum.

Thus, original colors characteristic of three widely spaced building campaigns are juxtaposed, and the blue and the yellow are especially in stark and meaningless contrast to one another. A structure that should read as an integrated whole is put at odds with itself visually, very light versus very dark.

Furthermore, no effort has been made thus far to differentiate the portal detailing through color, except in the City escutcheons. In these, blue does not clearly read as blue and there is no silver (or its ersatz, white) just as there is no gold (though there is its ersatz, yellow), so that the proper heraldic tinctures are partly absent. And what about the grotesques, the lamp brackets, the finials, the machicolations and the little escutcheons under the machicolations? These things must have been accented or articulated in different colors or shades. We feel that scholarly considerations have been a little slighted in these instances, and that the beauty of the bridge is not yet as great as it should be.

Our recollection is that the PennDOT color rendering of the bridge, which met our approval before painting began, showed distinctly different hues, particularly as regards the yellow and the brown.

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## Wabash Bridge Report

After thoroughly re-examining all possible designs for the proposed Wabash Bridge in an effort to reduce costs, the Port Authority has decided to go forward with the original basket-handle through-arch design; modifications will be made to the piers, but the basic design of the bridge will remain unchanged. Landmarks supported the basket-handle version of the bridge, if the bridge *must* be built, so this was welcome news in December.

While we appreciate the excellent cooperative relationship we enjoy with the Port Authority, we still feel that the bridge should *not* be erected at all. The proposed bridge is as high as the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. It destroys one of the most fabulous views of any city in the world, that of Firstside between the Fort Pitt Bridge and the Smithfield Street Bridge (see center-spread photo). Its approaches gouge into the historic Firstside area and run elevated over Station Square. Although it pretends to be the "airport busway," it really goes to Crafton, Ingram, and Carnegie, and merely hooks on to the Parkway, hardly a clear run to the airport from downtown. A light-rail line on a somewhat different route that could connect with the present light-rail system and service all of downtown, the southern communities, and the airport would provide a much better system in our opinion.

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by Walter C. Kidney

Originally published in 1985, *Landmark Architecture* has been out of print now for several years but is still much in demand. If all goes well, we hope to publish a new edition of *Landmark Architecture* this October. Our staff is now updating the contents of the original publication and commissioning new color and black-and-white photographs. *Landmark Architecture* will be the most comprehensive account of the architecture of this region and will identify more than 500 historic sites worthy of preservation.

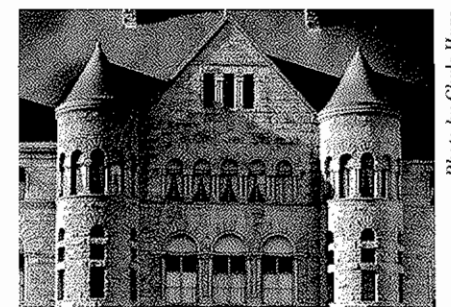


Photo by Clyde Hare

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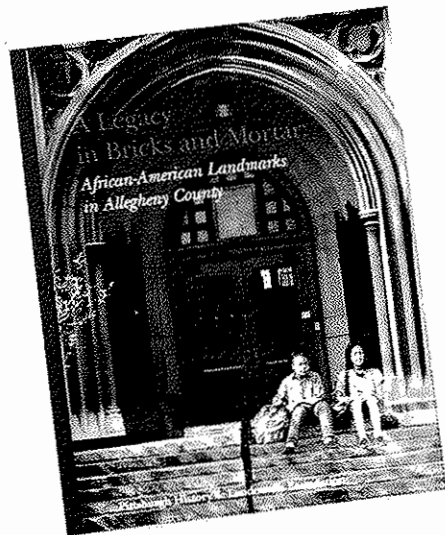
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# A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar:

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## Preservation Scene (Continued)

Photo by Clyde Hare



### Victorian Masterpiece Needs Help

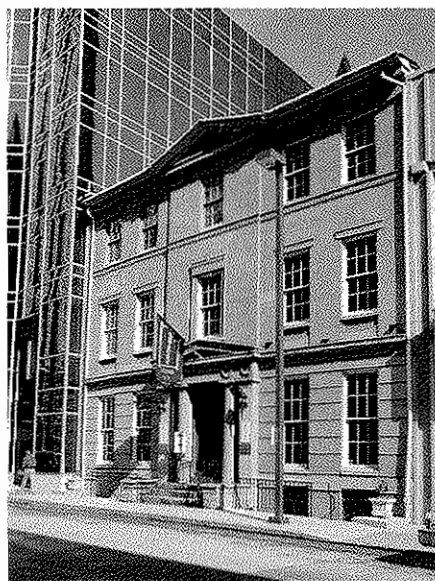
The Butler Street Entrance of Allegheny Cemetery is arguably the best Mid-Victorian architectural ensemble in Pittsburgh: a very handsome gateway of 1849 by John Chislett and an adjoining office block of 1870 by Barr & Moser. The cloister-like porch of the latter building now proves to be in immediate need of pier and vault repair, at a cost of \$50,000, and the public is urged to help. Checks may be made payable to, and sent to: Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association, 4734 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. (412) 682-1624, for inquiries.

### Sold or Not?

On October 17, the City of Pittsburgh Planning Commission met to decide whether the designation of the Sellers-Carnahan house at Walnut and Shady, the former Calvary Episcopal Church rectory, would be desirable from a planning viewpoint. We spoke in favor of the designation of course, having proposed it in the first place, and the mood of the Commission seemed favorable. Principals of the Samuel Land Company introduced themselves as having just been notified that the Church had accepted their bid for the property. Then a resident of the neighborhood, Cappy Ascheim, who has commented before on legal aspects of preservation issues, reiterated the objections made earlier this year by the Commonwealth. At this point, we are not sure whether or not these objections still have any validity, but Orphan's Court approval of any actual sale is still required. A picture of the house appears on page 15.

### Mamaux Building

Philip and Melinda Beard, attorneys at 125 First Avenue, have purchased the Mamaux Building next door, having previously effected its salvation from demolition and its designation as a City Historic Structure. The future use of the building is unclear—it is being offered for sale—but it has large spaces adaptable to a variety of uses, and the first floor has pressed-tin ceiling in good condition that would be suitable for a retail area or a restaurant.



### Burke's Building

The Elmhurst Company, owners of Burke's Building, has invested a half-million dollars to restore and renovate the building's shell and install new mechanical and plumbing systems. The building, a Fourth Avenue neighbor of PPG Place, is noted for John Chislett's elegant Greek Revival front of stone, unique in the city. Almost nothing save for raw structure survives inside from 1836, yet there are numerous fireplaces that can be decorated and put in operation to give a traditional, home-like feeling to offices or whatever occupies the interior. Burke's Building has tantalized people over the years: a protected building in a City Historic District, it has remained vacant much of the time. Yet it looks just right for *something*, some small institution perhaps that could do with an extra dose of prestige, perhaps some in-town resident with the desire and the means to go beyond the anonymity of an apartment to a home of unmatched individuality. For inquiries on leasing or sale, call Barry Layton, (412) 471-4455.



The parlor, 939 Western Avenue

### Historic Allegheny West House Available

The grand house Joshua Rhodes built in 1875 on Western Avenue in Allegheny City (now the North Side) was carefully restored by Joedda and Ben Sampson, replete with walnut woodwork, stained and leaded glass, elegant fireplace mantels, and period lighting fixtures. The house is now for sale, since the Sampsons have purchased the Gwinner-Harter house on Fifth Avenue and are in the midst of restoring it.

Although the Rhodes house was restored as a single-family dwelling, the spaciousness of the house and grounds—27 rooms including a 2,000-square-foot ballroom, a fully equipped kitchen and pantry, an English cottage garden with eight-foot brick walls, and a parking lot—make it suitable for a variety of uses. For more information call (412) 323-9220.

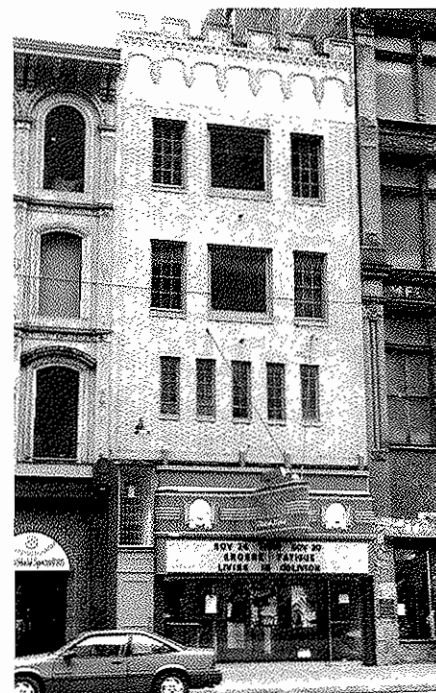
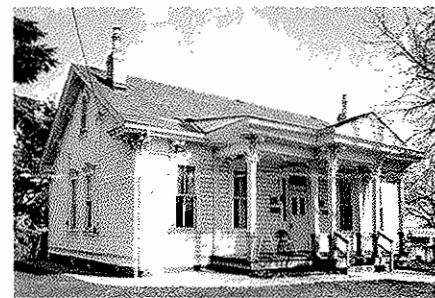


Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

### Art Cinema Update

The former Art Cinema at 809 Liberty Avenue re-opened November 9, 1995 as the Harris Theater. "Art Cinema" has had varying connotations as a name over the years, and renaming after John P. Harris of Pittsburgh's 1905 Nickelodeon movie house, seems harmless enough. There has already been a J. P. Harris Theater: in the 100 block of Sixth Street, where the City Club now is.



### Davis Farmhouse

The Davis house of c. 1880 in Brentwood, recipient of a Landmarks plaque in 1994, remained in peril in December. The house, now a senior citizens' center, has been under pressure from the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department, which regards the location as exactly right for a new firehouse in a way that other possible locations are not. The expediency of the site for firehouse purposes is the main argument for demolishing the old Italianate wooden house, but the offer of senior-citizen space in the new building has become an added inducement. The Brentwood Historical Society has accumulated over 500 petition signatures in favor of preserving the Davis farmhouse, and Ronald Yochum, a Brentwood citizen and Landmarks staff member, has drawn up a site plan showing the new firehouse on an adjacent site, framed by the Library, the High School, Brownsville Road, and Point View Road, that would, he believes, render the demolition unnecessary. On October 23, 1995, The Brentwood Historical Society and Mr. Yochum met with Brentwood Councilwomen Sonya Verneau and Nancy Patton to discuss the Society's desire to retain and restore the house. Subsequently, on October 24, 1995, The Brentwood Historical Society and the members of council met with the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department and their architect. All parties stated their opinions and both groups remained firm in their positions.



## Then and Now in Oakland

Oakland, seen as a place of human settlement, has been a fidgety, disunified place, never sure of what it has wanted to be as a whole or over the years in its individual parts. The Coltart house at 3429 Forbes Avenue, built probably in the 1840s, lasted into the 1970s. It was one of the more modest houses in a hillside community of villas in its early years, and survived among new neighbors—an apartment house, a storage warehouse, close-packed Victorian houses, commercial buildings—in a 78-front-foot property squeezed between such close-built structures. Its contrast with the Arby's now on the site is obvious, and evokes obvious words on an older architecture that relies on clean design and good proportion versus one that merely demands attention and whose environs help create a chaotic townscape. Yet Arby's has recaptured, it may be, the air of spatial isolation that the Coltart house once had: expressed, true, in an entourage of cars, not trees and shrubs.

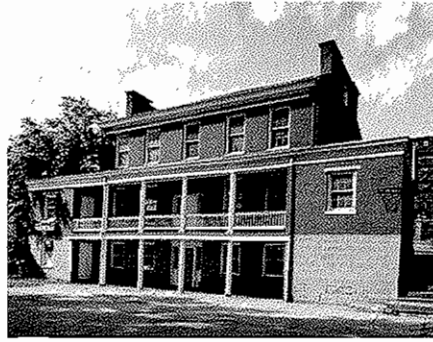


Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



3429 Forbes Avenue, Oakland

### Aviary Dome

The National Aviary in the West Commons on the North Side is receiving a quasi-Victorian glass dome, 38 feet in diameter and 30 feet high. The dome is a relief to the austerity of the 1950-period structure and a sign incidentally of the change of taste in the last 40 years.

### Schoolhouse Arts Center

In November 1995, the school directors in Bethel Park voted to sell the Schoolhouse Arts Center, a converted schoolhouse of 1905, to the Bethel Park Historical Society for one dollar. This is a major victory for the Historical Society. The adjacent Park Avenue School property was offered to the municipality for another dollar.

### Our Neighbor Preservationists

A problem with organizations such as this is, that though roads extend across political boundaries, our stated interests do not, and we thus tend to live in rather artificial states of isolation. By charter, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation concerns itself with historic preservation issues in Allegheny County. There is a Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation, P.O. Box 274, Washington, PA 15301. Memberships range from Active Individual, \$15 and Active Family, \$20, on up. Its latest *Newsletter* announces a county-wide survey of historic structures, similar to that which we did in the 1980 period, and like our product intended for filing with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

## WILL POWER

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

### South Side Business Alliance

The above is the title of a new organization announced in October 1995 as a merger of the South Side Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Committee of the South Side Local Development Company. The Alliance will be a subsidiary of the South Side Local Development Company, but with its own board, staff, and budget. Landmarks has worked intensively with both groups for many years. At a ceremony in November 1995, the South Side Local Development Company gave Landmarks an award for its support of "Main Street on East Carson."

### Preservation and Money

News from Washington mixes clouds and sunshine. On the one hand the federal funding for the National Trust for Historic Preservation has been cut from Fiscal Year 1995's \$6,987,000 to FY96's \$3,500,000. At that, getting the latter sum took hard effort, for \$0.00 had been contemplated by Congress.

HR 1662, or S 1002, is a federal bill that may become the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act, offering a 20% tax credit for certified rehabilitations for residential buildings of all kinds listed individually, or within districts, on the National Register or local registers of historic places; or for being the first purchaser of a property so rehabilitated. The owner would have to make the residence, whether single or multiple, his principal residence for the first five years. Some owners might get mortgages on more advantageous terms.

For information: Preservation Action, 1350 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 659-0915.

### Non-profit Gag Bill

In the summer of 1995, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that threatened the advocacy role of community-based non-profit organizations that receive any federal funding. According to the Washington-based OMB Watch, the bill opposes:

- your advocacy with regard to public policy at all levels of government, and to litigation involving government;
- advocacy that spends over 5% of your money apart from federal grants;
- free association with entities that spend over 15% of their money on advocacy;

- privacy with regard to advocacy expenditures; your advocacy expenditures and activities would have to be posted on Internet if you are a federal grantee.

The situation would be an uneasy one indeed for the federal grantees, who would be obliged, under penalty of heavy fines, to prove that they were complying with the law. Informers would be rewarded with up to 25% of the take.

OMB Watch is at 1742 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009-1171; (202) 234-8494.

e-mail ombwatch@rtknet.org

### Main Street Lighting

The best new lighting we have seen is on Washington Road in the Mt. Lebanon business district. There, all of the overhead cobra lights have been eliminated. New lower-scale handsome light fixtures have been installed that illuminate the sidewalks rather than the roadway. After all, automobiles do have headlights and pedestrians do not. Extra fixtures have been added at crosswalks.

The elimination of the intensely bright cobra lights over the street and the addition of good low-scale lighting over sidewalks and the absence of overhead wires has made the area much better looking and much friendlier to pedestrians.

Unlike the lollipop bulbs so beloved by Pittsburgh's past planning director Robert Lurcott, the Mt. Lebanon light fixtures do not exhibit the light source and you do not see lightbulbs when you are walking along. Nor does light spill out over the entire environment; rather, it is directed toward where it is needed, the sidewalk.

The design was a joint product of Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates and Environmental Planning and Design. The lamps are manufactured by Lumec.

On the main street of East McKeesport a similar fixture was used, only with a sodium light instead of a metal halide. It, however, was aimed over the street rather than the sidewalk and the effect is altogether different, once again emphasizing the motorway rather than the pedestrian walkway. Mt. Lebanon's arrangement is much better.

## Membership SAVINGS PLAN

Save money by joining Landmarks for a 3 or 5 year period, instead of renewing your membership annually.

- If you join for 3 years at the \$20 level, you only pay \$50, thereby saving \$10.
- If you join for 5 years at the \$20 level, you only pay \$80, thereby receiving one year for free!

There are multi-year plans at each membership level.

Call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808 for details.

# 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 Loan Fund initiatives and programs;
- Operate 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**



**Creating a Future  
for Pittsburgh by  
Preserving Its Past**

# Preservation Scene *(Continued)*

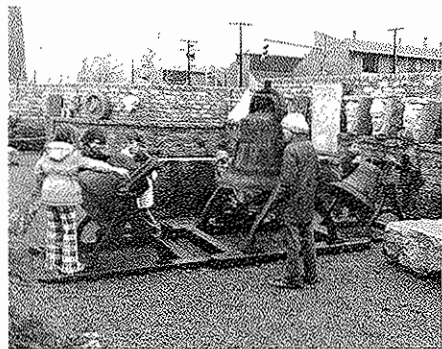
Photo by Clyde Hare



## Future of an Art Nouveau Church

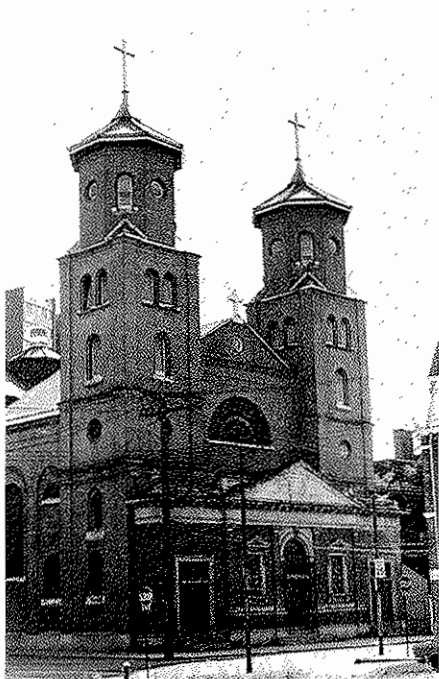
There is very little genuine Art Nouveau design in the Pittsburgh area, design in that fleeting idiom that proceeded from genuine concern and original thinking. And most of this—all, perhaps—is from the little-known Hungarian architect Titus de Bobula, who was in practice here around 1905. The masterpiece of his executed work is, as far as is now known, St. John the Baptist's Byzantine Rite Cathedral, built on Dickson Street in Munhall for a Carpatho-Ruthenian congregation, in 1903. It was awarded one of our Historic Landmark plaques in 1988, though this was never ordered.

We have been worried about the church, empty for several years, and were pleased to learn early in October 1995 that a new non-profit organization, St. John's East European Cultural and Information Center, has bought it. It is to be used for exhibits and performances. Potential donors and others interested are invited to be in touch with the Center at 333 East Ninth Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120.



## New Home for Three Bells

Visitors to the Old Post Office Museum, when it was a Landmarks property, may remember the bronze bells *Glaube*, *Hoffnung*, and *Liebe* that stood in the garden. They had come in the 1970s from St. Paul's United Church of Christ, an East Street Valley Expressway victim, and eventually passed into the hands of The Pittsburgh Children's Museum as did the Old Post Office itself. Now they are in the tower of the First Lutheran Church on Grant Street, a Gothic work of 1887 by Andrew Peebles, as a donation from the Museum. The work of the local Fulton Bell Foundry a century ago, they are now being regularly rung again.



## Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at The Priory

The above title is the new name of the secularized St. Mary's German Catholic Church in Deutschtown. Many people know its adjacent priests' building as The Priory, a bed-and-breakfast inn since 1986, but it has taken this long to convert St. Mary's itself, built in 1854 and thus one of the city's oldest church buildings, into a meeting and banquet hall. Landmarks Design Associates, the designers, have retained much of the art work and glass of the church, and the organ built with a matching grant by Andrew Carnegie. The Grafs, Mary Ann and Edward, their son John, and his wife Suzanne, are to be congratulated on this final accomplishment.

## Clock Tower Restoration

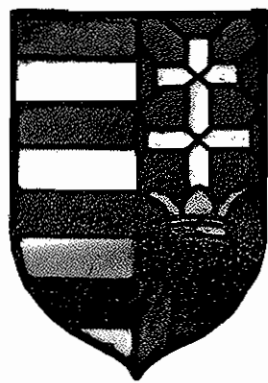
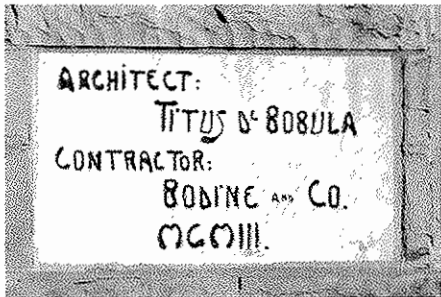
A conspicuous preservation event in Sewickley, recently, has been the restoration of the clock and steeple of the Sewickley United Methodist Church, at Broad and Thorn Streets. Because of its height and location this is in effect the town clock, and the restoration of the upper half of the tower to its 1883 original form has been a community project. The quarter-million dollars from various sources (including \$1,200 from Landmarks' Historic Religious Properties Initiative) is flowing reliably. More money is needed to complete the restoration of this well-known landmark in Sewickley Village. The lucarnes and slating of the spire are complete, and the Gothic woodwork around the clock is finished or in progress. Masonry repairs will be completed in the Spring.

Much of the interior of the church has also undergone restoration in recent years. Improvements include the removal and restaining of the pews, the removal of plywood paneling that had been nailed over many of the historic ornamental doors, installation of a handsome library donated by one of the members, and creation of accessibility for the physically challenged. With only 400 members, the church has undertaken large challenges and is completing them magnificently. The Sewickley United Methodist Church was recognized as one of Landmarks' 1995 Award of Merit recipients as a result of its restoration efforts.

Contributions to the restoration of the tower are welcomed. They may be sent to the Sewickley United Methodist Church at 337 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA 15143, and must be made payable to the "Village Clock Tower Fund."

## First Hungarian Reformed Church Dedicates Historic Landmark Plaque

*The First Hungarian Reformed Church at 221 Johnston Street in Hazehood was one of 11 structures to be designated a Historic Landmark plaque recipient in 1995. These photographs were taken on October 15, when members of the congregation celebrated the dedication of the plaque. The church was built in 1904 to designs of Titus de Bobula.*



## Is Your House or Church Eligible for a Historic Landmark Plaque?

- Buildings, structures, and districts may be approved for a Historic Landmark plaque if all of the following conditions are met:
- they are remarkable pieces of architecture, construction, or planning, or if they impart a rich sense of history;
  - alterations, additions, or deterioration have not substantially lessened their value in the above respects;
  - they are at least 50 years old;
  - they are within Allegheny County.

If you own a building or know of a building that fulfills these criteria, then consider nominating it for a Historic Landmark plaque. Call Walter Kidney for details at (412) 471-5808.

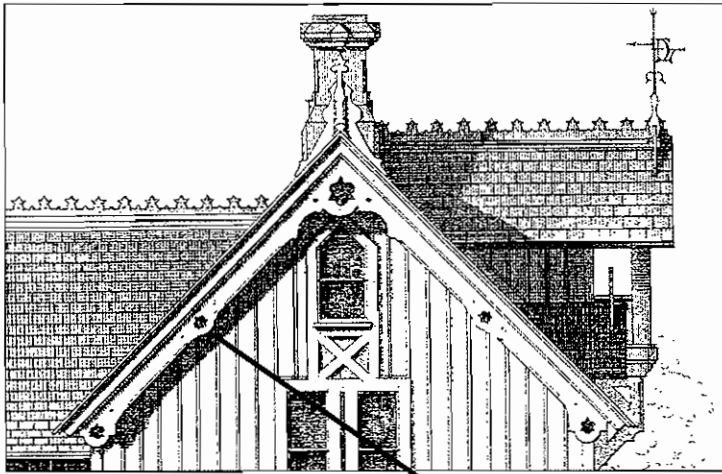


# PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE: *Trying for a Date*

Walter C. Kidney

The recent anxiety over the Sellers-Carnahan house in Shadyside (see "Sold or Not?" on page 12), and especially its nomination as a City Historic Landmark, reopened the question of just how old it is. Our survey of c. 1980 specifically said 1858, but documentary research has suggested a date as late as 1874. On stylistic grounds, though Pittsburgh has always been an architecturally conservative city, I am inclined to favor the 1850s. The details compared here come from Samuel Sloan's pattern books *The Model Architect* (1852), and *City and Suburban Architecture* (1859), with one suspicious exception. Woodward's *National Architect* (1869) is significantly later than Sloan's publications, and shows vergeboards with a few widely spaced cusps instead of cusps or S-curves making continuous patterns, characteristic in the 1850s. The stylistic evidence, then, is not one hundred percent for the 1850s.

*Vergeboard with widely spaced cusps*  
(Woodward, 1869)



*Arched windows, grouped under pediment*  
(Sloan, 1859)

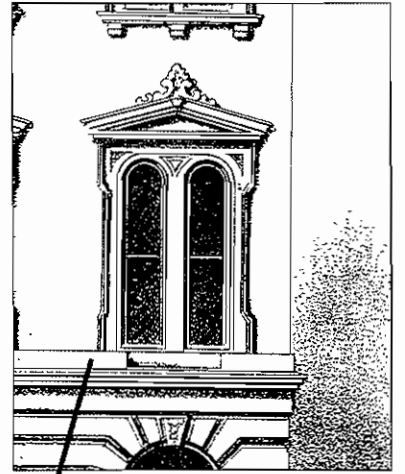
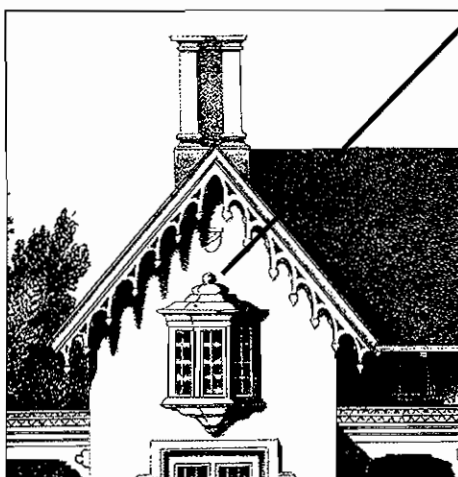
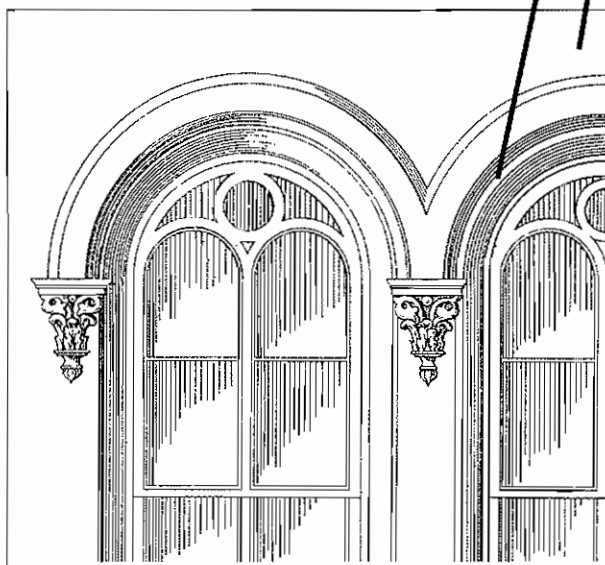


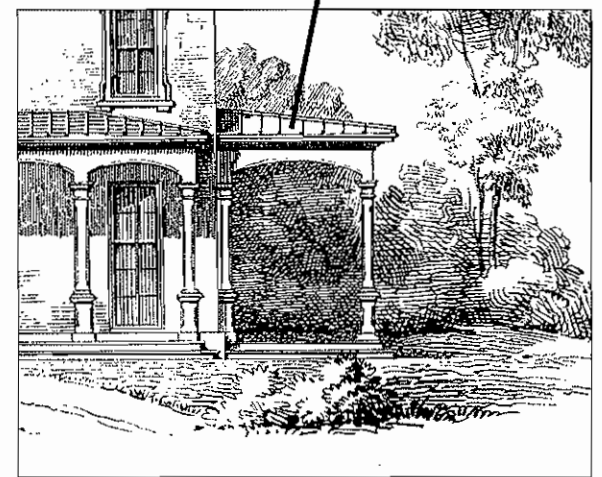
Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



*Oriel with corbeled base and fancy roof*  
(Sloan, 1852)



*Paired round-arched windows, traceried sash*  
(Sloan, 1852)



*Wooden segmental-arched porch*  
(Sloan, 1852)

# Cities Worldwide Look Toward the New Century: The 1995 19th Annual INTA Conference in Vienna

**In Vienna**, Austria, last September, 400 representatives of cities from 52 countries convened at the nineteenth annual conference of the International Organization for the Management of New and Existing Towns (INTA). The theme of the conference was "Strategies for Cities of the 21st Century: Turning Changes into Urban Development Opportunities." The formal presentations by urban experts from around the world as well as discussions at workshops and between individuals at the Vienna INTA conference demonstrated that there were as many problems, challenges, and solutions as there were representatives.

Landmarks president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. was invited to address the conference in a plenary session devoted to "Economic Changes Affecting Urban Development." Arthur's slide presentation, "Pittsburgh and the Future," began with a portrait of Pittsburgh's industrial rise and decline. The city has suffered economically from high production costs, obsolete technology, and foreign competition: the percentage of local jobs, for example, declined from 28% in 1970 to 12% in 1980, with further decline since. The major attempt to address the problem, the urban renewal "Renaissance" initiative begun in the 1950s and continued into the 1970s, sought economic revitalization by replacing (demolishing) historic buildings and older neighborhoods.

*This turned out to be a disastrous mistake, and projects that were built in place of the historic fabric, although heavily subsidized with government funds, failed economically and still continue to fail to attract business and occupants and fulfill their original purposes.*

Against this background, Arthur described and evaluated four "initiatives" that may improve Pittsburgh's future economic status: these included the new Pittsburgh International Airport which is only one of two new major American airports; more democratic and outward-looking proposals from the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, once co-sponsor of the discredited urban renewal demolition politics; and the Murphy administration's vigorous commitment to the recreational, residential, and business development of riverfronts left vacant by the decline of industry.

The fourth initiative introduced conference attendees to a distinctly American phenomenon—not-for-profit organizations that support cultural institutions and activities, which in Europe are subsidized by the government. Non-profit organizations can

*develop land and create business and at the same time generate income for activities that benefit our citizens rather than producing profits for private investors, although often private investors do benefit by participating in projects sponsored by non-profit organizations.*

Arthur used Landmarks and its multiple mission of education and preservation to illustrate the ability of a non-profit organization to assist urban economic development as well as generate income for the preservation

of historic buildings and neighborhoods. He summarized Landmarks' neighborhood programs, its aid in implementing the federal Community Reinvestment Act, and the history and accomplishments of Station Square. Arthur noted that non-profit organizations, more flexible and responsive than government, less ruled by expediency than profit-making business, can be an important ingredient in the economic development and rehabilitation of cities into the twenty-first century.

## Transportation: the Common Bond that Pittsburgh Lacks

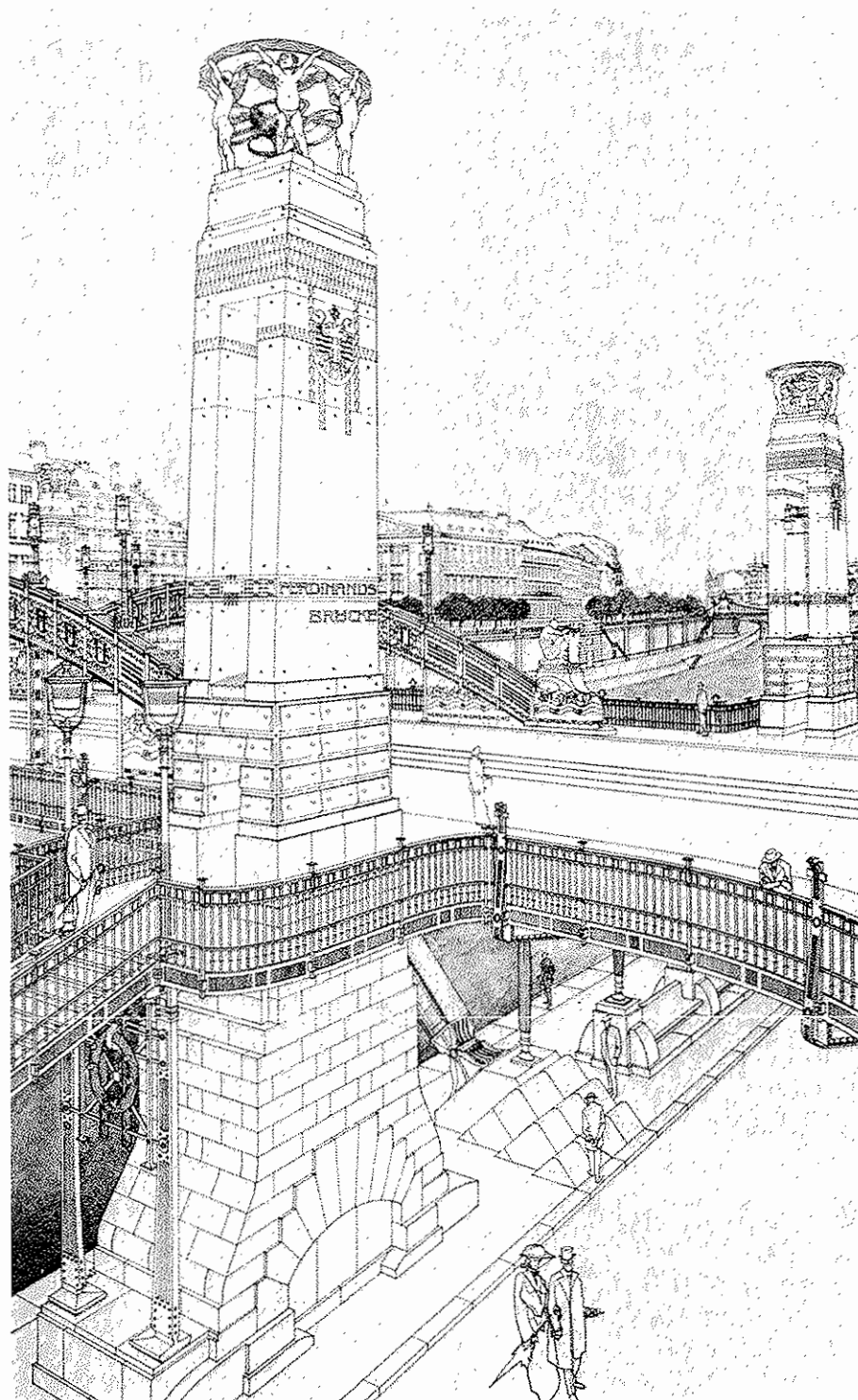
The Vienna INTA conference confirmed that many cities face the problems of Pittsburgh: failed industry, high debt, loss of young people, lack of new business development. Others suffer from having too great a population, such as Cairo, where officials want to distribute the people throughout the country and reduce the pressure on that city. Hong Kong and several other Oriental cities have extraordinary problems of not being able to keep infrastructure development up with growth. Hong Kong needs a major new port facility every three years because of the growth in export-import business. A city like Venice is inundated with tourists and has become frozen in time, a great museum with little inner life. St. Pölten in Austria has suddenly become a new capital city, and an entire new set of buildings, roadways, and parking lots must be developed almost overnight to accommodate the status of a new regional capital in a small rural town.

**Many of the INTA conference participants would envy Pittsburgh's position with a new billion-dollar airport and an existing right-of-way from its front door to Station Square, connecting to the light rail that travels through our downtown.**

**But Pittsburgh is ignoring this advantage, and has no rail connection plan.**

But while the problems varied widely, there was one common bond with all the cities except Pittsburgh. That is their reliance on rail for internal transit and inter-city transportation. Every speaker at the INTA conference talked about how more light rail, subway, and trolley lines are being planned and built for their cities, and almost every speaker pointed to the new rail lines leading to remote suburbs and more distant places.

Many of the INTA conference participants would envy Pittsburgh's position with a new billion-dollar airport and an existing right-of-way from its front door to Station Square, connecting to the light rail that travels through our downtown. But Pittsburgh is ignoring this advantage, and has no rail connection plan. A high-speed mag-lev (unnecessary for such a short distance) is being looked at, but the cost is enormous. A busway is planned that requires the new Wabash



Architect Otto Wagner won the design competition in 1890 for Vienna's city rail transit system—including the right-of-way, the stations, and the bridges. This drawing shows the Ferdinand Bridge designed in 1905.

Bridge across the Monongahela, destroying the most magnificent vista of the City of Pittsburgh (the bridge rises as high as the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square), and the busway is not a connection to the airport. Unwanted by the suburbs that it penetrates to the south, it merely sends Port Authority buses onto the Parkway beyond Carnegie.

Our leaders do continue to talk about extending the busway to the east and light rail to the North Side, both valuable additions, but none to the airport. Decades have gone by while we study light rail to Oakland. Millions will be spent on the new southern busway that could otherwise make a good connection to the airport so that downtown Pittsburgh really could call the airport an asset. Right now the airport is marvelous for Washington County and for Robinson Township and Wheeling, West Virginia, but helps the City of Pittsburgh little.

How do we reduce our reliance on the automobile? Provide good public transit and provide it economically. In Vienna, transportation money goes first for public transit, secondarily for roadways. In fact, near Vienna, a "carless" suburb

is being built, where, in order to obtain a residence you must pledge not to purchase a car for at least a decade!

If the American non-profit organization can offer the world another approach that links economic development and cultural conservation, our international neighbors continue to demonstrate the key role of mass transit in making cities economically and humanly alive.